



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Town of Didsbury Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 in Council Chambers at 1606-14 Street.

- Council was given a presentation from Nordicity Consultancy who were hired by the Mountain View Regional Film Office (MVRFO) partners to help develop a Strategic Plan for the initiative and a governance structure partnership. The Strategic Plan is to assist with an effective structure the partnership can operate under. This plan will encompass aspects such as organizational governance, short-term objectives including film festival planning, and long-term objectives focused on financial sustainability and global recognition through marketing strategies.
- A Public Hearing for the Municipal Development Plan took place during item 5 of the agenda. The current Municipal Development Plan (MDP) was adopted on November 27, 2012 and has been amended as required since coming into force. Over the past twelve years, the town has grown and evolved and the MDP needs to keep pace with the changing needs of the community.

The MDP is a high-level document that looks at the Town as a whole and provides policies for the long-term growth and development. The MDP outlines a big picture/goal for the Town and is not a land use zoning document. The development of this document includes consideration of:

- Existing development
- Community input
- Growth patterns
- Intermunicipal Development Plan
- Council's Strategic Plan
- Economic Development Strategies
- Pedestrian Connectivity Master Plan

Council granted second and third and final reading of Bylaw 2024-12 Municipal Development Plan.

- Council approved a replacement plan for the Rapid Attack Vehicle (RAV) for the Didsbury Fire Department. Currently, the replacement plan shows that the Command Vehicle (Unit #310) will become the Support Vehicle (Unit #381) after ten years of service. The County has one Rapid Attack Vehicle (Unit #341) for which the capital acquisition is funded by the County but housed and operated by the Didsbury detachment.

The County's proposal would adjust the replacement schedule slightly to extend the lifespan of the RAV to a twenty (20) year replacement cycle by having it serve ten (10) years as the Unit #341 and ten (10) years serving as the Unit #381. The County will receive financial support from the Town for 50% of the residual value of the RAV when it transfers to become Unit #381. This program would begin in 2025 with the Town's estimated contribution, equivalent to 50% of the residual value of the current RAV. This item will be included in the draft 2025 Capital Budget at the next meeting.

- Council was presented with a comprehensive Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report that included:
  - Develop Permits to November 19, 2024
  - Third Quarter Economic Development Report
  - Municipal Enforcement Update
  - Third Quarter Action Request Report

The full CAO Report can be found on the Town of Didsbury Website: <https://www.didsbury.ca/p/council-meetings>



- Council approved the Sale & Acquisition of Land and Expropriation Policy COUN 011-24. This policy integrates a new process for the sale of municipally-owned property, acquisition of land by the municipality, and expropriation. The process for land sale and acquisition establishes a clear process for the initiation, implementation, and execution of the sale of municipally-owned land.
- Council granted second and third reading to the utility charges bylaw. The utility services, being the water, wastewater, and solid waste departments, are all self-supported departments, meaning that the operating budgets of the departments are funded primarily from utility charges and, therefore, do not rely on tax revenue. The Utility Charges Bylaw is presented to Council during the annual budgeting of the departments to adjust for that year's proposed operating budget.
- Council approved the Road Closure Policy. The changes to the policy include language that would grant exception to road closures that are being requested by external agencies to assist in the construction, repair, maintenance, or development of a municipal improvement (i.e. a road, public utility, etc.). There is also a change to incorporate a previous motion which allowed Administration to close the parade route for the annual Elks Parade in August, the Terry Fox Run, and for Country Christmas. Council also referred the policy to the Policy and Governance Committee for review and recommendation.
- This year there is unusual staff scheduling over the Christmas holiday period, with facilities open for only one full day in the Christmas week. This is a unique scenario for 2024 because Christmas lands in the middle of the week. Council approved to close the Town Office, Didsbury Neighborhood Place (DNP) and Public Works facilities on Friday, December 27. The closure will only impact operations on Friday, December 27, 2024, and will not affect critical services. The public will be notified in advance through various communication channels, including the Town's website, Town Hall News, social media, and local signage.
- Council approved support for the 2025 Didsbury Farm and Ranch Bonspiel as a Gold Sponsor in the amount of \$750. The Bonspiel is being held on January 6 to 11, 2025 at the Didsbury Curling Rink.