

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
CARSTAIRS MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

ATTENDEES:	Mayor Allan; Councilors Ball, Fricke, Roberts, Selanders, Tolley and Wilcox; Director of Legislative & Corporate Services Shannon Allison; Deputy CAO and Director of Planning & Development Kirk Williscroft; Manager of Legislative Services Jessica Pryde; CAO Rick Blair & Executive Assistant Kayleigh Van Es
ABSENT:	Nil
CALL TO ORDER:	Mayor Allan called the meeting of Monday, September 14, 2026, to order at 7:00 p.m.
ADDED ITEMS:	Nil
ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion 278/26	Motion by Councilor Wilcox to adopt the Regular Council Agenda of September 14, 2026, as presented. CARRIED
ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Motion 279/26	Motion by Councilor Tolley to adopt the Regular Council minutes of August 24, 2026, as presented. CARRIED
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:	Nil
DELEGATIONS:	1. STARS-Jackie Seeley J. Seeley presented Council with a fundraising proposal for STARS, requesting that the Town of Carstairs become a regional leader and work toward a contribution of \$2 per capita. Councilor Wilcox asked whether STARS would be able to keep up with the increase in population. J. Seeley explained that STARS works collaboratively with other health-care services, including transportation and virtual care, to assess patients, navigate difficult procedures and coordinate all aspects of care. J. Seeley further noted that STARS provides critical care certification and that, at this time, they are able to continue navigating the increasing demand in a variety of ways. Councilor Tolley asked how many patients can be transported by helicopter. J. Seeley advised that, most of the time, one patient is transported; however, depending on the extent of the injuries and the patient's condition, a maximum of two patients may be transported. Councilor Roberts thanked J. Seeley for the presentation. Councilor Ball thanked J. Seeley for the presentation and asked how many donating partners are being asked to provide the 32% increase. J. Seeley explained that the requested increase varies between partners and that STARS also works with community foundations and grant programs to diversify its sources of funding. Councilor Selanders thanked J. Seeley for the presentation. Councilor Fricke thanked J. Seeley and asked whether, with continued growth, STARS has experienced situations where there were no staff available. J. Seeley advised that STARS always has staff on shift and is able to coordinate services as required. Mayor Allan thanked J. Seeley for the presentation and advised that Council would take the request into consideration during budget deliberations. Council agreed to accept the presentation for information.
Motion 280/26	Motion by Councilor Selanders to accept STARS Delegation from Jackie Seeley as information. CARRIED
BYLAWS & POLICIES:	Nil
NEW BUSINESS:	1. Financial Reports-August CAO R. Blair provided Council with an overview of the August financials.

Councilor Fricke asked about the change in library funding due to recent provincial legislation.

Motion 281/26

Motion by Councilor Ball to accept Financial Reports-August as information.

CARRIED

2. Project Updates

CAO R. Blair and K. Williscroft provided Council with project updates on current capital projects.

Annexation: The LPRT has acknowledged the Town's annexation application. The Town is awaiting responses to the Notice of Intent and anticipates the application will be reviewed tomorrow. Following the review, the application will be sent to the County for feedback, followed by discussion at the ICC and then respecting Council.

Arena: As of today, insulation has been completed, with cladding over the insulation still outstanding. Once the cladding is completed, commissioning can begin and is anticipated to take approximately two to four days. The plant is expected to be ready by Friday, with ice-making to begin as soon as possible. Ice is anticipated to be ready by September 26 for the opening.

Water Reservoir: K. Williscroft provided an update on the water reservoir project and advised that commissioning is underway. The anticipated opening has been pushed back by approximately one week, with the goal of having the reservoir operational by the end of the month. Landscaping and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will follow. Once the new reservoir is operational, upgrades to the existing reservoir will begin.

McAlpine MacEwan Paving: Paving has been completed and the FACs have been completed.

Scarlett Ranch Pathway: The pathway has been completed. The Town is evaluating beautification options for the area for consideration in the 2027 budget.

Administration Building: IFT drawings have been completed. The next step is a cost analysis for consideration during budget discussions.

Sanitary Sewer Lining Project: The project is nearing completion. The Town is waiting for crops to be harvested before bringing equipment onto the affected areas.

Councilor Fricke asked about the delays commissioning the reservoir and arena. CAO R. Blair advised that the arena was delayed due to ABSA requirements and CIMCO registration of the vessel, resulting in a delay of approximately 10 days. The reservoir commissioning was delayed due to a structural issue with the vault.

Councilor Tolley asked whether the existing reservoir will be taken offline to complete the upgrades. K. Williscroft confirmed that it will. The commissioning process allows for all required testing to be completed to ensure the new reservoir is functioning properly before the existing reservoir is taken offline.

Motion 282/26

Motion by Councilor Fricke to accept Project Updates as information.

CARRIED

3. RFD-Security Upgrades to Administrative Office

Council reviewed the RFD proposing security improvements within the reception area of the Town Office.

Councilor Selanders asked whether there is an existing issue that the proposed improvements are intended to mitigate. CAO R. Blair confirmed that there is a safety concern. Councilor Selanders asked whether there was urgency to complete the improvements or whether they could be incorporated into the planned administration office expansion. CAO R. Blair advised that, from an administration perspective, the matter is a safety concern.

Councilor Tolley asked what other municipalities are doing regarding reception security. R. Blair advised that each municipality is different and has different requirements.

Councilor Wilcox noted that Didsbury has a barrier in place and stated that the improvements would provide protection for staff as well as belongings and information.

Councilor Fricke asked how many quotes had been received. Administration advised that they had reached out to five other companies.

Motion 283/26

Motion by Councilor Ball to direct Administration to proceed with the office reception security improvements as proposed by Peak2crete Contracting Ltd., in the amount of **\$24,150.00**, with funding to be taken from the Operation Stabilization Fund.

CARRIED

4. Library Board Appointment-Pam Barker

Council reviewed the application for the Library Board appointment of Pam Barker.

Councilor Wilcox advised that the application had not yet been brought forward to the Library Board for approval and requested that the appointment be tabled until the Board has had an opportunity to review the application.

Motion 284/26

Motion by Councilor Wilcox to table Library Board Appointment-Pam Barker until Library Board meeting.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Policies & Priorities Committee

- Next Meeting September 15, 2026.

2. Mountain View Regional Waste Commission

- Next Meeting September 28, 2026.

3. Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission

- Councilor Roberts provided a verbal report of the Strategic Planning meeting on September 9, 2026.

4. Mountain View Seniors' Housing

- September 10, 2026, attended the MVSH Foundation Golf Tournament at the Carstairs Golf Course with Councillors Selanders and Roberts and Lance Colby. The golf staff did a great job and heard lots of great feedback. This is the third year the tournament has been hosted in Carstairs. Next Board Meeting September 29, 2026.

Motion 285/26

Motion by Councilor Selanders to accept all Committee Reports as information.

CARRIED

COUNCILOR REPORTS:

1. Councilor Ball

- Provided a verbal report.
- September 2, 2026, attended MLA Tara Sawyer's BBQ at the Carstairs Legion.
- September 5, 2026, attended Public Track Day at Rocky Mountain Motorsports and toured the facility.

2. Councilor Fricke

- Provided a verbal report.
- August 25, 2026, attended the Community Connections event, including Meet the Machines and Movie in the Park.
- September 2, 2026, attended MLA Tara Sawyer's BBQ at the Carstairs Legion.
- September 3, 2026, attended the Cheers Liquor Discounter Store Grand Opening.
- September 10, 2026, attended the MVSH Foundation Golf Tournament.

3. Councilor Roberts

- Provided a verbal report.
- August 25, 2026, attended the Community Connections event, including Meet the Machines and Movie in the Park.
- September 9, 2026, attended the Mountain View Regional Water Services Commission meeting.
- September 10, 2026, attended the MVSH Foundation Golf Tournament.

4. Councilor Selanders

- Provided a verbal report.
- August 25, 2026, attended the Community Connections event, including Meet the Machines and Movie in the Park.
- September 10, 2026, attended the MVSH Foundation Golf Tournament.

5. Councilor Tolley

- Provided a verbal report.

- Multiple meetings with CMHA and RMA regarding communication challenges and Arena season start-up.

6. Councilor Wilcox

- Provided a verbal report.
- August 25, 2026, attended the Community Connections event, including Meet the Machines and Movie in the Park.
- September 2, 2026, attended MLA Tara Sawyer's BBQ at the Carstairs Legion.

7. Mayor Allan

- Provided a verbal report.
- August 25, 2026, attended the Community Connections event, including Meet the Machines and Movie in the Park.
- September 2, 2026, attended MLA Tara Sawyer's BBQ at the Carstairs Legion.
- September 3, 2026, attended the Cheers Liquor Discounter Store Grand Opening.
- September 5, 2026, attended Public Track Day at Rocky Mountain Motorsports and toured the facility.

Motion 286/26

Motion by Councilor Roberts to accept all Councilor Reports as information.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Dog Park Proposal-Sтивен Hamilton

S. Hamilton wrote a letter proposing a walkway, dividing fence, and memorial "love lock" fence. Council reviewed the proposal,

CAO R. Blair stated that Administration conducted research and determined that the current dog park is unable to accommodate a dividing fence due to its size. If Council wishes to establish a separate small dog park, another location would need to be identified. Regarding the proposed pathway, CAO R. Blair noted that the Operations crew already maintains the grass and deals with users who do not clean up after their dogs. Adding a pathway would create additional maintenance requirements for Operations.

Councilor Wilcox, speaking as a dog park user, noted that the area can become icy and questioned whether a pathway would be appropriate. Councilor Wilcox also questioned whether a pathway would create additional user risk and noted that the existing dog park is not large enough to be divided into separate areas. Councilor Wilcox also asked Administration to ensure appropriate "Use at Own Risk" signage is posted.

Councilor Fricke asked whether recycled millings used in other areas around Town could be considered for use as a pathway. CAO R. Blair advised that millings could be used; however, there would be an expectation that the pathway be cleared, and the Town would assume liability for an uncleared pathway. Councilor Wilcox added that, due to the layout of the dog park, the area functions more as an open field rather than a walking path.

Councilor Roberts noted that a pathway would not prevent icing and that users should be encouraged to wear appropriate footwear.

Council discussed the possibility of a memorial "love lock" fence feature. Administration advised that the matter has not yet been reviewed with Operations but could be investigated. Councilor Fricke noted that a process would need to be established for the placement, maintenance, repair and potential removal of locks should any damage occur.

Motion 287/26

Motion by Councilor Roberts to accept Dog Park Proposal as information.

CARRIED

CAO'S REPORT:

- August 25, 2026, met with the Agricultural Society.
- August 26, 2026, met with the IODE regarding space constraints and lease agreements. A Sea-Can will be provided for additional space.
- August 26, 2026, Administration building expansion meeting.
- August 27, 2026, Water Reservoir construction meeting.
- September 9, 2026, met with ATCO regarding franchise renewal.
- September 9, 2026, met with Operations and IJD regarding inspections related to fire separation and associated costs at the Carstairs Curling Rink. The cost for repairs was \$3,675, and the

information was sent to the Curling Rink. Assessments and evaluations were completed; however, no response has been received.

- September 10, 2026, Water Reservoir construction meeting.
- September 10, 2026, attended Regional CAO meeting.
- September 14, 2026, met with D. Nielsen regarding HSS. HSS currently has approximately 900 students and is operating at 112% capacity. D. Nielsen along with T. Upshaw from CESD will attend a Council meeting in October to address Council.
- Seniors Housing Update: NeoForm has received the draft agreement for review and feedback, with a response anticipated by the end of the week. The agreement is expected to be brought forward to Council soon, followed by the ground lease. Government support has been received.

Motion 288/26

Motion by Councilor Tolley to accept the Cao's Report as information.
CARRIED

**COUNCILOR
COMMENTS:**

1. Councilor Tolley

- Received a complaint regarding garbage and debris at the southeast corner of the golf course, as well as concerns regarding the drainage swale in the same area.

2. Councilor Fricke

- Also received a concern regarding garbage and the drainage swale and forwarded the concerns to Administration.
- Advised Council of the survey currently available regarding the Airdrie corridor bypass and encouraged residents to provide feedback.

Motion 289/26

Motion by Councilor Wilcox to accept Councilor Comments as information.
CARRIED

**PUBLIC QUESTION
PERIOD:**

1. Dan Veno

D. Veno informed Council of an incident that occurred on July 15, 2026, in which his truck was struck by a golf ball while he was driving past the golf course. He advised that the golf ball was hit from the 18th hole. D. Veno reported the incident to Golf Course Manager J. Lockert on July 16, 2026, and was asked to provide repair quotes. Following receipt of the repair quotes, both J. Lockert and CAO R. Blair advised D. Veno that the Town would not be compensating him, as there was no way to confirm that a golf ball caused the damage, determine which golfer was responsible, or hold the golfer accountable for the incident. D. Veno stated that, while he would appreciate compensation for the damage, his primary concern is the frequency with which golf balls cross the highway. He requested that the Town investigate measures to mitigate the safety concern and ensure that all appropriate safety precautions are being considered. D. Veno requested that Council reconsider the matter and asked for a formal letter confirming that the Town's insurance company has reviewed the concern. D. Veno stated that he wished to have the concern formally recorded in the event of a future incident and expressed concern regarding potential Town liability should another incident occur.

Mayor Allan advised that he would discuss the matter with Council and Administration.

2. Don James

Referred to the April 27, 2026, Council minutes regarding the Rural Renewal Program letter and asked whether the Town had received any further correspondence from other businesses in the community experiencing challenges with reliable employment. Council confirmed that no further correspondence had been received.

Motion 290/26

Motion by Councilor Ball to accept Public Question period as information.
CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING:

1. Section 20-Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy

Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act requires that Council and Council Committees conduct their meetings in public unless the matter to be discussed falls under one of the exceptions to disclosure outlined in Division 2 of Part 1 of the Access to Information Act (ATIA), including, but not limited to, matters related to business interests, personal privacy, individual or public safety, confidential evaluations, or law enforcement. (Sections 19 to 34).

Motion 291/26

Motion by Councilor Tolley that Council close the meeting to the public to discuss Disclosure harmful to Personal Privacy, as per Section 20, of the ATIA, at 8:13 p.m.

CARRIED

Motion 292/26

Motion by Councilor Roberts to come out of the Closed Meeting session at 8:35 p.m.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, September 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion 293/26

Motion by Councilor Wilcox to adjourn the meeting of September 14, 2026, at 8:36 p.m.

CARRIED



Dean Allan, Mayor



Rick Blair, CAO