

MEDIA RELEASE

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28 April 2026

WOODLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL RECAP – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

Joan Slootweg, Director, Community Services, presented the 2026 Q1 Community Services Operational Report to Council. The department includes Community Services, Recreation, Economic Development, Agricultural Services, Protective Services, Health & Safety, and Planning & Development. Q1 2026 focused on strengthening public safety through training, advancing strategic infrastructure and planning projects, and progressing consultant-led initiatives aligned with Council priorities. Council received the report for information.

John Orwa, Director, Finance & Business Supports, presented the Q1 2026 Finance & Business Supports Report. The quarterly report provided a high-level overview of progress across the department, including Finance, Asset Management, Legislative Services, Communications, Human Resources and Information Technology. During the first quarter of 2026, divisional efforts were primarily focused on financial system modernization and the continued implementation of asset management practices. Council received the report for information.

Tracy Mindus, Manager, Legislative Services & Communications, presented the Service Request Tracker Reports for January, February, and March 2026 to Council. Service requests in January, February, and March were dominated by winter maintenance activities, including snowplowing, sanding, and snowplow flags. Council received reports for information.

Council adopted a 1.5% Mill Rate increase for implementation in the 2026 taxation year and directed Administration to remove the 2025 \$500,000.00 operating surplus out of the Mill Rate Scenarios. The mill rate is the primary mechanism through which municipalities generate property tax revenue.

Council adopted the 2025 Audited Financial Statements, the 2026 Operating Budget, the 2026–2030 5-Year Capital Plan, and the 5-Year Operating Plan, as presented. Council also approved the transfer of \$2,213,293.69 from the 2025 Surplus into the reserves and directed Administration to put \$1,850,000.00 from the reserve surplus towards the East Mountain Road slide repair capital project.

Greg Edwards, Director, Infrastructure Services, presented the Q1 Infrastructure Services Report to Council, summarizing departmental service delivery, activities, and major projects for the first quarter. The Infrastructure Services department, which includes Airport, Transportation/Operations, Environmental, Engineering, and Facilities Services, maintained service levels through a challenging winter, completed 97% of work orders, and is now managing spring runoff risks while transitioning operations and strengthening internal systems.

Matthew Ferris, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the Q1 CAO Report to Council. The report outlines key initiatives undertaken by Administration, progress on Council-aligned priorities, and upcoming work planned for Q2 2026. Quarterly CAO reporting is intended to provide Council with a consistent and transparent overview of Administration's activities, focusing on delivery of Council priorities; organizational performance and service delivery; major projects and initiatives; and governance, financial, and operational progress.

Lastly, Council received the Q1 2026 Policy Update Report for information.

Upcoming scheduled meetings:

- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, May 7 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 13 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, May 21 @ 9:30 a.m.

Meetings are held in-person at the Woodlands County Municipal Office in Whitecourt and live-streamed on the Woodlands County [YouTube channel](#). Agenda packages are available on the Woodlands County [CivicWeb Portal](#).

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For more information:
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