



# City Council Highlights

May 27, 2025

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## Regular Council Meeting

The Regular Council Meeting on May 27 began at 10 a.m., following Council's attendance at the push-in ceremony for Chestermere's new fire truck. The vehicle features the same distinctive shade of red as the city's first fire engine, a colour selected by the Chestermere Fire Department to honour the community's proud firefighting heritage.

### **Proclamation: Seniors' Week**

Council has declared June 2–8, 2025, as Seniors' Week in Chestermere to celebrate the contributions of older adults. While Council will be attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference in Ottawa during the opening ceremonies, they plan to participate in other events throughout the week.

### **Chief Administrative Officer Delegation Order Repealing Bylaw**

Council passed Bylaw #019–25, officially repealing Bylaw #007–24. They also rescinded Motion #250422–10, which had proposed the repeal of the same bylaw. This action helps ensure the city's bylaws remain current and consistent with the Municipal Government Act, reflecting Council's continued work to modernize local policies and improve service delivery.

### **Permit Bylaw Updates to Improve Flexibility**

Council approved Bylaw #007–25, which replaces the Building, HVAC, Plumbing, Gas, and Electrical Permit Bylaw (#024–16) with a new administrative policy. The updated policy offers clearer administrative guidelines that help reduce workload while maintaining compliance with safety and code standards.

### **Procedural Bylaw Amended for Greater Access and Engagement**

Council passed Bylaw #004–25 to update the Procedural Bylaw in alignment with provincial legislation. The amendments ensure electronic access to Council meetings and extend public presentation times from 15 to 30 minutes. The bylaw also removes the Code of Conduct section in anticipation of Bill 50, enhancing accessibility and encouraging greater public participation.

## **Election Bylaw Amended to Improve Accessibility**

Council approved Bylaw #022-25, introducing Elector Assistance Terminals (EATs) for future municipal elections. These terminals are designed to support voters who require assistance, making the voting process more inclusive. Council also directed Administration to include a formal definition of EATs in the bylaw.

## **New Heritage Committee to Preserve Local History**

Council adopted Policy #854, establishing the Chestermere Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. The committee will be responsible for identifying and protecting historical sites and structures within the city. Council also directed Administration to begin the application process, with appointments expected to be made at the June 24 Council Meeting.

## **2025 Tax Rate Bylaw Approved**

Council passed Bylaw #023-25 to establish property tax rates for the 2025 budget. The bylaw sets tax rates aligned with the 2025 approved budget, sustaining essential services while supporting long-term financial planning.

## **Short-Term Rentals Framework in Development**

Council directed Administration to develop regulations for short-term rentals, including amendments to the Land Use Bylaw addressing location, parking, and traffic considerations. The goal is to balance neighbourhood livability with the economic benefits of short-term rentals, ensuring both safety and community standards are met. A new licensing and safety policy will also be created.

**Final Phase of Skylar Townhomes in Kinniburgh:** Council approved the final development permit for the last six Skylar Townhome buildings at 248 Kinniburgh Boulevard, marking the final phase of a development projected initiated in 2013.

**Grant Adjudication Committee Policy:** Council adopted updates to the Grant Adjudication Committee (GAC) Policy, clarifying grant exclusion criteria and improving application procedures. The changes aim to improve clarity and simplify procedures for applicants.

## **Motions from Closed Session**

**RCMP Staffing Concerns:** Council has directed the Mayor to collaborate with Staff Sgt. Klassen in drafting a formal letter to RCMP Staffing, outlining concerns about staffing levels in Chestermere.

**Crime Prevention Strategies:** Administration will work alongside the RCMP to develop improved communication strategies focused on crime prevention, ensuring residents are informed and engaged in community safety efforts.

**Lakeside Greens Golf Course Acquisition:** Council has approved moving forward with the acquisition of Lakeside Greens Golf Course and authorized the finalization of key agreements for its operation. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) are empowered to complete and execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) and Operational Services Agreement (OSA) as presented, ensuring a smooth transition. They are also authorized to approve minor revisions, provided those changes are not deemed significant by City's legal counsel. This proposed acquisition aims to preserve the site as a valuable community asset while exploring future opportunities for public use.

**Community Safety & Bylaw Enforcement:** Administration has been tasked with preparing a report for Council detailing a coordinated approach to enhancing community safety and enforcing municipal bylaws. This report will examine how to best allocate resources to support public order and safety.

**Recreation Centre Update:** Council has directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to proceed with the Recreation Centre update, as discussed during the closed session, to ensure continued progress on this important community project.