

**UNADOPTED MINUTES  
OF THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE  
OF THE TOWN OF OKOTOKS  
HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024  
AT THE OKOTOKS MUNICIPAL CENTRE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Deputy Mayor Robinson, Chair  
Mayor Thorn  
Councillor Hallmark  
Councillor Heemeryck  
Councillor Lang  
Councillor Swendseid

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Vincent  
Senior Legislative Affairs Officer Patty Huber

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and provided a traditional land acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION: By Councillor Swendseid that the agenda for the April 15, 2024 Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1 Governance and Priorities Committee - March 18, 2024

MOTION: By Councillor Hallmark that the minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held March 18, 2024 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

## 4. BUSINESS

### 4.1 Council's Community Engagement Policies

Community Engagement Manager Melanie Heemeryck, Communications Specialist Marni Hutchison, and Legislative Affairs Manager Cathy Duplessis reviewed the report containing the issue that Council's Community Engagement draft Policy GP-D-2.6 and draft Community Engagement Policy EL-B-2.6 are provided to the Governance and Priorities Committee for review and consideration.

MOTION: By Mayor Thorn that a recommendation be forwarded to Council that draft Council's Community Engagement Policy GP-D-2.6 and draft Community Engagement Policy EL-B-2.6 be approved with amendments reflecting the discussion at the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting regarding policy goalposts; and

That a recommendation be forwarded to Council that Community Engagement Policy CMD-R-4.6 and Council Community Connector Policy and Plan GP-D-2.3 be rescinded.

Carried Unanimously

### 4.2 Town of Okotoks Academic Awards

Legislative Affairs Manager Cathy Duplessis reviewed the report containing the issue that Councillor Swendseid requested a discussion regarding the criteria used to determine the annual high school academic awards and the amount of funding provided for these award.

MOTION: By Councillor Swendseid that Administration draft new school awards based on feedback at the Governance and Priorities Committee meeting that includes increasing the dollar value of the awards to \$1,000; adding Ecole Beausoleil School Division; having the criteria of the awards include recognition of volunteerism and service to the community and/or the school as discussed; and that one student from each of the three high schools be awarded.

Carried

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Break at 5:45 p.m. Reconvene at 6:17 p.m.

**6. CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

MOTION: By Councillor Heemeryck that the meeting go into Closed Session as the matters to be discussed during this portion of the meeting are within one of the exceptions to disclosure in Division 2 of Part 1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* at 6:18 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

6.1 Town Asset Renaming (*FOIP* s. 24(1)(a))

In Attendance

Chair Robinson

Mayor Thorn

Councillors Hallmark, Heemeryck, Lang, and Swendseid

Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Vincent

Community Safety & Organizational Excellence Acting Director Paula Bernat

Community Growth & Identity Director Jeff Greene

Parks & Recreation Director Christa Michailuck

Legislative Affairs Manager Cathy Duplessis

Communications, Governmental & Indigenous Senior Strategist Ben Morgan

Culture & Heritage Team Leader Allan Boss

Senior Legislative Affairs Officer Patty Huber

Legislative Affairs Officer Janice Storch

MOTION: By Councillor Hallmark that the meeting come out of Closed Session at 7:01 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

**7. MOTION(S) ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION: By Councillor Lang that the recommendation contained in Closed Session item 6.1 be endorsed as discussed.

Carried Unanimously

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee is Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: By Mayor Thorn that the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of April 15, 2024 adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Carried Unanimously