

Council Highlights



Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2023

Council Highlights briefly identify decisions made by Council. Council encourages its residents, businesses and stakeholders to keep in touch with Council news.

Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee (BREOC)

Council approved to withdraw from the Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee (BREOC) effective immediately as costs to be a member are not justified in relation to the perceived benefits.

Council approved to decline the \$750,000 of PrairiesCan funding allocated to Flagstaff County at the December 11th, 2023 Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee (BREOC) meeting, with the recommendation that it be used towards developing industrial park infrastructure on Flagstaff County lands legally described as NE-35-41-15-W4.

2024-2027 Business Plan and Budget Draft 1

Council approved the 2024-2027 Business Plan and Budget and the 2024-2029 Capital Plan with the following amendment:

- A decrease of \$120,000 in Economic Development Contracted/General Services to reflect Flagstaff County's withdrawal from the Battle River Economic Opportunities Committee, resulting in a 2024 Operating Budget of \$26,279,100 and 2024 Capital Budget of \$5,922,950 and 2025 Capital Budget of \$5,212,750.

Battle River Watershed Alliance

Council approved that Clr. Shield or Clr. Thompson attend the State of the Watershed Engagement Summit, February 29, 2024, and one of two Planning Engagement Sessions to be scheduled in March or April 2024. Catherine Peirce, Executive Director of Battle River Watershed Alliance, presented to Council an update on key projects, upcoming events and opportunities for community stewardship.

Northern and Regional Economic Development Program — Flagstaff Region Business Support Hub

Council approved to submit an application to the Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) Program for the extension of Flagstaff Region Small Business Hub Programming with \$37,000 in matching funds to come from Economic Development operating reserves. The NRED Program funds initiatives that promote regional economic development and diversification.

CanExport Community Investment Opportunity — Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Strategy Phase Two Lead Generation

Council approved the \$25,000 matching portion of the CanExport Community Investments grant to come from Economic Development operating reserves and move forward with the proposed project for Phase Two Lead Generation of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Strategy. The CanExport Community Investments program is a competitive program that provides financial support to communities and non-profit organizations to help them attract, retain, and expand their foreign direct investment (FDI) activities. It supports communities' capacity to create jobs for Canadians, support innovation and increase exports.

Small Community Opportunity Program — Flagstaff Health and Wellness Hub

Council approved that Flagstaff County work in collaboration with the Town of Daysland and private sector partners to submit an application to the Small Community Opportunity Program for enhancement and promotion of a Flagstaff Health and Wellness Hub and if successful use \$10,000 of programming funding from the 2024 operating budget to satisfy matching requirements. The Small Community Opportunity Program (the Program) provides grants to tackle challenges and tap into opportunities in rural areas. Indigenous and small communities, as well as non-profit groups they work with, may receive between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for local projects. By building capacity in the agriculture industry and small business, these rural communities will grow their economic footprint.

Schedule of 2024 Regular Council Meetings

Council approved the schedule for the 2024 regular Council meetings as follows:

- January 17th
- February 14th
- March 13th
- April 10th
- May 8th
- June 12th
- July 17th
- August 14th
- September 11th
- October 16th
- November 20th
- December 11th

2022 Municipal Indicator Results

Council approved Flagstaff County's response to the 2022 Municipal Indicator Results as follows:

- Indicator #4 — Tax Collection Rate: to indicate that due to the lack of provincial action on the collection of oil and gas taxes, this collection rate of taxes is not within our control. As long as there is taxable assessment on non-operating facilities, we will continue to have uncollectable taxes.
- Indicator #11 — Investment in Infrastructure: to indicate that Flagstaff County has reviewed its Capital Spending Plan and capital replacement, and additions will exceed the average annual amortization over the next 6 years.

Municipal Indicators, as calculated annually by the Government of Alberta, measure specific aspects of each municipality's governance, finances or community. These indicators provide each municipality and the department with useful information and help to highlight emerging challenges. There are 13 municipal indicators. Flagstaff County did not meet the threshold for two of the indicators in 2022.

Flagstaff County Electoral Boundary Review

Council adopted the Flagstaff County Electoral Boundary Review Framework as presented, and to include options for seven divisions and five divisions. Council has previously indicated interest in proceeding with a review of electoral boundaries within the municipality. Funding is budgeted for this project in 2024.

Community Development and Tourism Assistance Grants

Council approved Policy CP 017 – Community Development Assistance Grant Program and Policy CP 018 – Tourism Assistance Grant Program as presented. The Community Development Assistance Grant is aimed at non-profit organizations that provide programs and services that enhance social well-being. Two streams are proposed to allow organizations to apply for current or new programming for up to three years or special short-term projects. The Tourism Assistance Grant allows Flagstaff County to financially support tourism initiatives and draw visitors to the region. Applications will be received for current/ongoing initiatives for up to three years or a one-time event. Outcomes include tourism development that benefits the local business community, increases visitors and spending in the region and/or promotes the County as a tourism destination. Events will be scored on a matrix to aid in determining degree of funding. Both grants are only offered to organizations based in the Flagstaff region, require follow-up reporting and have an application deadline of January 31st for ongoing programs but are open throughout the year for short-term projects or events. Funding for both programs is determined by Council through the annual budgeting process. Completed applications will be brought to Council for a decision.

Once approved, the full Council Meeting minutes can be found at www.flagstaff.ab.ca under the "Council" tab and in the "Meetings and Minutes" section.