

**MINUTES**

A Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Blackfalds was held on March 10, 2026, at 5018 Waghorn Street in Council Chambers, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Laura Svab  
Deputy Mayor Brenda Dennis  
Councillor Jim Sands  
Councillor Shane Hanson  
Councillor Ryan Brown  
Councillor Aaron J. Hoyte  
Councillor Cory Twerdoelib

**ATTENDING**

Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer  
Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure & Planning Services  
Justin de Bresser, Director of Corporate Services  
Ken Morrison, Director of Emergency Management & Protective Services  
Rick Kreklewich, Director of Community Services  
Renan Bravo, Information Technology Technician  
Danielle Nealon, Senior Legislative Advisor

**REGRETS**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Keevah Rellis, Violet Richardson Award Recipient  
Ella Citrigno, Violet Richardson Award Recipient  
Jen Harty, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District  
Gracie Whitfield, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lacombe and District

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Svab welcomed everyone to the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2026, and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A Land Acknowledgement was read to recognize that the Town of Blackfalds is on Treaty 6 territory.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDAS**

**073/26** Councillor Hoyte moved That Council adopt the Regular Agenda for March 10, 2026, as amended to add the following item:

1. Exemption of Consent Agenda 3.2d) Family & Community Support Board Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2026, added under Business as 6.7.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**074/26** Deputy Mayor Dennis moved That Council adopt the Consent Agenda for March 10, 2026, as amended, containing:

- **Declaration of No Interest** (*conflict of duty and interest, pecuniary or other*)
- **Adoption of Minutes**
  - Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2026
  - Special Council Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2026
- **Council Reports**  
None

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- **Administrative Reports**
  - Report for Council, Enforcement & Protective Services Monthly Report – February 2026
  - Report for Council, Development & Building Monthly Report – February 2026
  - Report for Council, Town of Sylvan Lake - RFD Removal of GST from Municipal Franchise Fees – Information
- **Boards, Committee and Commission Minutes and/or Reports**
  - Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2025
  - Municipal Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026
- **Information**
  - City of Lacombe Council Highlights – February 23, 2026
  - Lacombe County Council Highlights – February 26, 2026
  - Special Event Permit 001.26 – Little of This Spring Market – March 28-29, 2026
  - Special Event Permit 002.26 – Little of This Fall Market – September 26-27, 2026
  - Special Event Permit 003.26 – Little of This Christmas Market – November 28-29, 2026
- **Correspondence**
  - Letter from Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Re: Township Road 400 along Highway 2 – March 2, 2026

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**5. DELEGATION****5.1 Violet Richardson Award Recipients**

Mayor Svab, on behalf of Council, acknowledged and recognized Keevah Rellis and Ella Citrigno for being the 2026 recipients of the Soroptimist International of Central Alberta Violet Richardson Award.

**5.2 Big Brothers Big Sisters Lacombe and District**

Jen Harty and Gracie Whitfield provided an overview of the organization's impact on mentoring youth and on strengthening the Blackfalds community throughout 2025.

**6. BUSINESS****6.1 Request for Decision, Bylaw 1338.25 - Road Closure Bylaw**

Director Weran brought forward Bylaw 1338.25 for Council's consideration of Second and Third Reading.

**075/26** Councillor Twerdoclib moved That Council give Second Reading to Bylaw 1338.25, Valley Ridge Estates Phase 6B Road Closure Bylaw, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**076/26** Councillor Sands moved That Council give Third Reading to Bylaw 1338.25, Valley Ridge Estates Phase 6B Road Closure Bylaw, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**6.2 Request for Decision, Bylaw 1347.25 - Schedule “B” 2026 Water and Wastewater Rates**

Director de Bresser brought forward Bylaw 1347.25 for Council’s consideration of Second and Third Reading.

Councillor Brown moved That Council give Second Reading to Bylaw 1347.25 – Schedule “B” 2026 Water and Wastewater Rates, a bylaw to amend Schedule “B” of Bylaw 1250.20.

*Prior to voting on Second Reading, Council put forward the following amendment*

**077/26** Councillor Hoyte moved That Bylaw 1347.25 be amended by deleting the draft Schedule “B” attached to Bylaw 1347.25 and substituting the document titled “Schedule B — 2026 Water & Wastewater Rates (dated March 10, 2026)” as presented this evening.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**078/26** Councillor Brown moved That Council give Second Reading to Bylaw 1347.25 – Schedule “B” 2026 Water and Wastewater Rates, as amended by deleting the draft Schedule “B” attached to Bylaw 1347.25 and substituting the document titled “Schedule B - 2026 Water & Wastewater Rates (dated March 10, 2026)” as presented this evening.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**079/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Council give Third Reading to Bylaw 1347.25 – Schedule “B” 2026 Water and Wastewater Rates.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3 Request for Decision, 2026 Operating Budget & 3-Year Operating Forecast**

Director de Bresser presented the 2026 Operating Budget, Capital Budget changes and the Three-Year Operating Forecast for Council’s consideration.

**MAIN MOTION**

Councillor Twerdoclib moved That Council adopt the 2026 Operating Budget, as presented.

*Prior to voting on the motion, Council put forward the following amendments*

**AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE MAIN MOTION**

Councillor Hoyte moved That Council amend the 2026 Operating Budget to include a \$30,000 Housing Needs Assessment.

Councillor Brown moved That Council amend the 2026 Operating Budget to reduce the Solid Waste Reserve by \$233,949.00 into internal franchise fees to off-set the tax increase.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE MAIN MOTION**

**080/26** Councillor Brown moved That Council amend the 2026 Operating Budget to reduce the Solid Waste Reserve by \$233,949.00 into internal franchise fees to off-set the tax increase.

**DEFEATED**

***In favour: Councillor Brown and Councillor Sands***

**081/26** Councillor Hoyte moved That Council amend the 2026 Operating Budget to include a \$30,000 Housing Needs Assessment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**VOTE ON AMENDED MAIN MOTION**

**082/26** Councillor Twerdoclib moved That Council adopt the 2026 Operating Budget, as amended to include a \$30,000 Housing Needs Assessment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**083/26** Councillor Hoyte moved That Council approve the Capital Budget changes, as presented in this report.

**CARRIED**  
**Opposed: Councillor Brown**

**084/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Council receives the Three-Year Operating Forecast, as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councillor Hanson moved That Council direct Administration to bring back a report if the Solid Waste Reserve could be applied to the solid waste rates.

*Prior to voting on the motion, Council put forward the following amendment*

**AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE MAIN MOTION**

**085/26** Councillor Brown moved That the main motion be amended to include the reduction of the solid waste reserve to be applied to the solid waste utility rates.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**AMENDED MAIN MOTION**

**086/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Council direct Administration to bring back a report if the Solid Waste Reserve could be applied to the solid waste rates and to include the reduction of the solid waste reserve to be applied to the solid waste utility rates.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.4 Request for Decision, Proclamation - National Volunteer Week**

Director Kreklewich requested that Council proclaim National Volunteer Week.

**087/26** Deputy Mayor Dennis moved That Council proclaim April 19 - 25, 2026, as National Volunteer Week in the Town of Blackfalds.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.5 Request for Decision, Iron Ridge Secondary Campus Scholarship**

CAO Isaak brought forward a report and request from the Iron Ridge Secondary Campus regarding a graduation scholarship.

**088/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Council approve the establishment of an annual Town of Blackfalds Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 beginning in 2026, to be funded from the General Operating Reserve for 2026 and added in future years as a budgetary line item and direct Administration to develop a policy for guidelines for the scholarship and bring it back to Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.6 Council Motion, Pedestrian Crossing Standardization and Roadway Signage Policy**

Councillor Hanson provided a Notice of Motion regarding Pedestrian Crossing Standardization and Roadway Signage Policy to be considered by Council at the March 10, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

**089/26** Councillor Hanson moved That Council direct Administration to begin the process of developing a pedestrian crosswalk standardization and roadway signage policy for the Town of Blackfalds, with a goal of having this complete by June 30, 2027.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**6.7 Family & Community Support Board Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2026**

The Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026, were exempt from the Consent Agenda and added under Business as 6.7.

*Mayor Svab relinquished the chair to Deputy Mayor Dennis*

**090/26**

Mayor Svab moved That Council refer the Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026, back to the Board to amend the minutes to remove the noted errors.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Mayor Svab resumed the chair*

**7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**7.1 Disc Golf – Councillor Hanson**

Councillor Hanson provided a Notice of Motion regarding Disc Golf to be considered by Council at the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

“That Council request Administration develop a plan for a Disc Golf Course at the Chuckwagon Park in McKay Ranch, utilizing the Disc Golf equipment purchased by the Optimist Club of Blackfalds for our community.”

**8. CONFIDENTIAL**

None

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Svab adjourned the Regular Council Meeting at 8:37 p.m.

-Original Signed-

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Laura Svab, Mayor

-Original Signed-

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Kim Isaak, Chief Administrative Officer