

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: November 4, 2025

Time: 6:30- 8:30

Meeting called to order by: Captain Martin at 6:35 Prayer by Gary Gagnon

IN ATTENDANCE

Patrick Veenstra, Thomas Francis, Kylin Culhane, Jody Swanson, Phyllis Kelly, Kristi Gignac, Brad Martin. Absent: Gordon Van Es.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

No motion to approve previous minutes – postponed to next meeting.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

Each Candidate was given three minutes to speak.

Karen Acuna, Gabrielle Blatz, Jody Swanson

Read a profile from Candidate Rhonda Baglot.

Time for questions to the Candidates.

REPORTS

Captain's Update

- We have heard from Citizens that the council meetings are focused on the business of running the council and are not as interactive as previous Local meetings. Therefore, we will forego our next formal meeting to instead offer community gatherings to engage and visit with citizens in the different zones of our District.
- Metis week will be a celebration of what our Metis communities have to offer. We are beginning with Councillors attending the Louis Riel Commemorative walk to St Margaret's Church Historical Site on Sunday, November 16. We are also offering to join Council who are attending the Louis Riel Commemoration Service at the Alberta Legislature. Shuttle buses are available from the Edmonton Inn but arrive early to get through security. Monday, November 17 is Tea and Bannock at the St Albert Public Library from 1:00-2:30. There is a partnership that day to offer tours at the musee

Heritage Museum event "St Albert and the Northwest Resistance: 140 Years Later" and the St Albert Art Gallery exhibit "Your Hands Touch Between Brambles" with artist Kiona Callihoo Lightvoet. Tuesday, November 18, first proclamation by the new City of St Albert Council for Metis Week given to Captain Martin. Friday, November 21, Tea and Bannock at the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library 3:30-5:00pm. Saturday, November 22, is the Delia Gray Gala. 5:00pm doors open. Tuesday, November 25 is Tea and Bannock at the Sherwood Park Center in the Park (Agora) 6:30-8:00pm.

- Productive meeting with the Strathcona County with the Indigenous Liaison, Intergovernmental Department leads and councillors Kelly, Van Es and Gignac. They are open to supporting the Council and Metis citizens in the area and working together.

Treasurer's Update

- Updates on finances. Went through the amounts in each account (Youville, Windbreakers, Red Willow and General)
- Expenses fluctuate with spending.
- Youville Advisory Committee is recommending that the funds be spent.
- Motion to update bank account to using a trade name of Metis District 11 and operating name by Kristi. Seconded by Patrick. Motion passed.
- Application was made for cultural funding. We are asking for more than offered.

Secretary's Update

- Tea and Bannock in the Library was held October 17th with a very positive turnout.
- Attended the Metis Work Place EXPO with Captain Martin to introduce ourselves to the different departments.
- Continuing relationship with various City of St Albert departments including IDEA working table, St Albert Social Services group and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation group.
- Met with SASHA St Albert and Sturgeon Hospice Association Heidi Evans for support for Youville (orange trees) and concert.
- Technology update and moving forward. We have signed an agreement with IT Partners to create a new domain which will give Councillors their own email. We are continuing to work on updating the website. We have also changed service providers for internet services as we could not take over the previous account.

Council updates:

- Council members who could attend, were honored to accept the Business Excellence Award in the Indigenous Business Category on behalf of Sturgeon River Utilities presented by the St Albert Chamber of Commerce.

Other Updates:

Sturgeon River update

- Sturgeon River Utilities received the award for Indigenous Business.
- Great Blue Heron, the HoldCo and Sturgeon River Utilities are now on the same fiscal year as the District.

Questions from Citizens in attendance:

All questions must be directed to the Captain as chair of the meeting, not to individual councillors. Any questions posed must be made by Citizens residing in the District. The Captain may request proof of citizenship and address before allowing a question. Questions from other organizations or people may be submitted ahead of time for consideration.

- Question about how to get tickets for the Delia Gray Gala. Through OMG website.
- Question about

- Question about the potential for a Christmas party with comments about offering engagement and celebration to citizens in the different regions of the District. The speaker also spoke about the wonderful kids portion of the party and sharing a meal together.
- Questions about communication – the Council is experiencing uncertainty about how to inform citizens of news and events and hears that Citizens are feeling frustrated over the communication issues.
- Question about a hamper program for Elders. The possibility of 100.00 gift cards for Elders was discussed with the issue continuing into Council conversations.
- Question about monitoring and who is on the list. Any interested citizens should contact the Captain.
- Question about the Sturgeon River and monitoring on the health of the river that was done prior to the District. Check with Tyler Fletch / consultation department regarding the state of the funding and any grants that can be used to monitor the river.
- Question if there are any paid employees and where the funds for that come from. Captain explained that two councillors are part-time employees paid for with funds set aside for operations.
- Questions about operational funding being used instead for programming. The Treasurer explained that there is a different grant for cultural programming.

NEXT MEETING

- Next meeting TBD
- Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm