

September Council Report

Councillor Jaime McKeag Reber

Sept 3rd- Regular Meeting of Council – Unable to attend, but please see meeting minutes.

Sept 15th- 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 16th- Regular Meeting of Council- Please see meeting minutes

Sept 24th-27th- 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.