

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ONOWAY
HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
ONOWAY CIVIC CENTRE AT 9:30 A.M. OR VIA ZOOM**

ADDITIONS TO THE REGULAR AGENDA

7. ACTION ITEMS

- Pg 85-86
- c) Support for the RCMP – additional letter received dated June 8, 2021 from the City of Fort Saskatchewan, to Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, advising that Council does not support the initiative of the Alberta Government to replace the RCMP with an Alberta Provincial Police Force. *(for discussion and direction of Council at meeting time)*

- Pg 87
- l) Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) – 2021 Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus – event details from the AUMA website indicates registration is open for attendance at one of the 5 communities the AUMA is planning to visit this summer: Redwater-July 28-100 k (Pembina Place); Wetaskiwin-July 29-130k (Best Western Wayside) are the closest locations; and there are also going to be Caucus' offered in Bow Island; High River and Sexsmith. The July 29 event in Wetaskiwin will also be offered virtually. The cost to attend in person is \$100.00; the cost for virtual attendance on July 29 is \$25.00 *(to approve attendance of Council and Administration or some other direction as given by Council at meeting time)*

m)

n)

o)

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8. Council, Committee & Staff Reports - CAO Report – Lac Ste. Anne County (LSAC)/Mayerthorpe Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) – additional article from the June 14 newspaper which is an Open Letter to the Ratepayers of the Town of Mayerthorpe and LSAC from Mayerthorpe Mayor Janet Jabush, dated May 26

City of FORT SASKATCHEWAN



Gale Katchur
Mayor

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June 8, 2021

Honourable Kaycee Madu
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Government of Alberta
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

RE: City of Fort Saskatchewan Support of the RCMP

Honourable Minister Madu,

City of Fort Saskatchewan City Council unanimously supports the RCMP as our City's law enforcement agency. This letter is in opposition of the Alberta Government's proposed provincial police force.

As the City of Fort Saskatchewan has a long-standing history and relationship with the RCMP, we have no desire to transition to a new model. We have an excellent working relationship with our Detachment and the Officer in Charge who consults council annually for our priorities for our community and provides regular and appropriate updates. Community challenges are addressed collaboratively and citizen respect and support for the RCMP remains high in Fort Saskatchewan. Our city has the longest serving police committee in the province which services as an additional community referent group for the RCMP. We find the RCMP to be progressive and receptive in meeting the needs of our city.

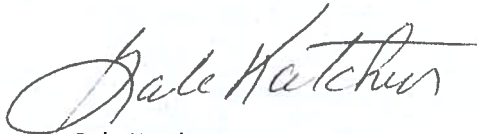
As Alberta looks at recovering from the pandemic economy, we strongly believe any efforts focused on a provincial police force are not what municipalities in Alberta need right now. The cost of a provincial police force is not something that municipalities can withstand and nor are we interested in exploring it any further. The City of Fort Saskatchewan currently pays 90 percent of our policing costs and we believe that investment serves our community well now and in the future. We believe the decision of our police force should remain at the local level.

The Alberta Police Federation Survey from October of 2020 found that replacing the RCMP is viewed as the least helpful measure tested to improve Alberta's place in Canada. Only 8 percent say replacing the RCMP helps a lot, only 6 percent support replacing the RCMP, and 81 percent of Albertans served by RCMP are satisfied with the service they receive.

The survey also stated that 70 percent of Albertans opposed replacing the RCMP with an expensive new provincial police force. We are with the majority of Albertans in stating that we have no interest in the creation of a new provincial police force.

In closing, we confirm our support of the RCMP and are opposed to any further exploration of a provincial police force.

Respectfully



Gale Katchur
Mayor of Fort Saskatchewan

cc: The Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier
The Honourable Ric Mclver, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Barry Morishita, President Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Paul McLauchlin, President of Rural Municipalities Association
Rachel Notley, Leader of the Official Opposition
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville



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AUMA 2021 Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus

[Event Details](#) [Program & Speakers](#)

Registration is now open for AUMA's Summer 2021 Municipal Leaders' Caucuses! This year, AUMA is visiting the following five communities:

- July 20 – Bow Island (Bow Island Multiplex)
 - July 21 – High River (Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre)
 - July 27 – Sexsmith (Civic Centre)
 - July 28 – Redwater (Pembina Place)
 - July 29 – Wetaskiwin (Best Western Wayside Inn)
- *July 29th will also be offered virtually

While indoor gatherings are currently restricted, as we move closer to stage 3, and restrictions lift, we are confident we will be able to move forward with in-person events.

Caucus will consist of a one-day program that will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the schedule and agenda will be the same at all locations. Registration for in-person attendance is \$100 for the day and includes light breakfast refreshments and lunch. Doors will open at 9:30 a.m.

The session on July 29 will be streamed on Zoom to allow for members to participate who are not comfortable with attending in-person, at a cost of \$25. In-person and virtual registration can be found using the [same link](#).

Stay tuned to the Digest for program details, which will be available soon. We hope to see you there!

Date

July 20 - 29, 2021

[Add to calendar](#)

Register

[Register](#)

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Mayerthorpe

OPEN LETTER

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE TOWN OF MAYERTHORPE & LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, May 26, 2021 - The Town of Mayerthorpe has consistently adopted a cooperative and respectful approach to intermunicipal relationships. We do not intend to depart from the approach but must respond to aspects of the County's May 24, 2021 Open Letter.

- The County pulled out of the recreation services agreement with the Town in 2011. The Town has been open and transparent in the intervening decade about the fact that the County has not been providing a fair contribution to Town recreation services used by County residents.
- The County has chosen to defer dealing with its financial obligations in relation to this important service to its ratepayers. Until the ICF process required the County to come to the table, the Town could only keep the County aware of the inequities of the situation.
- The financial implications of the County's past approach to recreation services may come as a surprise to County ratepayers. County Council has been fully aware of the consequences of the "use now/pay later" approach for an extended period of time.
- Despite the imbalance in the financial relationship for the past decade, the Town worked extremely hard, and entirely in good faith, to find a compromise during the two years of discussion and mediation on the ICF agreement, as required by the Municipal Government Act.
- The Town has not sought contributions for past inequities and has, instead, focused on the future and on trying to build a fair approach to cost sharing between the two communities.
- Right up to February 25, 2021, the Town was under the impression the ICF would be finalized through the mediation process and in compliance with the April 1, 2021 statutory deadline.
- The County chose to pull out of the ICF mediation process without any advance discussion. The Town had no control over that County decision.
- The County was fully aware that the Municipal Government Act would force the municipalities to enter into binding arbitration as a result of that County decision. The County was fully aware that the provisions of the MGA would place the majority of the burden for the costs of the arbitration on County ratepayers.
- The Town regrets that the costs of a binding arbitration have become necessary, but has no control over the County's actions and must comply with the requirements of the MGA.
- The ICF arbitration will proceed within the context of the MGA, which specifically requires municipal operating budgets to include "the amount of expenditures and transfers needed to meet the municipality's obligations for services funded under an intermunicipal collaboration framework" and that one of three primary purposes of the ICF is "to ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents".
- The Town regrets that County Council's decision not to budget for the real, and known, costs of recreation services may now impact County ratepayers during an economic downturn. As noted, that is the result of County Council's chosen approach, not due to any actions taken by the Town.

Despite the issues that must be resolved around Recreation Services, the Town values its relationships with neighbours and will continue to make good faith efforts to build a strong and functional intermunicipal relationship.

We remain committed to providing positive, sustainable recreation opportunities to the County's ratepayers, who are our valued customers. We remain focused on supporting ratepayer health and wellness by ensuring we are in a position to continue to provide recreation services for the Town and the ratepayers of the County who value and use those services. However, a fair funding model to support the provision of those services is long overdue.

Mayerthorpe's Town Council will continue its principles-based approach on this critical matter as we work toward an equitable outcome for our community. The Town of Mayerthorpe has followed the process laid out in the MGA to the letter and in good faith. We will continue to do so as we advocate for our town.

Be well & stay safe.

Janet Jabush
Mayor, Town of Mayerthorpe

For questions or additional information please contact the Town Office.

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