

Town Council, May 12, 2026

The Council of the Town of Carberry met at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and all council members present. Also present were CAO McConnell and YC Boganes.

Delegations:

First to present to Council was Amy Denbow, of the Property Assessment Services of Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations. 2027 is a reassessment year, which happens every other year in Manitoba. Sales data and inspection reports contribute to an assessment that is intended to accurately represent the value of a property as on the market at a given date. For 2027, the date is April 1, 2025. To accommodate the necessary research, it is always two years behind. A reassessment does not relate directly to the actual amount of taxes to be paid, because mill rates are set based on the municipality's needs, divided into its total assessment base. The new assessment notices have just been put in the mail. Overall, the values of property rose 11% over the province, 10.4% in rural areas. The Town of Carberry specifically saw an average increase of 10.6%, 11.2% for residential properties. Ms. Denbow reported that in the Town, 397 properties were assessed higher, and 407 lower. MNR has set up [MyPropertyMB](#) to provide property owners with detailed information about their assessment. There will also be an 'open house' here in town on June 23 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. where members of the Assessment Services will be on hand to discuss and explain the procedure. If you have objections to your assessment, you can appeal any time before September 28, and the Board of Revision will sit on October 13, 2026.

Next delegation was from Amanda Dane and Joni Smyth of the Prairie Harvest Festival organizing committee. They had come to formally request the closing of Main Street from Third Avenue to Fourth Avenue; Fourth Avenue from Toronto Street to Simcoe Street; and the parking lot at the end of Main Street from 10:00 p.m. Friday August 21 to 11:59 p.m. on August 22, 2026, to prepare and hold their event. In response to Council's questions, they felt that they would have no need of security for their programs, but that the Legion, who will be offering a beer garden, will have to provide their own security. They are undertaking to insure their event, and make their financial statements publicly available. Council passed a resolution approving the requested closures, on condition that the committee

provide confirmation of liability insurance, a business plan and a financial plan.

The third delegation was from Harold Tolton and Jessie Van Den Bosch. Tolton's long-established spring retail sale of bedding plants had lost access to their usual location at First Avenue and Simcoe and had hoped to set up in the front yard of Van Den Bosch's home, which is sited in an RG (residential general) zone. Because this would be a business, with the added concerns of traffic and parking in such a zone, they were ordered to stop, and were concerned that this would impact their need to offer flowers and bedding plants for sale on May long weekend, the most important time for greenhouse operators. They had made verbal inquiries about the project and thought they were within the regulations. A similar problem had been met in Brandon, and Planning there had accepted that their sale greenhouse was in principle a tent, over whose placement Planning had no say except to ensure that they weren't impeding traffic. Council countered that they were indeed impeding the access of emergency services to their dwelling and stood firm on refusing to allow the sale "tent" to be set up in the RG zone. That said, they agreed that Tolton's flowers were a much-appreciated amenity for gardeners in the Town and wanted to do what could be done to site the temporary greenhouse in a permitted location, bearing in mind the need for water. It was decided after some discussion that a site on Town land between Fourth Avenue and the tracks, near the fire protection pump house (where the Parks & Recreation truck fills up) would fill the bill.

Finance & Accounts:

Council accepted the Finance Report and the Financial Statement for April 2026, and accounts, electronic payments, and direct withdrawals totaling \$599,232.59 were approved for payment.

By-laws:

By-law 02/2026, the Financial Plan, which establishes the rates of taxation for 2026, was given its second and third readings, passed unanimously, and became law.

Unfinished Business:

It proved necessary to rescind the resolution from the previous meeting to sponsor Derek Samagalski's induction into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame, because the induction had already been secured by Curl Carberry. Congratulations to Derek nonetheless.

On being asked, the owners of the old bank building at 33 Main Street admitted that there had been little work done over the winter. They have been devoting time to planning and seeking grants to assist with the work,

but with the weather improving, they expected to return to work at the site shortly.

From the Joint Committee meeting, several resolutions were passed:

Local Link Consulting Inc. was hired as project manager for the Campground Project.

The title of the post previously called Director of Leisure Services was changed to 'Manager of Arts and Recreation' effective April 27, 2026, and all relevant documents are to be updated to reflect this change.

The Pool Policy updated by the Manager of Arts and Recreation was approved as presented.

Brad and Bernice Snyder were hired as Seasonal Campground Attendants effective on a start date to be determined.

Council approved sponsoring the Canada Day Barbecue at the pool by purchasing supplies up to a total budget of \$600, the cost to be shared 50/50 with North Cypress-Langford.

Acting on the recommendation of Chief McCallum, Council approved that the wage rates of the Carberry North Cypress-Langford Fire Department be set in accordance with the rate structure of the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The rates will be paid retroactively to January 1, 2026, and attendance at Fire Department meetings will be compensated at the OFC hourly rate to a maximum of two hours.

An agenda item to discuss a review of the Donation/Grant Policy was tabled to a later meeting.

General Business:

Council approved the refund of Blue Cross premiums to staff as presented.

Council examined a proposal from a Gladstone firm to address the pigeon problem at the pool and at the old bank. They concluded that the value offered did not justify the costs, and that they would prefer to seek a local service.

GovFox wished to know the date(s) they could convene a community focus group. Of the dates suggested, only on June 6 was the Community Hall available, so that will be forwarded to GovFox. The community focus group specifically rules out the attendance of council members.

Council hired Christine Robinson as a Transfer Station employee effective May 20, 2026.

Council approved the hiring of two Parks & Recreation Green Team members, and a member for Town Public Works.

As the AMM convention approaches, there were several motions of support for the programs of other municipalities:

AMM was asked to lobby both provincial and federal governments to extend the Temporary Foreign Worker program to address a debilitating labour shortage that affects rural Manitoban businesses in general.

AMM was asked to lobby the provincial government to restore funding to the Assiniboine River Basin Initiative because the threat of drainage issues and flooding continues in the 162,000 square miles covered by the basins of the Assiniboine, Souris and Qu'Appelle rivers. The 1.5 million residents of the affected parts of Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Manitoba need the board's forecasting, care of drainage practises, and mitigation infrastructure.

AMM was asked to lobby the Manitoba Government and the College of Paramedics to expand the training and licensing of Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) and the introductory qualifications of EMRs and MFRs. The aim is to make possible an improvement of service delivery in rural areas to approach the level urban residents expect and receive.

AMM was asked to lobby the Manitoba government and Shared Health to review and amend the directive that EMS units undertake Priority 2 interfacility transfers without consideration of the need for a minimum local ambulance coverage. Chronic understaffing must be addressed to ensure that ambulance services are capable of meeting the predictable demands of rural health regions.

AMM was asked to lobby the Province of Manitoba to advocate with Health Canada to ease the restrictions on strychnine-based pest control products needed to address gopher infestations as is being done in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Council declined to sign on to this one; in a town's lands, there are few occasions to use such a product where it would not also be a hazard to pets and other desirable wildlife.

AMM was asked to lobby the provincial and federal governments to work with financial institutions and economic development agencies to incentivize financial institutions to increase rural lending and support startups and successions in small communities. Rural businesses meet greater resistance in their seeking financial backing from centralized, risk-averse conventional banks.

Reports:

Youth Councilor Boganes reported that the spring band concert will be held on May 27; the divisional track meet for grades 5&6 will be held on May 29, and they will attend a Goldeyes game on June 3. The grades 7&8 will have their divisional track meet on June 5, and the High School Provincial

track meet will be held on June 11. The famous Grade 8 Camp Trip goes on June 17, and Graduation Day is June 24, with the awards for the lower grades on June 25.

The ACAO reports that the documents for the speed reduction on Wellwood Road are submitted, and the documents for the daycare subdivision have progressed from the Heritage Assessment Branch to the Planning department, after which they go to Land Titles, the final step. As EDO she has been expediting meetings to establish a local Habitat for Humanity board. Neepawa's Habitat Committee is eager to get to work on a Carberry build. She is preparing a schedule for the medical students who will visit later this month. She credits Lorna Muirhead as a resource for filling this busy week. Since the Chamber of Commerce has withdrawn from hosting the Town-Wide Yard Sale, and the community has grown to love it, she will put together a poster to announce that it will again be held on June 20, along with the Firemen's Breakfast. As SEO she mentions that candidate registration for the position of Mayor is now open; councilors may register after June 30. She is also accepting changes to the voters' list at acao@townofcarberry.ca

Public Works has been getting ready for summer and clearing culverts to keep the runoff moving. The back lanes have been graded and will get better gravel this year; a packer should then be rented for them. TCI out of Brandon will be sweeping the streets with water. They have been researching the purchase or lease of a replacement for the sidewalk/walking path blower.

The Fire Department spent April in intensive training exercises. Their trainees will receive their practical tests in June. They look forward to their "Firemen's Texas Breakfast" on June 20.

The Buildings Committee have been working mostly on the Community Hall.

The Waste Management Committee has found a new worker for the Transfer Station. They are pricing out a new set of dumpster bins.

Evergreen Environmental has given the go-ahead to purchase a shredder and packer like they saw working in Regina. They are looking to see if there are grants available for work of this type.

Work continues on the Museum's pole shed to house the potato industry display. They hope to be able to hold an official opening in conjunction with this year's Prairie Harvest Festival on August 22.

The Splash Park Committee has decided to cancel the Hoedown for this year but hopes to try again next year. They are awaiting the report from the feasibility study to see if their project can ever fly.

The White House had only two bookings this past month, and they both canceled. It will be important to find more users if the purchase is to be justified.

Communications:

The Fire Inspector and the Building Inspector visited the building at 44 Ottawa Street at the instigation of the by-law officer, and both reported that the building is structurally unsound and infested by rodents. They did not feel it was restorable, and recommended condemning it and demolishing it.

The Public Utilities Board sent notice of a rate decrease by Centra Gas.

The Public Utilities Board also sent notice of a rate increase for propane gas from Stittco Utilities MB.

S.T.A.R.S. sent an invitation to the *Night with STARS* gala at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada in Winnipeg on May 28, 2026.

The Western Manitoba Regional Library sent the minutes of their April 15th meeting.

The RCMP sent their first quarter of 2026 report.

Around the Table;

Councilor Dobbin-Waters reported that with the improved weather, there are a lot of kids traveling up the Wellwood Road to the zip-line, using the ditch as a path. Can something be done to improve their trip?

Councilor Van Damme announced that Paige's coffee truck is almost ready to start service.

Councilor Kalinowich reminded us that with a fire ban in place, there can be no campfires. He deplored the behavior of a group of quads and cycles who race off after filling up at East End with no regard for safety or sound by-laws.

Mayor Muirhead noted that with the better weather there are lots of kids out and about. Please be careful. There are some regular offenders who take advantage of the situation and speed noisily away from the pumps at East End. It would be a blessing to find a way to get them charged, but the Mounties need complaints that will hold up in court. He suggested that it might come to the use of temporary speed bumps like at Clear Lake. He noted that with the warmer weather he has been around town more and has noticed that there are several lots which have become junk yards. They are unsightly and a disincentive to move in nearby. Since there are by-laws

about such problems, it is probably time to unleash the by-law officers on such people.

CAO McConnell reminded all that the town-wide cleanup will be taking place on May 19-22.

The reporter mentioned that it is now time for the bi-monthly newsletter to go out, so events from now to mid-July should be sent in to be included.