



Minutes of the **Regular Meeting** of the City Council held on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026** in City Council Chamber at 12:30 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor Hyggen
Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel
Acting Mayor Crowson
Councillor Beeber
Councillor Campbell
Councillor Dodic
Councillor Doria
Councillor Parker
Councillor Wolfe

ABSENT:

OTHERS:

Bonnie Hilford, City Clerk
Ryan Westerson, Legislative Services Manager
Lloyd Brierley, City Manager
Darrell Mathews, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Carly Kleisinger, Director of Community Services
Brian Loewen, Director of Legal Services
Robert Ulrich, Director Corporate Services
Nicole Mitton, Director of People and Partner Services

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 P.M.

2. CALL TO ORDER

2.1 Acknowledgement Statement

2.2 Recognitions

1. Councillor Beeber, re: Condolences to family, friends and associates of retired Judge Fred Coward, Gerry Saguin - Economic Development Lethbridge Board.
2. Councillor Dodic, re: Condolences to family, friends and associates of retired Judge Fred Coward, Emperor of Japan Birthday Celebration, Chinese New Year - the Year of the Fire Horse.
3. Acting Mayor Crowson, re: Community Foundation 60th Anniversary, Family day weekend - Environment Lethbridge Crafts, Friends of the Library book sale.
4. Councillor Campbell, re: To Fran with Love Concert - raised \$15,000, 23 Days of Christmas - raised \$27,000.
5. Councillor Doria, re: The Birds and the Bees Show, University of Lethbridge Food-bank Concert, University of Lethbridge Play Day event, Vietnamese Lunar New Year.
6. Councillor Wolfe, re: Read aloud day, CASA Tour, University of Lethbridge meeting, Real Talk at CASA, A Night to Shine.
7. Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, re: Political Science 3210 Class attendees, If Music be the food of love concert - raised \$10,000, Grammys Little Bakery Grand Opening, Rock Paper Scissors Tournament, Japanese Emperor Birthday Celebration - recognition of Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden.
8. Mayor Hyggen, re: Thank You to Colleagues, Mary-Ann Crow Healy International Peace Pow-Wow, Condolences to everyone in Tumbler Ridge BC, the Birds and the Bees, Visits from Minister Wilson and Government of Alberta Officials.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Acting Mayor Crowson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of City Council on February 24, 2026 be adopted as amended, to include the following:

- 2 letters submitted late for item 6.2 - Options to mitigate 2027 budget pressures for Lethbridge tax and rate payers.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the following Meetings of City Council be approved, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the same:

- City Council Meeting - 2026-02-10; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council receive for information the Status of Directed Resolutions for February 24, 2026, with the following amendments;

- THAT Council defer the date of return for Policy CC80 – Decorative Crosswalks from Q1 2026 to a Q2 2026 meeting of the Community Issues Committee,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve the following Standing Policy Committee Report recommendations:

4.3 Recommendation of Economic & Finance Standing Policy Committee – 2026 Airport Workplan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council receive the Lethbridge Airport – 2026 Airport Workplan report as information.

4.4 Recommendation of Economic & Finance Standing Policy Committee – Targeted Redevelopment Incentive Policy Municipal Grant – 1200 Block 3 Avenue 5

Item #1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council:

1. Deny the targeted redevelopment incentive application for the 1200 Block redevelopment on 3 Avenue South as currently there is no funding approved to support the application.

Item #2:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council:

1. Put the Grant Stream of the TRIP program on hold, with no future applications accepted until the policy has been reviewed, updated and funding has been allocated.

Councillor Dodic requested that item 4.3 - 2026 Airport Workplan be removed from the Consent Agenda and be move to item 8.1.

By general consent, Council agreed to bring forward item 14.1 - Recommendation of Economic & Finance Standing Policy Committee - Airport Development Updates (ATIA Sections 19 and 29) and the new 8.1 - 2026 Airport Workplan, to be heard immediately following item 6.2 - Options to mitigate 2027 budget pressures for Lethbridge tax and rate payers, respectively.

Moved By Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the following Meetings of City Council be

approved, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the same:

- City Council Meeting - 2026-02-10; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council receive for information the Status of Directed Resolutions for February 24, 2026, with the following amendments;

- THAT Council defer the date of return for Policy CC80 – Decorative Crosswalks from Q1 2026 to a Q2 2026 meeting of the Community Issues Committee,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council approve the following Standing Policy Committee Report recommendations:

4.4 Recommendation of Economic & Finance Standing Policy Committee – Targeted Redevelopment Incentive Policy Municipal Grant – 1200 Block 3 Avenue 5

Item #1

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1. Deny the targeted redevelopment incentive application for the 1200 Block redevelopment on 3 Avenue South as currently there is no funding approved to support the application.

Item #2:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council:

1. Put the Grant Stream of the TRIP program on hold, with no future applications accepted until the policy has been reviewed, updated and funding has been allocated.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

4.1 City Council Meeting Minutes - 2026-02-10

4.2 Status of Directed Resolutions - 2026-02-24

4.3 Targeted Redevelopment Incentive Policy Municipal Grant - 1200 Block 3 Avenue S

5. PRESENTATIONS

6. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

6.1 Advocacy on Behalf of Lethbridge Residents related to the Assured

Income for the Severely Handicapped Act and Alberta Disability Assistance Program

Moved By Acting Mayor Crowson

WHEREAS, the municipality of Lethbridge supports community well-being, and has a vested interest in ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive adequate financial support from other orders of government that lifts the recipients out of poverty and does not create new barriers to pursuing employment, and

WHEREAS residents of Lethbridge are concerned about the amendments to the AISH act that were legislated with the passing of Bill 12, primarily around lack of definitions about employability, the fact that there is no right to appeal placement on ACAP (Alberta Disability Assistance Program) and that benefits can be changed “by regulation” while regulations have not yet been created, and

WHEREAS persons with disabilities and disability advocates have noted that there was a lack of meaningful consultation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, advocate to the Government of Alberta to immediately pause implementation of the recent changes to the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Act and Alberta Disability Assistance program; and further, that the Government of Alberta undertake meaningful, accessible consultation with persons with disabilities, advocacy organizations, and community partners; and finally, that the Province publicly report on the social and economic impacts of these changes prior to moving forward.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.2 Options to mitigate 2027 budget pressures for Lethbridge tax and rate payers

Moved By Councillor Wolfe

WHEREAS Council is committed to delivering high quality municipal services while maintaining fiscal responsibility and stewardship of public funds; and

WHEREAS Council is committed to balancing the costs of municipal services with the need to meet service level standards; and

WHEREAS targeted, time bound constraints on the operational costs of municipal programs and services can help mitigate budget and tax pressures on municipal

taxpayers; and

WHEREAS anticipated impacts on the City's financial position include reduced funding from other orders of government, prior Council decisions, and ongoing inflationary pressures; and

WHEREAS the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations are currently scheduled for June 10 and 11, 2026;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Manager to return to the April 14, 2026 meeting of Council with options to achieve one time operational cost savings in 2026, along with an analysis of the impacts on service levels, to the extent possible; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Manager to identify options for cost reductions or revenue increases to reduce the 2027 Operating Budget base funding by 1.75% (approximately \$3.6 million) of the tax funded portion of the 2026 Operating Budget, and to provide, where possible, an analysis of the associated service level impacts for consideration during the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that the Lethbridge Utilities, Grant-funded and Fee-for-Service-funded partners, the Lethbridge Police Commission, and the Lethbridge Public Library Board similarly examine options for ongoing cost savings or revenue increases and provide, to the extent possible, an analysis of the impacts on their respective service levels; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that the Lethbridge Utilities, Grant-funded and Fee-for-Service-funded partners, the Lethbridge Police Commission and the Lethbridge Library Board return to Council with those options and associated impacts for Council's consideration and bring forward one time and ongoing reduction initiatives during the 2027 Operating Budget deliberation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adjust the timeline for the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations to November 16–20, 2026.

Councillor Wolfe presented a revised motion for consideration, which removed operative clauses 3 and 4.

Moved By Councillor Wolfe

WHEREAS Council is committed to delivering high quality municipal services while maintaining fiscal responsibility and stewardship of public funds; and

WHEREAS Council is committed to balancing the costs of municipal services with the need to meet service level standards; and

WHEREAS targeted, time bound constraints on the operational costs of municipal programs and services can help mitigate budget and tax pressures on municipal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS anticipated impacts on the City's financial position include reduced funding from other orders of government, prior Council decisions, and ongoing inflationary pressures; and

WHEREAS the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations are currently scheduled for June 10 and 11, 2026;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Manager to return to the April 14, 2026 meeting of Council with options to achieve one time operational cost savings in 2026, along with an analysis of the impacts on service levels, to the extent possible; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Manager to identify options for cost reductions or revenue increases to reduce the 2027 Operating Budget base funding by 1.75% (approximately \$3.6 million) of the tax funded portion of the 2026 Operating Budget, and to provide, where possible, an analysis of the associated service level impacts for consideration during the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adjust the timeline for the 2027 Operating Budget deliberations to November 16–20, 2026.

In Favor (2): Mayor Hyggen, and Councillor Wolfe

Opposed (7): Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, and Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel

DEFEATED (2 to 7)

Prior to a vote on the Main Motion, Councillor Dodic rose on three points of order.

7. BYLAWS

8. COMMITTEE SUBMISSIONS

8.1 2026 Airport Workplan

Moved By Councillor Dodic

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council receive the Lethbridge Airport – 2026 Airport Workplan report as information.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor

Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

9. ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATIONS

10. ADMINISTRATION SUBMISSIONS

10.1 Encampment Response – Clean Sweep Program Request for Additional Vehicle Funding

Moved By Councillor Beeber

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council amend the existing approval for one-time encampment response funding to reallocate up to \$125,000 to facilitate the purchase of two vehicles required to operate the Clean Sweep Program, with conditions as outlined in this report.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

11. ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRIES AND RESPONSES

11.1 Compliance with Access to Information Act (ATIA) and Protection of Privacy Act (POPA)

12. CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

12.1 Councillor Crowson - Council Updates - 2026-02-24

12.2 Councillor Schmidt-Rempel - Council Updates (Verbal), re: Inter-City Forum on Social Policy Meeting, Economic Development Lethbridge Meeting, Chamber of Commerce Fireside Chat with Minister Neudorf, Elected Officials Education Course on Budgets and Financing, BILD Meeting last week.

13. PUBLIC HEARING - 3:00 P.M.

14. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Moved By Councillor Doria

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now enter a Closed Meeting at 2:50 P.M. to discuss confidential matters with respect to 14.1 as per Sections 19 (Information Harmful to the Business Interest of a Third Party) and 29 (Advice from Officials) of the *Access to Information Act*.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

Moved By Councillor Campbell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn the Closed Meeting at 4:04 P.M.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

Moved By Acting Mayor Crowson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now enter a Closed Meeting at 4:11 P.M. to discuss confidential matters with respect to item 14.1 as per Sections 19 (Information Harmful to the Business Interest of a Third Party) and 29 (Advice from Officials) of the *Access to Information Act*.

In Favor (7): Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

Opposed (1): Councillor Dodic

CARRIED (7 to 1)

Moved By Acting Mayor Crowson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn the Closed Meeting at 4:28 P.M.

In Favor (9): Mayor Hyggen, Acting Mayor Crowson, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy

Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.1 Airport Development Updates (ATIA Sections 19 and 29)

(City Manager, City Clerk, Legislative Services Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Director of Community Services, Government Relations Manager, A/Director of Infrastructure Services, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Legal Services, Manager - Communications and Engagement, Manager - Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships)

Prior to the vote, there was a request to vote on items 1 and 2 separately.

Moved By Mayor Hyggen

Item 1:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Economic and Finance Standing Policy Committee recommend City Council approve the utilization of the existing Airport Incentive Framework for future air service development, and increase the funding commitment for the Airport Incentive Framework held within the MRSR by \$1,105,917 to \$2 million total and direct Administration to negotiate with airlines for new or expanded routes including items such as a minimum revenue guarantee and other related costs up to the total \$2 million on such terms and conditions as negotiated and return to City Council for a decision, upon final draft of negotiations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Manager to provide updates to Council on this matter by June 2026 and again by the end of Q3 2026; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Economic and Finance Standing Policy Committee direct that the Closed Session discussions pertaining to the Airport Development Updates remains confidential as per Sections 19 (Information Harmful to the Business Interest of a Third Party) and Section 29 (Advice from Officials) of the *Access to Information Act*.

In Favor (1): Acting Mayor Crowson

Opposed (8): Mayor Hyggen, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

DEFEATED (1 to 8)

Moved By Mayor Hyggen

Item 2:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the Mayor to proceed with the confidential direction provided in Closed Session; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council direct that the Closed Session discussions pertaining to the Airport Development Updates remains confidential as per Sections 19 (Information Harmful to the Business Interest of a Third Party), 26 (Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations) and 29 (Advice from Officials) of the *Access to Information Act*.

In Favor (8): Mayor Hyggen, Councillor Beeber, Councillor Campbell, Councillor Dodic, Councillor Doria, Councillor Parker, Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, and Councillor Wolfe

Opposed (1): Acting Mayor Crowson

CARRIED (8 to 1)

15. CITY COUNCIL NOTICES OF MOTION

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hyggen declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk