

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
TOWN OF FALHER**

IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, HELD ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2026

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE

PRESENT: Mayor Donna Buchinski

Councillors Lindsay Brown  
Trevor Carrier  
Kelsie Fournier  
Lynn Skrepnek

Administration James Bell  
Florita Perez  
Sherry Limoges

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Buchinski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF  
AGENDA**

**Res. 26-73** Moved by Councillor Brown that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**DELEGATIONS**

**Fire Master Plan (Municipal District of Smoky River-McLennan ACP) –  
Fire Chief Marcel Maure – 7:00 p.m.- 7:22 p.m.**

- Addressed any questions from Council regarding the Fire Master Plan.
- Provided Council an overview of the department's activities and operations, followed by questions and discussion with Council.

**Auditor Edward Telford – Draft 2025 Audited Financial Statements –  
7:23 p.m.-8:30p.m.**

- Discussed Town of Falher Draft 2025 Audited Financial Statement.

James Bell left the meeting at 7:57 p.m. and rejoined at 7:58 p.m.

**In Closed Session**

**Res. 26-74** Moved by Mayor Buchinski at 8:10 p.m. that the council go into a closed session discussion as per:

- Access to Information Act, SA 2024, c A-1.4, s 22
- Access to Information Act, SA 2024, c A-1.4, s 29

CARRIED

James Bell, Sherry Limoges, and Florita Perez left the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

**Out of Closed Session**

**Res. 26-75** Moved by Mayor Buchinski that the council come out of the closed session at 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED

James Bell, Sherry Limoges, and Florita Perez rejoined at 8:27p.m.

Delegation was complete at 8:30p.m.

Meeting recessed at 8:30p.m. and reconvened at 8:33p.m.

***Due to availability of external presenters, Council agreed to address Agenda item 6(f)***

Jason Schuler, Project Engineer with Velocity Engineering Inc., provided to Council an overview and description of various options related to the Town Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main Replacement & Water System Improvement project.

**Capital Project – Trunk Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement**

**Res. 26-76**

Moved by Councillor Fournier that Council proceed to tender with Cost Estimate -Option 3, as presented by Velocity Engineering Inc. for the Town Sanitary Sewer Trunk Main Replacement & Water System Improvement project, and direct administration to explore inspection reports for adjacent areas (North) to the project location.  
CARRIED

**Community Services**

**Campground Repairs**

**Res. 26-77**

Moved by Councillor Carrier to complete the repairs as described (with exploration into the possibility and prospect of utilizing an insurance claim) and to direct administration to bring forward service options for the Falher Municipal Campground later in 2026.  
CARRIED

**Community Priorities Plan ( CPP)**

**Res. 26-78**

Moved by Councillor Brown that this item be deferred to the next Regular Meeting of Council.  
CARRIED

Councillor Skrepnek left the meeting at 9:30 p.m. and rejoined at 9:31 p.m.

**Curling Club Request**

**Res. 26-79**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that Council waive Section 5.5 (Maintenance and Repairs) of the agreement between the Town of Falher and the Falher Curling Club regarding advertising in the Falher Regional Recreation Complex as requested, and as discussed.  
CARRIED

**Res. 26-80**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that Council waive Section 2.7 (Rent and Financial Considerations) of the agreement between the Town of Falher and Smoky River Minor Hockey, and Section 2.5 (Rent and Financial Considerations) of the agreement between the Town of Falher and the Falher Pirates regarding advertising in the Falher Regional Recreation Complex, as discussed.  
CARRIED

**Friends of Falher Baseball Diamonds**

**Res. 26-81**

Moved by Councillor Fournier to approve the Friends of Falher Baseball Diamonds signage proposal package as presented and that the request for financial support for dugout painting be approved with a donation of \$9,400.00 to be funded from municipal reserves.  
CARRIED

**Extend Meeting**

**Res. 26-82**

Moved by Councillor Fournier at 10:08 p.m. to extend the meeting.

CARRIED

**Falher Regional Recreation Complex Equipment Replacement -Floor Washer****Res. 26-83**

Moved by Councillor Skrepnek to authorize the immediate purchase of Floor Washing Equipment for the Falher Regional Recreation Complex as described and as outlined in 2026 Budget Discussions.

CARRIED

**Smoky River Manatees Swim Club****Res. 26-84**

Moved by Councillor Fournier to approve the following details for the Swim Club's 2026-2028 Recreation Agreement (as discussed):

- Maintain the club's requested swim times
- Rental rates for the 2026 season will see no increase from the 2025 season

CARRIED

Sherry Limoges left the meeting at 10:11 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES****Minutes of February 11th, 2026, Regular Meeting****Res. 26-85**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 11th, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**Minutes of February 24th, 2026, Budget Meeting****Res. 26-86**

Moved by Councillor Fournier that the minutes of the budget meeting held on January 21st, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**Minutes of March 3rd, 2026, Recreation Committee Meeting****Res. 26-87**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 3rd, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**Business Arising****Alberta Community Partnership Approval – Strategic Planning****Res. 26-88**

Moved by Councillor Skrepnek to accept item as information.

CARRIED

**Energy Alberta****Res. 26-89**

Moved by Councillor Brown to authorize Chief Administrative Officer, James Bell's attendance to the upcoming Socio-Economic Working Group and provide a recommendation to Council on participation in the future.

CARRIED

**ICF & IDP Review 2026****Res. 26-90**

Moved by Councillor Brown to accept item as information.

CARRIED

**Library Member Appointment****Res. 26-91**

Moved by Councillor Fournier to appoint the following individuals to the Falher Regional Library Board for the specified terms:

- Christine Griffin – term expiry date December 31, 2026.

CARRIED

**FINANCIAL****Bank Reconciliation & Cheque Register Summary**

**Res. 26-92**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the Bank Reconciliation for the period ending February 28, 2026, together with the cheque register summary dated February 11 and 24, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**Income Statement****Res. 26-93**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the Income Statement for the period ending February 28, 2026, be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**Airport Financials****Res. 26-94**

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Airport Financials Report for the period ending January 31, 2026 be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**Physician House****Res. 26-95**

Moved by Councillor Fournier that the Physician House Report for the period ending February 28, 2026 be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**Credit Card Policy****Res. 26-96**

Moved by Councillor Skrepnek to proceed with a formal replacement of our current Credit Card practices, specifically:

- moving to a credit card limit of \$20,000
- having 2 cards/named individuals in case of business continuity issues, and;
- direct administration to prepare Credit Card Policy for Council review.

CARRIED

James Bell left the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

**BYLAWS & POLICIES****Draft Bylaw 26-01 Snow and Ice Removal****Res. 26-97**

Moved by Councillor Fournier that this item be deferred to the May Regular Meeting of Council.

CARRIED

James Bell rejoined the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS****AB Gov Budget 2026****Res. 26-98**

Moved by Councillor Carrier to accept item as information.

CARRIED

**Agencies, Boards, and Committees – Temporary Appointment****Res. 26-99**

Moved by Councillor Skrepnek that the following Councillors be appointed as a temporary replacement for Councillor Carrier for the months of April, May, and June 2026:

- **Employee Relations Committee** – Councillor Skrepnek
- **Falher Recreation Committee** – Councillor Skrepnek
- **Policy Review Committee** – Mayor Buchinski
- **Smoky River Emergency Management** – Councillor Fournier
- **Smoky River Regional Airport Committee** – Councillor Brown
- **Smoky River Regional Committee** – Councillor Brown

CARRIED

**Nord-Ouest FM Request – Qualified Donee**

**Res. 26-100**

Moved by Councillor Brown to deny the request from Nord-Ouest FM for the Town of Falher to act as a Qualified Donee for the receipt and administration of grant and donation funds; and further, that Administration be authorized to provide a letter of support for the proposed regional training initiative.

CARRIED

**Regional Assessment Review Board****Res. 26-101**

Moved by Councillor Brown to accept item as information.

CARRIED

**Smoky River Regional Meeting - Discussion****Res. 26-102**

Moved by Councillor Carrier to accept item as information.

CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE****General Correspondence****Res. 26-103**

Moved by Councillor Brown that the listed correspondence be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**Mayor Buchinski

- SR Transportation– January 26, 2026
- SR Water Commission– January 27, 2026
- Economic Dev't. – February 4, 2026
- ABMUNIS Advocacy – February 6, 2026
- Heart River Housing – February 19, 2026

Councillor Brown

- Water Commission– January 27, 2026
- Falher Library – February 3, 2026
- PLS Board – February 21, 2026
- Waste Commission – February 23, 2026

Councillor Carrier

- No Report

Councillor Fournier

- Waste Commission – February 23, 2026

Councillor Skrepnek

- No Report

**Res. 26-104**

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Committee reports be accepted as information.

CARRIED

Councillor Carrier left the meeting at 10:45 p.m. and rejoined at 10:45 p.m.

Councillor Fournier left the meeting at 10:47 p.m. and rejoined 10:48 p.m.

**Director of Community Services Report****Res. 26-105**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the Director of Community Services report and action list be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**Chief Administrative Officer Report and Action List**

**Res. 26-106**

Moved by Councillor Carrier that the Chief Administrative Officer's report and action list be accepted as information.

CARRIED

**Res. 26-107**

Moved By Councillor Skrepnek to direct administration to write a letter to Minister Mike Ellis regarding the New Police Funding Model, advocating for the public release of MNP's report on the model, with copies (cc) sent to the Honourable Todd Loewen, MLA; the Honourable Premier Danielle Smith; the Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs; and other parties as required and discussed.

CARRIED

**Budget Meeting**

**Res. 26-108**

Moved by Councillor Carrier to hold a Special Meeting of Council (budget) on April 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Falher Council Chambers.

CARRIED

**Next Meeting**

Regular Meeting – April 8, 2026

Special Meeting – April 28, 2026

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Buchinski adjourned the meeting at 10:57 p.m.

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Administrator