

Krista Gardner Councillor Report

May, June & July 2024

April 29th – May 1st - Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference “Beyond Municipal Borders- Collaborating for Vibrant Communities”

The conference was kicked off with a keynote address from best selling author Chris Turner on “How to be a Climate Optimist”. I then attended sessions on “Enabling Housing Choice in Rural Alberta Communities” by Alyce Wickert and Sean Adams from the Rural Development Network, “Intermunicipal Success Stories: Examples and Best Practices” by Jeneane Grundberg and Whitney Mosley from Brownlee LLP. The next morning, I participated in a very cold and unexpectedly snowy off-site tour of downtown Lacombe with “Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan and Reinvestment in Historic Downtown Lacombe” by Nancy Hackett and Guy Lapointe from the City of Lacombe, “Sessions Beyond Boundaries: Reimagining Communities Through Neighbourly Planning” by Dnyanesh Deshpande and Marcelo Figueira from Green Space Alliance, and finally “How Does This Benefit Us? Regional Collaboration and the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board” by Liisa Tipman, Jordon Copping and Jaime Graves from the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board. A key theme that kept re-emerging was the importance of attitude in intermunicipal relations. Also mentioned multiple times was challenging yourself to find win-win solutions by thinking outside of the box.

May 2nd- Special Council Meeting

May 5th- Loganberry’s Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show

Councillor McKeag-Reber, Economic Development Officer McIntosh and I attended this local charitable event out on by Loganberry’s Antiques and Fashion Boutique, with proceeds going towards Tools for Schools in Calmar. The event was lovely, and I even managed to purchase some of the items from the fashion show. Hopefully, it becomes an annual event.

May 6th- Regular Council Meeting

May 6th- 9th- Alberta Municipalities’ Director for Towns West Member Visits

Through my role with ABmunis, I went to Bentley, Rocky Mountain House, Wembley, Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Fairview, Valleyview and Devon. I spoke to Councils and Administration staff about issues affecting municipalities and how best to represent them at the ABmunis Board table. I love seeing other communities and the amazing work they are doing (and finding tidbits to bring back to Calmar!).

May 10th- Night at the Races at Century Mile Racetrack

Mayor Carnahan and I attended a networking event at Century Mile Racetrack, promoting investment at the EIA airport grounds. I was pleased to spend some time with local Calmar investors and developers, our MLA Andr4ew Boitchenko, and other local elected

officials and businesspeople. The potential development occurring at the airport is promising for Calmar.

May 14th & 15th- Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Committee for the Alberta Energy Regulator (ABmunis Appointment)

May 16th- Capital Region Southwest Water Services Commission EL Smith Water Plant Tour and Board Meeting

Many members of the Board and the management staff met in Edmonton to tour the EL Smith Water Treatment Plant. It was fantastic to see where our water is produced, the care and attention taken to ensure the continuous supply of safe drinking water and the many contingency plans to future-proof our water supply. Definitely a great experience! Key items from the Board meeting include that the west water line installation for the new Nisku Booster Station is now complete including all boring underneath the QE2 highway. The building construction progress is ongoing and expected to be completed soon. The board approved a transfer of \$147,060 from the general operating reserve to fund the emergency repairs to the Millet transmission main as a result of a water line break. The board passed Bylaw 02-2024 Line of Credit Borrowing Bylaw, which will allow us to apply for a line of credit with a financial institution to cover potential operating expenditures during this period of significant construction costs. This is intended to provide a short-term lending facility in the event that we may have short term cash flow deficiencies because of construction costs.

May 21st- Regular Council Meeting

May 22nd-24th- ABmunis Strategic Planning Retreat

May 29th- Leduc, Nisku Chamber of Commerce State of the City of Leduc Address

We heard from City of Leduc Mayor Bob Young about the many accomplishments and challenges the city experienced in 2023 and the exciting things to come in 2024. We also heard from MLA Brendan Lundy about the investments made by the Province in Leduc for both 2023 and into the future.

June 3rd- Regular Council Meeting

June 4th- ABmunis Meeting with Premier Smith and Municipal Affairs Minister McIver about concerns relating to Bill 20

June 6th- Calmar & District Recreation Board

June 7th- Mint Health + Drugs Grand Re-Opening

June 8th- State of the Town Pancake Breakfast

June 11th-12th- ABmunis Member Visits and Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus

On my way to Fahler to participate in the northern edition of Summer MLC, I stopped in Swan Hills to meet with their Council and CAO and toured the Town. They are the Grizzly Bear Capital of Alberta! I also had dinner in McLennan with their Council. Summer MLC was well-attended by many local elected leaders from the northwest. Topics covered included Water Management plans and input into Updates to our Water Conservation Principles, feedback on proposed regulations for Bill 20 including Campaign Spending Limits and Municipal Political Parties, as well as updates from a number of our committees.

June 14th- ABmunis Executive Committee Meeting

June 15th- Timbits Soccer Jamboree in Calmar

My youngest participated in this event, which saw hundreds of 3–7-year-olds playing in an all-day tournament. Teams from across the region came and enjoyed good old-fashioned sport right in Calmar! Great fun!

June 15th- Not Council related but I was lucky enough to get tickets to Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Finals!! It was a historic moment and a thrilling win!

June 17th- Women in Local Government Event

June 17th- Regular Council Meeting

June 18th- First Aid Training In-Person Session

June 18th- Annual CAO Performance Review Meeting

June 19th- Asset Management Committee Meeting

June 19th- Business BBQ

I briefly stopped by the Business BBQ in between two events. I love seeing the participation from our local business community.

June 19th- Leduc Nisku Chamber of Commerce State of Leduc County Address

I enjoyed hearing from Leduc County Mayor Tanni Doblanko about the work Leduc County has done over the last year to remain competitive with their fellow counties in attracting industrial development.

June 20th- ABmunis Investment Advisory Committee Meeting

June 21st- ABmunis Board Meeting

June 24th- Leduc County and Calmar Fire Services Advisory Committee Meeting

June 26th- Calmar Elementary School Retirement Party

I attended a farewell for CES Principal Berna Hawkins and long-time teacher Sue Biddell. I wish them all the best with their future endeavours and am excited for the future of CES under the direction of a new principal!

June 26th- Edmonton Region Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

June 26th- Committee of the Whole Meeting

June 27th- Summer Municipal Leaders' Caucus in Innisfail

July 1st- Calmar Canada Cup Celebration

What a day! I volunteered serving pancakes during the morning's opening pancake breakfast and then played street hockey on Team Calmar during the afternoon. Huge shout out to the young men on the Bisons, who went easy on an old lady! Much fun was had by all, and I think it worked really well to move the event all into the arena parking lot. Thanks to everyone who made it possible!

July 2nd- Interim Police Advisory Board Meeting (ABmunis appointment)

July 4th- Interim Police Advisory Board Meeting with Public Safety & Emergency Services Minister Ellis (ABmunis appointment)

July 5th- ABmunis Municipal Governance Committee Meeting

July 9th- Municipal Affairs Bill 20 Regulations Engagement Session

July 11th- ABmunis Executive Committee Meeting

July 12th- ABmunis Convention Planning Meeting

July 15th- Regular Council Meeting

July 22nd- Municipal Affairs Bill 20 Regulations Engagement Session

July 23rd- ABmunis Cyber Security Training Course

July 25th- ABmunis Board Meeting

July 29th- Council Meeting and Tour with MLA Boitchenko

July 29th- Special Council Meeting

In addition to all of the formal meetings I attended over the last 3 months, I also want to highlight the many opportunities my children had to participate in sports and other activities in Calmar during the spring season (which kept me run off my feet!). We have a fabulous soccer program running in Calmar. Kudos to all the volunteers who make it happen- from the Calmar Minor Soccer board to all of the parent (or other) coaches. CMS is a great program, and it is also

affordable, which is so important for local families to be able to participate! I was also lucky enough to volunteer for several field trips and programs through the elementary school. Our teachers and dedicated parent volunteers work hard to put together fantastic experiences for our kids, and I want to give them a big shout out! I hope everyone gets a bit of rest over the summer, before gearing up for another busy year!