

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2025

10041

The Regular Meeting of Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal District Administration Building, Pincher Creek, Alberta.

PRESENT Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, and Councillors Dave Cox, John MacGarva and Jim Welsch.

STAFF CAO Roland Milligan, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager David Desabrais, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/503

Moved that the agenda for November 12, 2025, be amended to include:

Closed Session:

b) CAO Performance Review – ATIA Sec. 22.1

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

Orphan Well Association (OWA)

Lars De Pauw, President of the Orphan Well Association, attended the meeting to introduce himself and explain the OWA's role.

He explained that almost all industries leave a negative “legacy” at the end of an insolvency. Historically, creditors received some money, and Redwater changed that. Taxpayers typically pay for other industries, but not oil and gas in Alberta.

OWA is a Non-profit organization and not a Government Organization; it operates under the delegated authority of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). Orphan Fund Delegated Administration Regulation (OFDAR) & OGCA, but - financially and legally separate from the AER. The Alberta oil and natural gas industry primarily funds them.

The OWA mandate is to decommission Orphan oil and gas infrastructure and reclaim the land to a similar state to its original state in a safe, principled, and cost-efficient manner.

Key Areas of Work include, closure work – the majority of effort - decommissioning, remediation, and reclamation, as well as reasonable care and measures (RCAM). An order from AER may be issued if the licensee is not willing or able to fulfill expectations. Receiverships are a last resort for insolvency, implemented when no party is willing to provide funding. Post SCC Redwater decision – this has become more common, after the AER issues a closure/abandonment order or the company ceases operations.

To date, within the MD of Pincher Creek:

- Twelve sites in the decommissioning phase, mostly related to SCVF issues
- Eight sites in Environmental Phase
- Five close to complete
- Eight sites closed

Typically, OWA tries to hire local contractors if they are capable of doing the specialized work; however, not all contractors meet the required standards. With several steps involved

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in site closure and numerous contractors, Council is aware of local contractors who were not given the opportunity to bid on local jobs because they were not affiliated with the prime contractor. Lars assured that this isn't standard practice—that the usual procedure is to offer opportunities to local vendors who meet the criteria. This instance may have been a one-off, but without details, he cannot comment on that specific job, but will look into the concern.

Council questioned whether OWA is responsible for weed control, especially since it involves sour gas, and inquired about who is actually responsible. There is a regulatory gap because, in this situation, OWA only handles site closure and not weed control following the closure.

Council inquired whether OWA has any connection to pipelines, similar to their obligation towards wells. At present, it does not, although there has been discussion about OWA's potential involvement with pipelines. Currently, regulators can only enforce regulations in the event of a historic spill.

Lars De Pauw left the meeting at this time, the time being 3:50 pm.

C. MINUTES

1) Council Committee Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2025

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/504

Moved that the minutes of the Council Committee Meeting of October 28, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried

2) Council Organizational Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2025

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/505

Moved that the minutes of the Organizational Council Meeting of October 28, 2025, be amended to remove the line that Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder was voted in by ballot,

AND THAT the minutes be approved as amended.

Carried

3) Council Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2025

Councillor John MacGarva 25/506

Moved that the minutes of the Council Meeting of October 28, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS / DIVISIONAL CONCERNS

1. Councillor Tony Bruder – Division 1
 - Waterton Biosphere October Newsletter
 - ALUS Meeting
 - Strategic Plan at Allied Arts Council
2. Reeve Rick Lemire – Division 2
 - Healthcare Committee
 - Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission
 - Kudos to CPO to be at the Remembrance Day Celebration

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- Alberta SouthWest
- Mayors and Reeves
- 3. Councillor Dave Cox– Division 3
 - Pincher Creek Foundation
 - Castle Mountain Community Association
 - Many calls from residents on the proposed Traffic Bylaw
- 4. Councillor Jim Welsch - Division 4
 - Pincher Creek Foundation
 - Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission
- 5. Councillor John MacGarva – Division 5
 - Lundbreck Citizens Council
 - Planning Session
 - Healthcare Committee
 - Windsor Seniors Hall Meeting

Councillor John MacGarva 25/507

Moved to accept the Committee Reports as information.

Carried

G. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. Operations

a) Public Works Operations Report

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/508

Moved that Council receive the Public Works Operations Report, including Schedule A – Shop/Fleet Report, for the period October 20, 2025, to November 2, 2025, as information.

Carried

b) Utilities & Infrastructure Report

Councillor Dave Cox 25/509

Moved that Council receive the Utilities & Infrastructure report for October 22, 2025, to November 4, 2025, as information.

Carried

2. Finance

a) Request to Waive Tax Penalty-Tax Roll 4423.050, 4423.090 and 4423.100

Councillor Jim Welsch 25/510

Moved that Council waive the tax penalty on tax rolls 4423.050, 4423.090 and 4423.100, in the amount of \$116.

Carried

b) 2025 Actuals vs. Budget

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/511

Moved that Council receive the Q3 Financial Summary as information.

Carried

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3. Development and Community Services

a) Community Policing Quarterly Report

Councillor John MacGarva 25/512

Moved that the following RCMP Community Policing Quarterly Reports be received for information:

- Crowsnest Pass Detachment
- Pincher Creek Detachment

Carried

Tristan Walker with MASSIF ENERGY, attended at the meeting to discuss the Community Energy Open House and Future Projects.

b) Community Energy Open House & Future Projects

Councillor Dave Cox 25/513

Moved that administration continue pursuing Community Energy Projects pending approval of Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) and Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant applications.

Carried

Tristan Walker left the meeting at this time, the time being 4:55 pm.

c) Regional Tourism Advisory Committee

Councillor 25/514

Moved that Council approve an additional Councillor, Councillor Tony Bruder, to the Regional Tourism Advisory Committee.

Carried

4. Municipal

a) CAO Report

Councillor John MacGarva 25/515

Moved that Council receive the CAO Report for the period October 27, 2025, to November 7, 2025, as information.

Carried

a) Corporate Policy Updates

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/516

Moved that Council approve the following updated policies:

- C-CO-001 Councillors and Members at Large Remuneration
- C-CO-005 Municipal Boards, Committees and Appointments
 - with the amendment to have two Councillors on the Regional Tourism Advisory Committee
- C-FIN-538 Procurement

Carried

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H. CORRESPONDENCE

A For Action

- a) Hometown Holiday Fest Parade, November 28, 2025

Councillor John MacGarva 25/517

Moved that in regards to the Hometown Holiday Fest Parade on November 28, 2025, administration be directed to arrange for a parade float and candy;

AND THAT all interested Council members be authorized to participate.

Carried

- b) Protecting Our Headwaters, Our Water, and Our Future – A Call for Municipal Leadership

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/518

Moved that administration be directed to respond to the residents' letter on Council's views of private lands, and the importance of water for a community.

Carried

B. For Information

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/519

Moved that the following be received as information:

- a) Strychnine Use in Alberta
 - Letter from Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food, John Barlow, dated October 30, 2025
- b) Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 2024 and 2025 Minutes
- c) CPKC Holiday Train Poster
 - Sunday, December 14, 2025

Carried

I. NEW BUSINESS

J. CLOSED SESSION

Councillor John MacGarva 25/520

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 5:16 pm.

- a) Public Works Call Log – ATIA Sec. 29.1
- b) CAO Performance Review – ATIA Sec. 22.1

Councillor Dave Cox 25/521

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 6:13 pm.

Carried

Councillor John MacGarva 25/522

Moved that Council accept the Public Works Call Log as information.

Carried

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Councillor John MacGarva

25/523

Moved that Council approve the CAO Performance Review as discussed in closed session.

Carried

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jim Welsch

25/524

Moved that Council adjourn the meeting, the time being 6:15 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER