

Carberry Town Council, October 13, 2026

The Council of the Town of Carberry met for the last time before the municipal elections on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 in their council chambers with Mayor Muirhead in the chair, and all councilors present as well as the CAO. This was also the first meeting for newly appointed Youth Councilor Gaige Kennedy. Present as observers were councilor candidates Leah Bryant and Krista Plaisier.

The mayor opened the meeting and welcomed YC Kennedy to his first meeting. The agenda and minutes were approved, and the meeting was at once closed to hold a Public Hearing.

Planning Matters:

The hearing was to discuss Variation Order V14-26-C, for Mark Bryant, who asks that the minimum front and side setbacks required in the MG (Industrial General) zone along Fourth Avenue be reduced in order to place a sea-can storage container for rental purposes. Development Officer Penner reported that he had received no public input in response to the notice of hearing, none had contacted the Town Office, and the citizen present had no objections. Penner himself had no problems with the variation requested. He did note that the placement of a sea-can does require a building permit, as does anything that changes the value of a property. The hearing then closed and the meeting reconvened. The Council then approved Variation Order V14-26-C to place a sea-can storage container for rental purposes on Fourth Avenue.

Delegation:

Corporal Grant Campbell appeared before Council to present the August and September Mayor's Report of crime statistics. He reported that the detachment has a working strength of eight members, which is better than usual. He himself is on restricted duties while he waits for knee surgery but is still available for his office duties. He pointed out that a recent announcement has advised that new stringent rules will affect users of e-scooters and hoverboards, giving age restrictions, requiring helmets, banning them from public sidewalks, and punishing their use when impaired with the same severity as for automobiles. He noted though that he has yet to receive the formal information about enforcement. It is not clear whether the new offences will fall under the Highway Traffic Act or have some other basis. He anticipates that until the full formal instructions appear and members have been properly trained, it may be January before any charges are laid. The real responsibility still remains with parents to ensure that children are not putting themselves at risk of serious injury or liability.

A letter received at the Town Office suggests that for safety reasons the speed limits in town be reduced to 30Kph. Cpl. Campbell discussed the difference between municipal and provincial speed regulations, and what was enforceable. Noise and speed violations have become commonplace and concerning; he thought it would be possible to have a series of "blitzes" to enforce speed, off-road vehicle use, and noise violations, using whatever members can be collected and adding some help from the RCMP Traffic Services.

Finance and Accounts:

Council approved the Financial Report presented by their Financial Clerk and received the Financial Statement for September 2026. Accounts, Electronic Payments and direct withdrawals totaling \$451,236.51 were approved for payment.

A breakdown of the costs incurred in the renovation of the Healthcare Residence showed that the job was not only done in a timely manner but under budget. Our new physician, Dr. Hanan and her family have already moved in.

Unfinished Business:

All granting agencies that could be asked for help with the funding of the lagoon expansion project have announced that they are at full capacity and will not take any more applications. The Town is left with an order to make very costly improvements to their treatment facilities and no offer of any funding to cover them. A delegation will go and see Minister Simard to request either funding and/or an extension. The administration is preparing a presentation offering to change management practises by limiting the availability of the system to Town citizens only and preventing the presently large commercial input from trucks servicing the RM. In addition, the ponds have been in place since 1958, with a retrofitting in 1992, and have not been dredged. Having them dredged should significantly increase their capacity. The cost to each taxpayer for the mandated improvements would be intolerable; with the change of management practises and some dredging, can the job be delayed until funding is available?

The Town's IT provider, MicroAge, is raising the monthly fee for their service by \$350/mo., but the administration is satisfied with the quality and extent of the work provided and anticipated and recommends that council wait to approve their contract until after the November meeting where MicroAge will be invited as a delegation. Cyber security of the quality MicroAge offers is a necessity for governments and businesses world wide.

From the Joint meeting came a pair of resolutions: Council approved the Christmas Kickoff Committee's request for a letter of support, the approval of their wagon ride map (with conditions the horses' safety be first priority), and their general event map. At a meeting with the Committee's spokesman, Tyson Boychuk, the wagon ride's route was examined and toured to consider possible height changes that would affect the wagon; the ploughing of some parts, and the radius of the corners involved. It was suggested to him that there be a tent set up at the diamonds as shelter if needed. The second resolution was to approve Joint Policy JS-02-2026 which covers the CPCC's booth wages and responsibilities.

General Business:

Council approved the Manager of Arts and Recreation's attendance at the Rural Rec Summit in Winkler on September 23-24. The costs of her registration, accommodations, mileage and meals are to be shared 50/50 with North Cypress-Langford.

Council approved the separation of employment of the Director of Joint Services, effective October 7, 2026.

Council approved the estimate of McCarty Construction for building a new storage closet in the boardroom of 122 Main Street, and that of Yellowhead Windows for improved windows for 122 Main Street.

The fall AMM Convention will be held in Brandon. Registration for it closes on November 6, and will involve whomever is elected to Council in the intervening election.

Reports:

The CAO's report gave background information and clarification to several of the day's agenda items and added that she is asking for a meeting with Minister Naylor at the fall AMM convention, to discuss the paving of Main Street, the 1 & 5 overpass construction, and the crooked paint lines on Main Street. She has heard from Millenium EMS, saying that they will be doing water sampling at their new wells on Fourth Avenue on October 20-22. Local residents should not be affected. Lastly, she gives a report on the recent Convention of the MMA, at which she learned of some sophisticated AI threats, some personal mindset and awareness "hacks," and the Ombudsman's forum on building trust through careful attention to fairness.

The ACAO is in a holding pattern on several initiatives: speed limit changing, seal-coating the road to the cemetery, and lighting for the walking path along Stickle West. As EDO, she has completed a draft of the phone directory and has started work on Christmas lighting and the parade float.

As SEO, she congratulates Mayor Muirhead on his acclamation and wishes the six contenders in the election for council all the best.

Public Works has been trimming trees, including work with a rented man basket. They report troubles with the lagoon pump losing its prime, and warn that it may need replacement. Flower baskets have been taken down and cleaned. Critical culverts will be flushed with a jet truck. The one by Spud City has been repaired. Christmas lights will soon go up. The intersection at Dufferin and Stickle West is in need of some added gravel.

Youth Councilor Kennedy reported that at the Collegiate, on the 14th there will be a 'Safe at Work' presentation; Girls' volleyball on the 17th; the Student Perspective Group meets on the 21st; and there will be a dance on the 29th. Spirit Week will run from the 26th to the 30th.

The Buildings Committee will have to wait for the full renovation of the library's entrance steps/ramp but will get the top step repaired before the snow falls. The stucco work is finally being wrapped up.

Evergreen Environmental is too important to leave without a council member at their meetings, so Councilor Kalinowich, who is not seeking re-election, was careful to pass on his mandate.

Service for Seniors is considering contracting a delivered meal service for seniors.

The Health Action Committee will be holding their major fundraiser, the Rummage Sale, on October 19-21.

Whitemud Watershed has not held board meetings for a while. Some councilors suggested that it might be just as effective to get a seat at the Assiniboine Delta Management Advisory Board [ADAMAB].

Tiny Taters Daycare Committee has asked Public Works not to dump snow on the daycare site this winter, so as to allow an early start to construction in spring. Their AGM is October 26th.

Communications:

The Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation sent their extensive 2025 annual report, which is available to be examined in the Town Office.

The Manitoba Office of the Registrar General sent the latest list of prices for their services. Most have been increased.

A Province of Manitoba news release describes the concerns of the Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health over the impending lapse of the \$1.2 Bn federal health support in March of '27. If not renewed, the result could be a serious blow to health care throughout the country. The ministers

will meet in Winnipeg in October for their annual meeting, and hope to have federal representatives at the table.

The Department of National Defence offers the services of members of the Forces to speak to the public and at schools during Veterans' Week, which centres around Remembrance Day, November 11. Youth Councilor Kennedy was given the details to take back to the administration at CC.

A letter from Lin Mann requests that a general reduction of the in-town speed limit to 30 or 35 Kph would help to keep walkers and children safer from speeding cars. Council added suggestions of the use of speed bumps and warning signs. The growing use of e-scooters by young people not wearing helmets or any other PPE is concerning. A program to hand out reflective or illuminated armbands was considered.

Deputy Minister Bouvier of Municipal and Northern Relations sent a letter advising that municipalities who wish to participate in the Next Generation 9-1-1 must sign Bell Canada's NG 9-1-1 Authority Service Agreement. Town administration has asked for a meeting to help understand the ramifications of such a change.

CPKC sent word that the 2026 Holiday Train will stop in Carberry on Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. They will follow up with community plans for the occasion to make it safe and fun. The event is to generate donations to the local food cupboard. All donations collected stay within the town.

Around the Table:

Councilor Dobbin-Waters has received complaints from a community member about the number of cats that wander Main Street unconstrained. She asks what can be done; can we re-fill the post of Animal Control Officer? She also suggested that Carberry schools or the BPSD be encouraged to do what DFSM does in Shilo, and run a spring bike safety day. The suggestion was passed to YC Kennedy. Lastly, she offered her thanks for the support she has received in her term as councilor so far, hopes to continue in the post, and wishes all the best to the candidates in the upcoming election.

Councilor Rea agreed that cats have become a problem and hoped that Carberry Small Animal Vet Clinic would come as a delegation and talk about what can be done, including spay/neuter, rescue, and impound. As great a problem are the pigeons, particularly at the rink and at 31 Main Street. Have the Commissionaires put in an appearance? She was assured that they have. What progress has there been on the Stickle walking path? Zenith have it on their list to complete before winter.

Councilor Van Damme reported that the edges of the stairs down to the bowling alley are difficult to see and to navigate for the elderly. She asked that a yellow stripe be painted on the stair noses all the way down, not just the top step. A call will be made to the Joint Foreman.

Councilor (and Deputy Mayor) Kalinowich agreed that cats at loose were indeed a problem; they can so easily be kept at home. He offered his thanks for five years of enjoyable duties and hoped he had contributed to the council's work. It was agreed that his expertise had been an asset to the Town, and he was heartily thanked and wished well in retirement. He pointed out that he is always "just a phone call away."

Mayor Muirhead had been traveling the walkways and side streets in the evening and noted that there are some dark spots. If anyone finds a streetlight out, there is a number to call at Hydro to report it. Part of the problem is that in the change to LED lighting, the new lamps have a narrower beam than the old, so gaps sometimes appear between two lamps. There are also places where mature trees shield a length of path between two streetlights, and this should not be taken as cause to remove the trees; their canopy is important to the health of the environment and indeed the people living nearby. Looking ahead to the new council he will be leading, he would like to put a push on to get the daycare built. Delays in government approval can't be allowed to block such an important development. He has noticed that there is a citizen who has posted unwarranted attacks on our CAO, both on social media and in person. The complaints are groundless, and besides, Town policy forbids that kind of harassment of any of its staff. His advice to anyone who feels that the Town is so horrible that they have to take it out on the staff is: "If it's so horrible, move." Speaking of the upcoming election, he again thanked Bill Kalinowich for his valuable contributions; thanked all who have taken part in council affairs through the term; and thanked Bryant and Plaisier, the two candidates present to observe, for their willingness to step up and offer their services to the Town. He pointed out that this term has accomplished some very important things: With two physicians and two nurse practitioners our clinic is in much better shape; the hospital and care home have received welcome renovations and repairs; the overpass at the highway junction is committed and under way; we have a new campground and will soon have a new daycare.

Reporter McNeily thanked council for their continued support of his work on both the reports and the Newsletter and said it had been rewarding to sit in his place so close to the activity. He wished all the best to the electoral

candidates and our acclaimed mayor. He hoped to continue to report and give Council the transparency they are proud of.

CAO McConnell particularly thanked Kalinowich for his input and took comfort that indeed he will still be “only a phone call away.” She wished the candidates well in the impending election.

With that, Council went *in camera* to discuss personnel and preliminary matters.