



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, in Council Chambers at 1606 – 14 Street.

- Council approved Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) Public Member Remuneration Policy COUN 009-23 which serves to allow members of the Public serving on the MPC to be compensated for their time and service.
- Council granted first reading to Utility Charges Bylaw 2023-21 and referred it to the Strategic Planning Committee for review and recommendation.
- Council was presented with information regarding the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) which was passed by the Alberta Government in 2019. This funding replaces the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program. According to Alberta Municipalities' study and calculations, MSI has historically delivered approximately \$1.1 billion in funding annually to municipalities. Comparatively, LGFF is set to deliver \$722 million—a 36% decrease to community infrastructure funding. Council approved Mayor Hunter to write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ric McIver, expressing Council's support of Alberta Municipalities' advocacy to increase the starting amount of LGFF funding to \$1.75 billion.
- The Government of Alberta launched two on-line surveys regarding potential changes to the *Local Authorities election Act* (LAEA) and the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis) has stated that the members do not support the introduction of political parties within municipal government and will strongly carry that message forward. Council discussed the value of keeping local government nonpartisan and, instead, continuing to represent the voice of the citizens and the communities they serve. Council members were encouraged to complete both the surveys by the deadline of December 6, 2023.
- Administration developed a Level of Service Document which details services currently provided by the Town of Didsbury. The creation and adoption of a Level of Service document were identified as a key action item in the Strategically Managed Infrastructure section of the 2023-2025 [Town of Didsbury Strategic Plan](#). Council referred the Level of Service document to a Committee of the Whole Meeting for further review.
- The Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation (ERP) was introduced by the province in 2022, the purpose of which is intended to shift the cost of recycling collection from the municipality to the producers of single-use products, packaging, and paper products as well as hazardous and special products. Council moved to register for the EPR system, set to be launched in April 2025, and invite a delegation from Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) to speak to Council.