

Municipality of Jasper
Budget Presentation Meeting Minutes

Tuesday & Wednesday, November 25 & 26, 2025 | 9:30am

Jasper Library & Cultural Centre and conducted virtually through Zoom

Virtual viewing and participation	Council attendance is in Council chambers at the Jasper Library & Cultural Centre. This meeting was also conducted virtually and available for public livestreaming through Zoom. Public viewing during Council meetings is through both Zoom livestreaming and in-person attendance. Public participation is through in-person attendance.		
Present	Mayor Richard Ireland, Deputy Mayor Ralph Melnyk, Councillors Wendy Hall, Kable Kongsrud, Kathleen Waxer, Laurie Rodger, and Danny Frechette		
Absent	none		
Also present	Bill Given, Chief Administrative Officer Natasha Malenchak, Director of Finance & Administration Michael Fark, Director of Recovery Beth Sanders, Director of Urban Design & Standards Christine Nadon, Director of Protective & Legislative Services Christopher Read, Director of Community Development Courtney Donaldson, Director of Operations & Utilities Emily Dawson, Finance Manager Emma Acorn, Legislative Services Coordinator Bob Covey, The Jasper Local 15 observers		
Call to Order	Mayor Ireland called the meeting to order at 9:03am.		
Additions or deletions to agenda	none		
Approval of agenda #501/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall – BE IT RESOLVED that Council approve the agenda for the Budget Presentations meeting of November 25, 2025 as presented.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Deputy Mayor Ralph Melnyk joined the meeting at 9:05am.		
Process Overview	CAO Bill Given presented an overview of the agenda and discussed the factors impacting the 2026 municipal budget.		
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion	Committee received the 2026-2028 budget presentation from Administration and was given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions. The budget package can be found in the November 25, 2025 agenda package on the municipal website.		
Recess	Mayor Ireland called for a recess from 10:08am to 10:17am.		

Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed with Director of Finance & Administration Natasha Malenchak reviewing the Finance & Administration section of the budget. Mr. Given also reviewed the expenses related to the CAO Office.		
#502/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee accept the Finance & Administration Operating Budget as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
#503/25	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee accept the Finance & Administration Capital Budget as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 11:15am to 11:21am.		
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Director of Recovery Michael Fark reviewed the Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre section of the budget.		
#504/25	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee accept the Recovery Operating Budget as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Director of Urban Design & Standards Beth Sanders reviewed the next section of the budget.		
#505/25	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee accept the Urban Design & Standards Operating Budget as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
#506/25	MOTION by Councillor Frechette that Committee accept the Urban Design & Standards Capital Budget as presented.		
	FOR 7 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Councillor Rodger left the meeting at 12:12pm.		
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 12:13pm to 1:31pm.		

Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Director of Protective & Legislative Services Christine Nadon reviewed the next section of the budget.		
Meeting Extension #507/25	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk at 1:51pm that the November 25, 2025 Budget Presentation meeting be extended beyond four hours.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued #508/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee direct Administration to amend the 2026 Protective & Legislative Services Operating Budget by increasing the revenue amount for visitor paid parking to 1.8 million dollars.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
#509/25	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee accept the Protective & Legislative Services Operating Budget as amended.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Mayor Ireland relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Melnyk in order to make the following motion.		
#510/25	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee direct Administration to amend the Protective & Legislative Services Capital Budget by deleting the allocation to the Firesmart residential incentive program.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Deputy Mayor Melnyk returned the Chair to Mayor Ireland.		
#511/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee accept the Protective & Legislative Services Capital Budget as amended.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 3:09pm to 3:20pm.		
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Director of Community Development Christopher Read reviewed the next section of the budget.		

#512/25	MOTION by Councillor Frechette that Committee accept the Community Development Operating Budget as presented.			
	FOR	AGAINST		
	6 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED
#513/25	MOTION by Councillor Frechette that Committee accept the Community Development Capital Budget as presented.			
	FOR	AGAINST		
	6 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 4:34pm on November 25, 2025 to 9:00am on November 26, 2025.			
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Director of Operations & Utilities Courtney Donaldson proceeded with the Operations Budget. CAO Bill Given also reviewed information related to the transit system.			
	Councillor Rodger rejoined the meeting at 9:38am.			
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee accept the Operations Operating Budget as presented, with an additional \$10,000 for Cenotaph maintenance.			
#514/25	FOR	AGAINST		
	7 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED
#515/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee accept the Operations Capital Budget as presented.			
	FOR	AGAINST		
	7 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 10:42am to 10:51am.			
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Ms. Donaldson proceeded with the Utilities Budget.			
#516/25	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee accept the Utilities Operating Budget as presented.			
	FOR	AGAINST		
	7 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED
#517/25	MOTION by Councillor Frechette that Committee accept the Utilities Capital Budget as presented.			
	FOR	AGAINST		
	7 Councillors	0 Councillors		CARRIED

Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 11:41pm to 11:45pm.		
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Ms. Malenchak and Mr. Given reviewed the Reserves & Debt section of the budget.		
Recess	Mayor Ireland called a recess from 12:33pm to 1:32pm.		
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	The presentation resumed and Ms. Malenchak and Mr. Given continued reviewing the Reserves & Debt section of the budget.		
#518/25	MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee accept the 2026 use of Reserves as presented.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
#519/25	MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee receive the revised 2026 debt projections for information.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued	Administration reviewed information on Community Group Requests which were presented at the November 18, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.		
#520/25	MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee amend the budget to increase funding for the Jasper Municipal Library by \$5,329 to a total of \$218,485 in funding for 2026.		
	FOR 6 Councillors	AGAINST 0 Councillors	CARRIED
	Mayor Ireland relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Melnyk in order to make the following motion.		
#521/25	MOTION by Mayor Ireland that Committee amend the budget to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40,000 in funding for the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum & Archives for 2026; • \$10,000 plus rent relief in funding for the Habitat for the Arts for 2026; • the \$4,200 funding request to allow the lease to remain at \$950.00 (plus GST) to June 30, 2026 for the Jasper Artists Guild for 2026; • \$10,000 in funding for the Evergreens Foundation (Seniors Bus) for 2026; • \$10,000 in funding for Community Futures West Yellowhead for 2026; • \$20,000 in funding for the Jasper Heritage Folk & Blues Society for 2026; and • \$10,000 in funding for the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce for 2026. 		
	FOR	AGAINST	

6 Councillors 0 Councillors CARRIED

Mayor Ireland declared a conflict of interest and asked to excuse himself at 2:20pm for the next item on the agenda in relation to Section 10.2 of the Code of Conduct Bylaw. Mayor Ireland is a close family relation of one of the organizers of the festival.

#522/25 MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee amend the budget to include \$25,000 in funding for the UpLift! Mural Festival for 2026.

FOR	AGAINST	
4 Councillors	1 Councillor (Kongsrud)	CARRIED

Mayor Ireland returned to the meeting at 2:27pm. Deputy Mayor Melnyk returned the Chair to Mayor Ireland.

#523/25 MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee direct Administration to amend the draft budget to add "Cenotaph Replacement Project" as an unfunded item in the amount of \$240,000 in the 2027 year.

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

Recess Mayor Ireland called a recess from 2:35pm to 2:54pm.

Budget 2026-2028 Discussion continued #524/25 MOTION by Councillor Hall that Committee direct Administration to identify and implement \$236,000 in reductions; roughly two percent of the proposed operating budget, in whatever way they determine feasible without reducing Community Group funding and bring a revised budget back to our next Committee of the Whole meeting.

FOR	AGAINST	
3 Councillors	3 Councillors	DEFEATED
(Hall, Ireland, Kongsrud) (Frechette, Melnyk, Waxer)		

#525/25 MOTION by Councillor Melnyk that Committee direct Administration to make available to the general public the updated draft 2026 budget document by December 5, 2025; and

That the 2026 -2028 Proposed Draft Budget be added to the December 16, 2025 Regular Council meeting agenda.

FOR	AGAINST	
6 Councillors	0 Councillors	CARRIED

#526/25 MOTION by Councillor Waxer that Committee direct Administration to add 2026 Budget discussions to the December 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

FOR	AGAINST
-----	---------

5 Councillors

1 Councillor
(Melnyk)

CARRIED

Adjournment
#527/25

MOTION by Councillor Waxer that, there being no further business, the November 25, 2025 Budget Presentation meeting be adjourned at 3:48pm on November 26, 2025.

FOR

6 Councillors

AGAINST

0 Councillors

CARRIED