MINUTES OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

TOWN OF FALHER

IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026

IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Donna Buchinski Lindsay Brown Trevor Carrier Kelsie Fournier Lynn Skrepnek
Administration:	James Bell Sherry Limoges Oscar Rogers

CALL TO ORDER James Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Res. 26-285 Moved by Councillor Brown to accept agenda.

CARRIED

LAND ACKNOWLEDMENT

Land acknowledgment read by Mayor Buchinski:
"We acknowledge Treaty 8 territory—the traditional and ancestral territory of the Cree and Dene. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Settlements and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Regions 1, 4, 5 and 6 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived in and cared for these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting."

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AS CHAIRPERSON DURING APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

Res. 26-286 Moved by Councillor Fournier to appoint Chief Administrative Officer James Bell as Chairperson during the Nomination and Election Process for Mayor.

Election Process

Agreement

1. The election procedures included herein are to be included within a Council motion prior to the nomination and selection process. Passing of this motion shall form approval and agreement from all Councillors in attendance that the processes outlined herein are agreeable to select a

Chief Elected Officer (Mayor) and a Deputy Chief Elected Officer (Deputy Mayor).

Nominations

2. Chief Administrative Officer James Bell will call for Nominations a minimum of three times.

3. Councillors nominated for the position may accept or decline the nomination.

Acclamation

4. Should only 1 nomination be received, the nominee will be appointed/acclaimed to the position.

4.1. The Chief Administrative Officer as Chair, shall declare the name of the Councillor acclaimed as Mayor/Deputy Mayor with this declaration serving as a motion that is "Carried Unanimously" in the minutes of the meeting.

Vote

5. Should more than 1 nomination be received a vote will be held.

5.1. Each Councillor will receive a blank ballot.

5.2. All ballots are confidential to ensure a fair and impartial selection process.

5.3. Councillors will write in their choice privately and submit their completed ballot into a container.

5.4. The Chief Administrative Officer and Accounting Clerk will leave the room to count the ballots.

5.5. In the event of a tie, additional rounds of voting will take place until a majority is achieved.

5.5.1. Each round of voting shall be recorded in the minutes with the results of each vote recorded.

5.6. Upon return, the Chief Administrative Officer as Chair, shall declare the name of the Councillor receiving the majority of votes as Mayor/Deputy Mayor.

Ballot as Vote on Motion

6. As Chair, a declaration of a Mayor/Deputy Mayor as a result of a blind vote shall be recorded in the minutes as a Carried Motion. Votes in the majority for the Mayor shall be numbered and listed as "In Favour" of the motion, with all other votes shall numbered and listed as "Opposed" to the motion.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Mayor. Councillor Brown nominated Councillor Buchinski for the position of Mayor. Councillor Buchinski accepted the nomination.

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Mayor a second time. There were no further nominations

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Mayor a third time. There were no further nominations

With no further nominations Chief Administrative Officer James Bell closed nominations for Mayor.

Chief Administrative Officer James Bell called nominations complete for the position of Mayor, with only 1 nomination received.

Res. 26-287 Chair James Bell declared the position of Mayor for Donna Buchinski.

CARRIED

DEPUTY MAYOR

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Buchinski nominated Councillor Brown for the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Brown accepted the nomination.

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor a second time. Councillor Skrepnek nominated Councillor Carrier for the position of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Carrier accepted the nomination.

CAO James Bell called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor a third time. There were no further nominations.

With no further nominations CAO James Bell closed nominations for Deputy Mayor

With nominations complete for the position of DEPUTY MAYOR, a vote was held by secret ballot. CAO James Bell collected the ballots. CAO James Bell, DCS Sherry Limoges, and DPW Oscar Rogers left the room to count the ballots. (7:07 PM)

CAO James Bell, DCS Sherry Limoges, and DPW Oscar Rogers returned at 7:10 pm

Res. 26-288 Chair James Bell declared the position of Deputy Mayor for TREVOR CARRIER

3 In Favour
2 Opposed

CARRIED

Official Oaths for Mayor & Deputy Mayor

Mayor Buchinski recited and signed the Oath of Office Pledge
Deputy Mayor Carrier recited and signed the Oath of Office Pledge

COUNCIL & MEETINGS

Regular Meeting Schedule

Res. 26-289 Moved by Councillor Carrier that the 2027 Regular Meeting of Council Schedule be adopted as follows, with meetings occurring at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Town of Falher Municipal Office.

Wednesday, January 13, 2027
Wednesday, February 10, 2027
Wednesday, March 10, 2027
Wednesday, April 14, 2027
Wednesday, May 5, 2027
Wednesday, June 9, 2027
Wednesday, July 14, 2027
Wednesday, August 11, 2027
Wednesday, September 8, 2027
Wednesday, October 13, 2027
Wednesday, November 10, 2027
Wednesday, December 8, 2027

CARRIED

Meeting Procedures

Council reviewed and discussed the current Meeting Procedures - Bylaw 25-02.
Council further discussed their intentions in general terms for meeting procedures moving forward.

Res. 26-290 Moved by Councillor Skrepnek that the Meeting Procedures – Bylaw 25-02. Be brought back to the next council meeting with the recommended amendments.

CARRIED

Logistics & Housekeeping

Email & Technology

Chief Administrative Officer provided refresher on the current policies regarding Email & Technology; use of Councillor owned devices, Town of Falher Email and Microsoft app access, etc.

Res. 26-291 Moved by Councillor Fournier to have all councillors sign Policy 503 Electronic Equipment; Appendix H – Councillors Acknowledgement and Responsibilities Agreement.

CARRIED

Remuneration & Forms

Res. 26-292 Moved by Councillor Carrier to accept as information.

CARRIED

AGENCIES, BOARDS, & COMMITTEES

Appointment to Committee & Boards

Res. 26-293 Moved by Councillor Carrier that Council appoint the Council representatives as per the attached Boards & Committees list dated October 7th, 2026 and that all appointments be effective from October 7th, 2026 until the Town of Falher's next Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

Falher Intermunicipal Library Board – Internal

Res. 26-294 Moved by Councillor Fournier that Council appoint Councillor Lindsay Brown to the Falher Intermunicipal Library Board for an 8th Consecutive term, effective October 7, 2026, until the Town of Falher's next organizational Meeting in 2026.

CARRIED

Councillor Brown requested that the vote be recorded.

IN FAVOUR: **UNANIMOUSLY**
Mayor Buchinski
Councillor Carrier
Councillor Brown
Councillor Fournier
Councillor Skrepnek

OPPOSED:
None

SIGNING AUTHORITIES

Res. 26-295 Moved by Councillor Skrepnek that the signing authorities for the Town of Falher bank accounts be as follows:

Mayor Buchinski or Deputy Mayor Carrier
AND
Those identified in the Town of Falher's Designated Officers Bylaw 25-04

CARRIED

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS

Res. 26-296 Moved by Councillor Carrier to designate the Falher ATB Financial as the Town of Falher's primary financial institute; and the Falher Vision Credit Union will be utilized when required for investments.

CARRIED

LOCATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Res. 26-297 Moved by Councillor Fournier to name the Town of Falher Municipal Office located at #011 Central Avenue S.W. Falher, AB as its municipal office.

CARRIED

Next Meeting
Special Meeting – October 27, 2026
Regular Meeting – November 10, 2026

ADJOURMENT Mayor Buchinski adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Signatures included on final page

TOWN OF FALHER
COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND BOARDS
2026-2027
Resolution 26-292

		Council	**Members-at-Large or Alternate**
1	Alberta Bilingual Municipality Association	Kelsie Fournier	
2	Employee Relations Committee	Donna Buchinski Trevor Carrier	
3	Falher Honey Festival Committee	Kelsie Fournier	
4	Falher Regional Intermunicipal Library Board	*Refer to Separate Resolution 26-294*	
5	Falher Recreation Committee	Kelsie Fournier Trevor Carrier	
6	Heart River Housing	Donna Buchinski	
7	Intermunicipal Committee	Mayor Buchinski Deputy Mayor Carrier	
8	Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency	Donna Buchinski	James Bell - Alt
9	Mid-Size Towns Mayors Caucus	Mayor Buchinski	
10	Mighty Peace Tourism Association	Lynn Skrepnek	
11	Northern Alberta Elected Leaders	Mayor Buchinski	
12	Peace Library System	Lindsay Brown	Lynn Skrepnek - Alt
13	Peace Region Economic Development Alliance	Donna Buchinski	
14	Peace Regional Subdivision and Development Appeal Board	*Refer to Separate Resolution – tbd Nov. 2026*	
15	Policy Review Committee	Kelsie Fournier Trevor Carrier	
16	Regional Assessment Review Board	*Refer to Separate Resolution – tbd Nov. 2026*	
17	Smoky River Emergency Management	Trevor Carrier Kelsie Fournier	
18	Smoky River Family and Community Support Services	Lindsay Brown	

19	Smoky River Regional Airport Committee	Lindsay Brown Trevor Carrier	
20	Smoky River Regional Committee	Donna Buchinski Trevor Carrier	
21	Smoky River Regional Economic Development	Donna Buchinski	*Paige Rey-At Large* *(Res.26-165)* *(Exp. May 6, 2028)*
22	Smoky River Regional Health Care Professionals Attraction & Retention Committee	Lindsay Brown	
23	Smoky River Regional Waste Commission	Kelsie Fournier Lindsay Brown	
24	Smoky River Regional Water Commission	Donna Buchinski Lindsay Brown	
25	Smoky River Transportation Committee	Kelsie Fournier	

MAYOR

Municipal Administrator