

Carey Benson Councilor Report March 2024

March 4th Regular Meeting of Council

- Please review the agenda and minutes on The Town of Calmar website for more information.

March 9th Chamber 2024 Business Awards Gala

- I attend the Leduc Chamber Business Awards Gala along with the rest of the councilors/mayor of Calmar. It was a great chance to network and chat with many businesses and leaders in the region. Was great to see many businesses in Calmar nominated for awards and some of them won awards for how hard they've worked to get to where they are now.

March 13th AB Munis Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus

- Councilor Faulkner and I drove down to the AB Munis Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus event which was being held at the Westin Hotel in Edmonton.

March 14-15th AB Munis Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus

- We had a great start to the event; breakfast was provided, and we took this opportunity to chat with the other municipalities at our table. Great networking opportunities were had during breakfast. Afterwards MLA Rick McIver who is the Minister of Municipal affairs came and spoke about what the Alberta Government is doing for Municipalities. Minister McIver first talked about the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) which is replacing MSI. LGFF is a funding mechanism that provides local governments with capital infrastructure and operating funding. It will take effect April 1st and contain \$722 million dollars and it will be increasing by 14% in 2025. It's important to note that Alberta Municipalities requested the AB Gov't that the LGFF be at \$1.7 Billion dollars to reflect the actual needs of municipalities. There will also be a grant for Local Growth and sustainability.
- Wildfires were another topic for discussion. Experts say there will be droughts earlier this year due to the lack of snow and cooler temperatures this winter. The AB government has moved the wildfire services effort up a month and half earlier in anticipation for this. 51 water shortage notices are in effect in AB. It's important to know that EPCOR is Calmar's water provider and to another 90 municipalities.
- There were concerns from elected officials about the potential for creating political parties at the municipal level. The AB Government is looking at the idea of allowing parties to form at municipal levels.
- The Premier of Alberta Danielle Smith came at the end of the event to share her thoughts and perspectives on AB. It was great that she took the time to take questions and answered them.
- Overall, the event was great, and the networking was important for me to get to know more elected officials. A very well-planned event by AB Munis.

March 18th Regular Meeting of Council

- Please review the agenda and minutes on The Town of Calmar website for more information.
- During the meeting I had to leave the meeting due to a potential pecuniary interest from one of the delegations.

March 26th Library Board Meeting

- Please review the agenda and minutes on The Town of Calmar website for more information
- I presented a brief report on what the town of Calmar is up to and shared Mayor Carnahan's YRL report with the Board for information.

March 27th Committee of the Whole

- Please review the agenda and minutes on The Town of Calmar website for more information.