

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2026**

The regular meeting of Council of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 was held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office in Wabasca on Monday, August 10, 2026, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT:

Brendan Powell (D/Reeve)	Robin Guild
Leo Alook	Darlene Jackson
Kevin Bigstone	Gerald Johnson
Marcel C. Auger	Roy Yellowknee
Cecil Gladue	

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA
TELECONFERENCE:**

Marshall D. Auger (Reeve)

COUNCIL ABSENT:

Louis A. Cardinal (*Authorized Leave of Absence*)

STAFF PRESENT:

Rolanna Auger	Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Lee Bissell	Regional Fire Chief
Angela Lightning	Director of Recreation & Culture
Trina Mineault	Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Musch (virtual)	Director of Finance
Earl Gullion	Director of Utilities
Kimball Newberry	Director of Public Works

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Lynda Gray	Executive Assistant to Administration
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MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

Armaan Khanna	Lakeside Leader
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Call to Order:

Deputy Reeve Brendan Powell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Acceptance of Agenda:

0343-2026-17MDC
Moved by Darlene Jackson that the agenda for the August 10, 2026 regular meeting of council be approved as amended with the following additions:

- 11e. Golf Course
- 11f. Women's Shelter Golf Tournament
- 11g. Park Improvements
- 11h. Dash for Dialysis
- 13h. Organizational Chart
- 14b. Sam G. Park Bridge
- 14c. 4-Way Stop
- 14d. Water Delivery in Chipewyan Lake

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Approval of Minutes
(July 27, 2026):**

0344-2026-17MDC
Moved by Robin Guild that the minutes of the delegation meeting of council held on July 27, 2026 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Arrival:

Reeve Marshall D. Auger joined the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

Councillor Arrival:

Councillor Gerald Johnson arrived at 10:09 a.m.

Initials: Reeve MA CAO CG

Administration Report:

Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Rolanna Auger presented the Administration Monthly Report.

0345-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Chief Administrative Officers report and action list be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Enforcement:

Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Rolanna Auger presented the Monthly Report.

0346-2026-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Municipal Enforcement & Security report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Fire Department:

Regional Fire Chief, Lee Bissell presented the Fire Department Monthly Report.

0347-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Regional Fire Department report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Capital Projects:

Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Rolanna Auger presented the Monthly Report.

0348-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation & Culture:

Director of Recreation & Culture, Angela Lightning presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0349-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Recreation & Culture verbal report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Warrior Within Me Summer
Camp Sponsorship Request:****0350-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the request from Joel Auger to sponsor athletes for the Warrior Within Me Summer Camp be approved for \$7,500 for MD of Opportunity residents with funds from GL 2-00-00-31-770-17.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Community Gathering Request
for Support:****0351-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the request from Ida Noskiye for support the community gathering on August 15-23, 2026 be approved in the amount of \$2,500 to go towards supplies with funds from GL 2-00-00-31-770-17, and that 6 portable bathrooms and potential water delivery be provided, subject to the availability of a water tank.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Municipal Scholarship Grant
Request:****0352-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Municipal Scholarship funding request from Julie Rathbone be approved in the amount of \$5,000, in accordance with policy, as she prepares to pursue her education at Mount Royal University, with funds from GL 2-00-00-31-770-17.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Golf Course:

A concern was expressed about the golf course closure during power outages, noting that staff had advised golfers to leave due to the closure. Council discussed whether the issue was related to power, internet, or both, and suggested that options such as e-transfer could be explored to allow golfers to continue golfing and help maximize revenue.

The Director of Recreation & Culture advised that the matter had been brought to her attention and that recreation staff have been responding differently during outages. A procedure is being developed, and staff will be advised not to close the golf course during an outage unless there is a safety concern.

Women's Shelter Golf Tournament:**0353-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the request for an in-kind donation from Neepinise Family Healing Centre be approved in the amount of \$3,000 to go towards prizes, along with the waiving of green fees for their upcoming golf tournament.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dash For Dialysis Donation Request:**0354-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Marcel C. Auger that the request from the Dash for Dialysis committee for a donation be approved for a 2027 golf cart pass and season pass for the Dash for Dialysis fundraising raffle table.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Departure:

Marshall D. Auger left at 11:02 a.m.

Recreation Park Improvements:

Council had a discussion about recreation areas. It was noted that there are various park deficiencies, including the broken fence at George Stoll Park and a broken basketball net. The Rodeo Committee had previously requested that a proper fence be installed.

Council also discussed the Sandy Lake outdoor rink change room and washroom access. It was noted that the programmer can open and close the change room; however, concerns were raised that children using the rink in the evening are unable to access washrooms when the building is closed, and that the distance to the hill is an issue. Options such as a rubber walkway were discussed, although it was noted that users may still need to remove their skates. Council also discussed portable or self-contained washroom units for outdoor rinks, including the need for development permits and scheduling if mobile units are moved between locations. It was also noted that swings need to be installed in all locations. A park at Neewatin Lodge area was also noted for future reference

Direction was given to bring these matters forward for discussion at a Recreation meeting.

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

Finance Report:

Chief Financial Officer, Trina Mineault and Director of Finance, Ryan Musch presented the monthly report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0355-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reserve Bids Public Auction 2026:**0356-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Leo Alook that the appraised market values presented in Schedule A as the reserve bids for the properties on the 2026 public sale of land listing be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve *md* CAO *CI*

- Declaration of Conflict:** Councillors Gerald Johnson, Kevin Bigstone, Darlene Jackson and Cecil Gladue declared conflict on the next item and left the room at 11:40 a.m.
- Councillor Arrival:** Marshall D. Auger joined the meeting at 11:42 a.m.
- Write-off of Old A/R Balances
Not Transferred to WDHA:** 0357-2026-17MDC
Moved by Leo Alook that the request to write-off of old Accounts Receivable balances that were not transferred to Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority in the amount of \$86,496.81 be approved.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Councillor Return:** Councillors Gerald Johnson, Kevin Bigstone, Darlene Jackson and Cecil Gladue returned to the meeting at 11:43 a.m.
- WDHA Fibre Optic Connection:** 0358-2026-17MDC
Moved by Marshall D. Auger that Council approve the capital budget amendment in the amount of \$17,900 for a fibre optic connection to the Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority building to be funded from unrestricted reserves.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Offer to Purchase Tax Forfeiture
Property – 2410 Mamawintowin
Drive:** 0359-2026-17MDC
Moved by Darlene Jackson that the offer to purchase the tax forfeiture property located at 2410 Mamawintowin Drive, legally described as Plan 8122581, Block 24, Lot 1 be accepted as information.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 0360-2026-17MDC
Moved by Gerald Johnson that direction to Administration to continue negotiations for a higher purchase price and contact the previous landowner to get their feedback.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Corporate & Regulatory
Services Report:** Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services, Rolanna Auger presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).
- 0361-2026-17MDC
Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Corporate & Regulatory Services report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Rescind Bylaw 2026-13 Land
Use Bylaw:** 0362-2026-17MDC
Moved by Darlene Jackson that Bylaw 2026-13 being the Land Use Bylaw be rescinded in its entirety.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Councillor Departure:** Reeve Marshall D. Auger left at 11:59 a.m.
- 2026-15 Land Use Bylaw:** Being a Bylaw of the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17 for the purpose of adopting Land Use Bylaw for the Municipal District of Opportunity

First Reading:**0363-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Robin Guild that Bylaw 2026-15 being the Land Use Bylaw be given first reading and that a public hearing be held on September 14, 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Partial Plans Cancellation
Bylaw 2026-14:**

A bylaw of the Municipal District of Opportunity in the Province of Alberta to cancel part of subdivision plan no. 1520849 registered in respect of SE-23-87-9-W5 located within the boundaries of the Municipal District of Opportunity.

First Reading:**0364-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that Bylaw 2026-14 being the Partial Plans Cancellation of Lots 3 & 4, Block 14, Plan 1520849 be given first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Second Reading:**0365-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that Bylaw 2026-14 being the Partial Plans Cancellation of Lots 3 & 4, Block 14, Plan 1520849 be given second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Unanimous Consent:**0366-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Robin Guild that Bylaw 2026-14 being the Partial Plans Cancellation of Lots 3 & 4, Block 14, Plan 1520849 be given unanimous consent to proceed to third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Third Reading:**0367-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Roy Yellowknee that Bylaw 2026-14 being the Partial Plans Cancellation of Lots 3 & 4, Block 14, Plan 1520849 be given third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Calling Lake FFP-24-63
Fire Smart Tender Award:****0368-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that administration be authorized to award the Calling Lake FFP-24-63 Vegetation Management project to Cortex Management Inc. for a price of \$45,000 (\$6,000/ha) plus GST with funding from FRIAA Grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wabasca FFP-24-64/FFP-25-18
Fire Smart Tender Award:****0369-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Wabasca FFP-24-64 and FFP-25-18 Vegetation Management projects be referred back to administration with direction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Red Earth Creek FFP-24-65
Fire Smart Tender Award:****0370-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Robin Guild that the Red Earth Creek FFP-24-65 Vegetation Management project be referred back to administration with direction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Sandy Lake FFP-24-66/FFP-25-19
Fire Smart Tender Award:****0371-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that administration be authorized to award the Sandy Lake FFP-24-66 and FFP-25-19 Vegetation Management projects to Cortex Management Inc. for a price of \$132,456.00 (\$5,519/ha) plus GST with funding from FRIAA Grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Organizational Chart:**0372-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration be authorized to change the Human Resources Manager position to Human Resources Clerk.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

Public Works Report:

Director of Public Works, Kimball Newberry presented the Monthly Report.

0373-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sam G. Park Bridge:

Council asked for an update on the bridge at Sam G. Park. Director of Public Works received the preliminary report and is waiting for the full report before a decision is made.

Direction to administration to give an update at the next meeting or regular meeting in September.

4-WAY Stop in Wabasca:

Director of Public Works talked to Gordon Walters with Alberta Transportation. The 4-way stop and bridge approaches will be repaired.

Utilities Report:

Director of Utilities, Earl Gullion presented the Utilities Monthly Report.

0374-2026-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that the Utilities report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Round Table:**0375-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson to accept the Councillor reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Alberta Recreation & Parks
Donation:**

Direction to administration to get two baskets ready for the Alberta Recreation & Parks Association Conference in October for their raffle and auction.

Information/Correspondence: 0376-2026-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Calendars:**0377-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Leo Alook that the calendars be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Closed Session:**0378-2026-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that Council move into closed session at 1:00 p.m. with the Acting Chief Administrative Office and Recording Secretary in attendance to discuss the following item: a) Calling Lake Post Office, as per Division 2, Exceptions to Disclosure, of the Access to Information Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve MA CAO CH

0379-2026-17MDC

Moved by Marcel C. Auger that council return to open meeting at 1:12 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Dates:

Delegation Council Meeting
August 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Calling Lake Community Complex

Regular Council Meeting
September 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Wabasca Council Chambers

Adjournment:

0380-2026-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the meeting be adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Marshall D. Auger, Reeve



Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer