

## August Council Report

Councillor Jaime McKeag Reber

**Aug 1<sup>st</sup>: Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Collegiate** – I was happy to attend this event on behalf of Council with Councillor Krista Gardner. I am not sure, if at the time, we were completely aware of the weight of this event. What an opportunity for Calmar to have the media, Provincial and Local officials along with members of the Alberta School Boards. This is a huge step for the blending of High School education and Post-Secondary Trades education beyond the RAP (Registered Apprentice Program) and I am very proud that Calmar gets this unique opportunity.

**Aug 8<sup>th</sup>- Communities in Bloom Provincial Evaluation:** A special shout out to our CIB Volunteers and the tremendous amount of hard work that was put into the planning, planting, organizing and execution of our first (for this Board) Provincial Evaluation in the Friends of CIB Category. We could not have done this without the support and the dedicated work of this years Parks and Publics works staff.

The Morning started off with Coffee and Calmar Donuts with an official round table of introductions. We then spend the morning doing a walking tour from the Town office heading west on the South Side of the street show casing our Barrels and some of the history and improvements of Hayduk's yard. We crossed at 795, and spoke about some of the historical aspects of Mainstreet. The Zirka building, Seniors Center, Bottle Depot and so on as we headed East. The Evaluators seemed intrigued by some of the historical signs and the wall art outside of the Hayduks Retail store and Loganberry's. Our walking tour took us down 47<sup>th</sup> street where we saw the Tot Lot and few of our enthusiastic gardners of Calmar located in that area. We came in through the North side of the Spray park and showcased our mature trees and spoke on the known to us history of the Enberg Park, Mark Karbonik Arena and the Solar Project, and our new EV Station as we made our way south towards the Legion.

We took a quick step into the Medical Building and Councillor Krista told us the efforts Calmar went through to bring in Doctors to the town and the amazing work that Tran-Davies/Davies Family has done for Calmar.

Thank you to the Calmar Library for allowing us to Host our Lunch in their space.

After lunch, we started our driving tour and I am so grateful to Ryan Van Leuy who was able to spend the day with us. Ryan shared so much of the Public works knowledge and then drove myself and the Evaluators off Mainstreet to various locations including Peace Park, Beyond Peace Park, the West Entrance sign and overlooking into Conjuring Creek. We went to

the ball diamonds and saw some of the trees and the Naturalized area in Corgi Park, we spent time checking out various parks and flower beds, ending of course at Woodland Park. The history and the potential future opportunities of that beautiful space. We sweetened the afternoon with a bit of Maggie Moo's ice cream before heading back to the office for our Evaluators to take time to go over their markings.

Unfortunately, we were not told much about our scoring but will get our full evaluation back in November. We were told that we have a great diversity of flowers and plants, and our presentation went really well. They appreciated that we had council, staff and volunteers available for the day to answer most questions about past, present and the potential future of Calmar. I look forward to hearing and sharing more once we get our Report.

**Aug 9<sup>th</sup> Market On Main:** Happy to spend a Friday evening chatting with residents, off duty staff members and Market Vendors. With upcoming Calmar Days, I spent time spreading the word about the events planned for the weekend.

**Aug 13 or 14<sup>th</sup>- Rec Board Meeting** – I believe we had a rec board meeting to prepare for Calmar Days.

**Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Kickoff BBQ-** Weather forced us inside the Arena but it was still a much better turn out than expected with great conversations, new volunteers/sponsors, and a chance to show our appreciation and thanks to those who supported the event before all the craziness of Saturday.

**Aug 17<sup>th</sup> Calmar Days-** Spent the morning flipping pancake for residents and attendees of Calmar Days. I was super happy that we had a great turn out and even happier that we kept the line moving. After the pancake breakfast I headed to the Parade where we celebrated and handed out candy. From there I was able to see a few of the vendors before I took my kids home for naps. I loved the extended hours this year. For children who still nap it was really wonderful to pack up and make our way back to the events once they woke up. We enjoyed the bouncy castles, petting zoo, food from the food trucks and the Fitset Ninja experience.

**Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting-** Please see meeting minutes

**Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Calmar Dental Clinic Grand Opening and Façade improvement Cheque Presentation** – Thank you to Councillor Faulkner, CAO Losier, and E.D.O MacIntosh for joining me in celebrating the grand opening of the Dental Clinic. It was a wonderful experience with incredible food and company. As the first cheque that I got to present for our Façade improvement I was happy to be there to do it. A first step in working collaboratively with the businesses of our town to upgrade our Main Street.

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup> Façade Improvement Cheque Presentation to Country Cannabis-** Along with Councillor Gardner, happy to present another check for this grant.

**Aug 28<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole-** Please see meeting minutes

## September Council Report

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**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>- Regular Meeting of Council** – Unable to attend, but please see meeting minutes.

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>- Communities in Bloom Meeting** A chance to debrief our spring and summer, the evaluation, what went well, what needs more work next year and a plan to clean up before the snow falls.

**Sept 16<sup>th</sup>- Regular Meeting of Council-** Please see meeting minutes

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>- Alberta Municipalities Conference** – This years conference was held in Red Deer and I was happy to have CAO Losier with us as well this year. While the days start early and end late, the conversations and learning opportunities were really interesting this year and I felt like I walked away inspired. As an Elected Official of a small town I have found its hard to maintain boundaries with social media, on the streets conversations and maintaining balance between our support of administration and advocating for our residents and everything that falls in between and outside of those lines. The panels that I attended were truly informational and I believe as we prepare for the next election, that I have been given more tools and confidence in how to support anyone who approaches me if they want to run for this role. I appreciated the conversations surrounding Code of Conduct of not only ourselves, but of residents/clients as well.

When it came time to listen to the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and the rounds of Bear Pits, I will admit that this year left me feeling a little wanting. This was my first time hearing from Nenshi and I had hoped for something more fresh but it was not. That being said the Premier and Ministers seemed to have all taken a course in how to say “No.” in as many words as possible. I often enjoy the bear pits but this year I was disappointed in the long-winded answers by ministers with very little to say to questions/concerns that have been brought up by Municipalities for the last 4 events. To me this says that Municipalities really need to buckle down this year and expect less support but more expectation from our Provincial Partners.

This year during the resolutions I learned about some very interesting problems in Alberta that I never would have known. One example being the Goldfish issues of Sylvan Lake and many other communities. I love that more and more municipalities are taking the time and doing the work to submit resolutions to better their communities and those who align with them. However, I think we can all agree that we have far more issues that we need support in than what we can ever hope to solve and I hope going forward, while we can sympathise with ever single issue brought forward, that we remember AB Muni’s is only one organization and we need to better focus the message we want to send about their efforts.

Congratulations to Councillor Gardner for her win the Towns West Category and taking the initiative to put herself forward to be elected not only by our residents, but again, our peers of other E/O's to advocate and support Towns like ours. It was a pleasure to work alongside Mayor Carnahan, Councillor Faulkner, and CAO Losier in our campaign efforts to support you. If nothing else, it's a great team building exercise. Go Team Calmar.