

Town Council, August 12, 2025

The council of the Town of Carberry met in their council chambers on Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Muirhead in the chair and all members present. Also present were ICAO McConnell and Youth Councilor Boganes.

Delegations:

The first item of business was a delegation from Norman Kerr, who lives on Main Street within sight of the Community Centre. He was concerned that it seemed that young people were being turned away from the pool for lack of the funds for a pass. He was assured that the pool's policy is never to refuse a child for lack of the cost of a pass. Other scenarios considered included refusing for lack of the necessary signed clearance from their parent, which the pool must have to meet the requirements for insurance.

A second concern of Mr. Kerr was that charging fees at the Transfer Station over and above what is covered in the Garbage Levy everyone pays will lead to people dropping their garbage into fields and ditches in the area. He has seen such things happen in other municipalities he has lived in. The best solution in his estimation is to burn the waste at a high temperature and recycle the heat and the gases. Evergreen's ill-fated gasifier was mentioned and its unanticipated failure mourned. Kerr was advised that no fee is charged for household garbage, recycling, composting or anything clean enough to be burnt, but that larger items and construction waste which must be loaded into the roll-off bins are charged a small cost recovery fee by weight. The province is very strict about this, and performs unscheduled checkups, assesses large fines, and can even order the facility closed, leaving us all to drive to Evergreen. Kerr was thanked and praised for his concern and suggestions.

The next delegation was from the Homecoming Committee, who are asking Council that Main Street be closed for their festival on August 23. They feel that Main Street is the best and most iconic location for a homecoming event and promotes the local businesses to the visitors. They had originally asked for a closure from First to Fourth but have scaled back to just from Second to Fourth. A letter from Dave Meyers of Meyers Meats, which is on the stretch of Main Street to be closed, speaks of the difficulties the closure gives his clientele, and advises that on each previous closure his sales have been well below their usual figures for a Saturday. In response, the committee pointed out that Third Avenue remains open, and that people can still park there to patronize his store. The council were pleased that the

first block of Main Street was no longer to be closed and asked several questions. In the event that there is a profit or surplus, where does it go? The committee assured Council that the operation is “grass-roots” non-profit; any surplus is ploughed back into the next event. The next point was insurance. The Town’s insurer covers the town’s liabilities but recommends strongly that the Homecoming Committee take out their own insurance; a large public event inevitably brings liabilities. The committee were asked whether the food trucks would be taking out permits for the day, and what provisions had been made for security. They were asked whether Callaghan’s license would properly be covering all liquor sales, and whether the portable toilets would expect to be serviced by Town Public Works.

Mayor Muirhead interjected that he had been personally seriously offended by posts on social media by Homecoming’s principal, Jolene Balciunas, to the point that he was unwilling to support any project of hers. He felt that it took a certain duplicity to ask and expect favours from a municipality and administration she had so thoroughly slandered.

After some discussion, a motion to close Main Street from Second Avenue to Fourth Avenue on August 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Midnight was proposed, with conditions that proof of insurance cover be provided, a business plan and financials be presented, and a plan to cover security concerns. It passed by a narrow majority.

The third delegation was to have been Staff Sergeant Wikander of the Blue Hills detachment of the RCMP, but he was apparently called away on policing matters.

Finance & Accounts:

Council accepted the ACAO’s report and the Financial Statement for July 2025. Accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$825,905.79 were approved for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 12/2025, which amends the Town of Carberry Traffic By-law, was tabled in order to ensure that the parking regulation for the first block of Third Avenue east of Main Street was still suitable given the changes that had taken place there since the by-law’s drafting.

By-law 13/2025, which exempts Tiny Taters Child Care Cooperative from all municipal taxes, was read for a third time, and passes unanimously into law.

At the instigation of a resident, Council discussed whether it was possible and desirable to create a Light Pollution by-law after the manner of the Noise Pollution by-law. They agreed that the problem is getting more

and more attention these days and tasked the ICAO with researching and drafting such a by-law for Council's discussion.

Unfinished Business:

Several resolutions have resulted from the recent meeting of the Joint Councils. Nishelle Clow was named Director of Recreation and Arts Services, contingent upon a favourable employee review. Shane McCulloch was hired as Interim Joint Utility Working Foreman, retroactive to March 31, 2025. Sandhills Electric Ltd. was hired as the joint facility contractor, and Council approved taking the first step of pre-applying for grant funding for all joint facility locations through the SmartSence program. Lastly, Council appointed Bart Witherspoon as Deputy Fire Chief of the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department.

The requirement that all councilors be advised of the conflict-of-interest legislation was acknowledged with a motion affirming that all have reviewed the material sent out by government.

Two policies were adopted: GG 09-2025, a Municipal SUV Usage Policy, and GG 10-2025, the Audited Financial Statements Policy.

A date (the evening of August 25) was chosen for Council's tour of the Museum.

General Business:

Council accepted with regret the resignation of Karra Burney from her position as Economic Development Officer.

In response to a request from CN Rail and Operation Lifesaver, Council resolved to support the declaration of Rail Safety Week on September 15 to 21, 2025.

Council purchased an ad in support of the Manitoba/NW Ontario Royal Canadian Legion's 17th annual digital Military Service Recognition Book.

Some detail changes were made to the 2025 Assessment Roll, resulting in a decrease of 2,474.47 in taxes.

Council appointed Jamie Gamble as cleaning and booking contractor for the healthcare residence at 337 Toronto Street.

Council approved a one-year trial operational agreement between the Town of Carberry, the Municipality of North Cypress-Langford, and the Carberry Plains Arts Council.

The Public Works laptop is nearing the end of its service life; all Windows 10 devices will be unsupported before the end of the year. The quote from MicroAge for a replacement was over \$1,300 delivered and set up.

OnPoint's quote for the three billboard signs remains in effect, even though only two permits have been granted. Because the project is relying on grant money, and the grant will not pay anything already purchased, the project is on hold until word comes. It is important to pick a new location for the eastern billboard and reapply for a permit for it.

Council studied a group of tenders for the renovation of the garage exterior at 615 Fourth Avenue and selected the one from Dickson Custom Contracting for just over \$18 thousand, requiring that the work be completed by December 1, 2025.

A similar set of tenders for the "Whie House" at 337 Toronto Street was tabled until more information was available as to the state of the building envelope behind the present siding, and a decision about whether to change out the windows at the same time to improve the integrity of the insulation.

CAO Parker of NCL has sent a spreadsheet outlining the discrepancy between what each municipality has paid to TAC Ventures for dumpster rental and service. By her reckoning, the Town owes NCL over \$70,000. The ICAO was tasked with finding out more about the ownership and use of the dumpsters in question and bringing the information to Council.

Interim CAO McConnell has been assigned to promptly research and develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure a project manager for the lagoon expansion project.

To provide by-law enforcement until the Town clears all the hurdles to hire a Community Safety Officer, an agreement has been made with Commissionaires Manitoba.

Council formally discontinued all financial support for the Evergreen Environmental Gasifier Project Partnership unless and until verifiable guarantees are provided that the gasifier will work as designed and meet its performance objectives.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganés reminded us that the Carberry Collegiate office will reopen on August 18, and that classes will start on September 3. With the retirement of Principal McCallum, the school will be led by Principal Ryan Robson.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer's report provides details and preparation for many of the items on the evening's agenda, and adds detail about the flooring in the office which is up for repair under insurance, and about the AC/heating unit on the roof and is unacceptably noisy. She also reports that she has been following up on the stumps and suckers from the trees removed along Wheatland Drive. The Cemetery Road has now been

patched with cold mix, which should improve the road at least for the short term. She has followed up with the owner of the burnt out site on Fourth Avenue and will be imposing a fine if the work of cleanup isn't done by August 15. Logos for the trucks are being slightly redesigned and will be sent off to print once approved. The paperwork to get a crosswalk across the Wellwood Road to the campground and zip-line will be started soon.

Public Works reports that the green team has done well with the grass cutting, trimming and watering. A main pump went out of service and left us with just one for a few weeks. The new pump will be installed soon. The lagoon is on track to be at low level by fall. Looking forward to winter problems, the site on the rec lands that has been used for a snow pile is affected by the new daycare building. In past years before the rec lands were available, snow was piled along the road to the Transfer Station and at the lagoon. This will have to happen again. Boulevard parking is affecting snow removal and forcing snow piles towards the next intersection where they affect visibility. Residents should be encouraged to park in the back or a driveway.

The Health Action Committee is working with Dr. Maharajh to interest investors in his proposed advanced technology prostate clinic to be sited in Carberry. They report that the renovations to the doctor's office in the clinic are complete.

The Child Care Committee is progressing with the plans for their new building. The subdivision and rezoning are in hand. To hook up to the sewer will require changes to the overall system which ought to allow for the further demands of the Rec Lands as well — the public bathrooms and other facilities. The holding tank on Dufferin Street will perhaps have to be upgraded to a lift station. Their sprinkler system will be fed from the fire control system which will have to be checked for capacity at the nearest hydrant. Their access road, Stickle Avenue, needed gravel which is already in place. Follow them on Facebook for more information about upcoming fundraising events.

The Drop-In required the installation of a new sandpoint. This should improve the flow to the dishwasher.

Communications:

Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations sent their report on the zoning amendment for the daycare, giving their approval. They also sent a report on the tax assessment rolls.

The RCMP sent their June report.

Prairie Mountain Health advised that as of January 1, when new regulations come into effect, they will no longer be in compliance with the building code, which requires all hospitals and care homes to have fire sprinkler systems. They add that installation is planned for 2027, and that the safety of patients is already in good hands with procedures and trained staff to protect them.

Manitoba Infrastructure and Highways proposes changes to the climate zones that govern the use of highways during the spring thaw.

STARS sent their mission record for 2024, which shows 1,233 missions flown, of which four were to Carberry.

The Neepawa Banner and Press sent notice of their intention to put out a special insert for Trucking Week.

The U of M Aggies advised of their intention to push beds through the town on September 26 at 5:00 p.m. in support of STARS and the Manitoba Farmer Wellness Program.

Around the Table:

Councilor Sudak reminded us that before the next meeting, school will be reopening, and that everyone should be on watch for students on the roads. He wished all students well.

Councilor Rea thanked whomever had done the mowing at First Avenue and the Wellwood Road and noted that the green space on Dufferin by the apartments needs to be mowed before Homecoming. She asked about the progress on creating a walking path to the campground and was assured that the necessary paperwork is being started. She asked why there was no longer any public washroom in town and was advised that the last one was plagued with vandalism, drug use, loitering, and cleanliness issues. There are nearby public buildings which already provide a possible alternative. Though the greater number of possible users are from out of town, no help with a replacement has been offered by the RM.

Councilor Kalinowich remarked that a homeowner has installed a fence with the framing on the outside. There is no provision in the planning district's regulations to ensure that a fence would be installed with the front face to the street. He also praised the look of the Daylily Garden.

Youth Councilor Boganes congratulated the contractor for the new sidewalks that have been installed recently. He regularly uses the one on Toronto Street by the Health Centre and Care Home.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel matters, and didn't get out to adjourn until 11:13 p.m.