



# City Council Highlights

July 29, 2025

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## Regular Council Meeting

### **Moments of Reflection**

Committee acknowledged the transition in the Deputy Mayor role. Council thanked Deputy Mayor Schindler for his service over the past four months. Deputy Mayor Wawrzynowski now assumes the role for the remainder of the term, as determined at the last organizational meeting.

### **Municipal Enforcement Practicum Student Program**

Committee reviewed the Municipal Enforcement Practicum Student Program in partnership with Mount Royal University's Criminal Justice program. The program offers unpaid practicum placements for students to gain hands-on experience as Bylaw Officers while increasing operational efficiency. The report also proposed a paid seasonal Bylaw Officer position to provide consistent summer support and optimize enforcement resources. Committee directed Administration to return with a report outlining seasonal summer Bylaw Officer options by the end of December 2025.

### **Municipal Addressing Bylaw**

Committee reviewed Bylaw #030-25, the proposed Municipal Addressing Bylaw, which would establish consistent and visible address numbering across the city. The bylaw aims to support public safety and emergency service response times. Administration was directed to bring the bylaw forward to Council by the end of September 2025 for further consideration.

### **Chestermere Men's Shed Presentation**

Committee received a presentation from the Chestermere Men's Shed, a local chapter launched in May 2024 that aims to combat loneliness and isolation among men. Starting with seven members, the group has grown to 20, contributing to local projects including the repair and painting of park benches. Their goals include establishing a permanent clubhouse and expanding to 40 members by 2026. The group plans to strengthen collaborations with the City and local partners.

### **Secondary Suites Census Data**

Committee reviewed the 2025 Municipal Census results related to secondary suites. While general opposition was noted, the report highlighted existing support and low appeal rates. Administration recommended maintaining secondary suites as a discretionary use, with potential Land Use Bylaw amendments to address parking and density. Committee directed Administration to return with amendment options by October 1, 2025.

### **Lake and Watershed Advisory Committee Strategic Plan**

Committee reviewed the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan from the Lake and Watershed Advisory Committee (LAWAC). The plan outlines key priorities, including developing a Lake and Watershed Management Plan, improving public education, preventing invasive species, encouraging shoreline management, and supporting safe lake use. Committee recommended Council direct Administration to complete the management report by the end of September 2025, funded through the 2025 Committee budget.

### **Short-Term Rentals Update**

The Committee accepted the 2025 Census data report on short-term rentals for information. When asked, " Does your household support Short-Term Rentals (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO) within the community you live in?", the results showed that 57.94% of respondents were opposed, 16.79% were in favour, and 25.27% chose not to answer.

### **Seniors Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Committee reviewed a presentation from the Seniors Advisory Committee, which provided recommendations to enhance quality of life for older adults. Key suggestions included exploring transportation options, updating the 2023 Chestermere Older Adults' Resource Handbook in multiple formats and translations, and introducing new recreational programs such as pickleball and community gardens. Committee recommended that Council accept the proposed recommendations.

### **2025 Municipal Census Results**

Committee accepted the 2025 Census Report for information. Chestermere's population has grown to 32,255 residents, an increase of 15% over the past year. The growth correlates with 898 building permits issued in 2024 and a higher persons-per-household average of 3.5. Based on projected permits, the City anticipates 3,382 to 3,587 new residents in 2026.

### **School Site Update**

Committee received an update on the extension of West Merganser Drive to the new school site. Heavy rainfall has delayed construction due to saturated ground conditions. Administration confirmed the school board and provincial government are aware of the delay, which is not affecting their timelines. Construction is expected to begin once weather permits, with the goal of completion in August.

### **Park Benches Update**

Committee accepted an update on the park benches initiative. Recently completed installations include Dog Beach and gazebo areas, with work underway at City Hall Roundabout and Aspenmere Green Tot Lot. Future installations are planned for Sandpiper Tot Lot and Cavendish Beach. Administration is also exploring expansion of the Memorial Bench Program to include more sponsorship opportunities.

## **Committee Updates**

Mayor Dean shared that a September presentation will propose transitioning the Mayor's Task Force for Not-for-Profits into a standing committee. A similar proposal is anticipated for the Mayor's Task Force for Recreation.

**Deputy Mayor Wawrzynowski** noted that Councillor Murray Grant is now Chair of the Chestermere Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC), and updates on a new economic development plan are expected in September.

**Councillor Grant** shared that the Task Force for Recreation will focus on indoor and outdoor facilities, programming, and fund development strategies to reduce tax burdens on capital projects.

**Councillor Sandboe** noted that the Historical Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting soon. All committee updates were accepted for information.

## **Closed Session Motions**

Council directed Administration to schedule a Special Meeting of Council for August 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.