Council Highlights

November 25, 2026

The following is a summary of key discussions and decisions from the November 23, 2026, Regular Council Meeting. These highlights provide an overview of the items most relevant to residents and are not intended to replace the official meeting minutes:

Council Continues Work on 2027 Budget

Council continued its review of the proposed 2027 Budget following two days of detailed deliberations on November 16 and 17. The discussion focused a specific question that arose from those initial meetings, with Council providing direction on what should be returned for a final review. The revised draft will return December 7 with final consideration scheduled on December 14.

Based on initial discussions, the 2027 budget requires approximately a 5.5% revenue increase from property taxes to fund core services and budget projects, while Council is considering an additional 3% revenue from property taxes to be directed toward capital reserves to help fund future infrastructure needs, including the Sportsplex Roof and fire truck replacement.

Residents can view the 2027 Draft Budget at olds.ca/budget. To review the supporting documents and watch Council's budget discussions through the Town's website.

Council's Action: Continued budget deliberations and provided direction to Administration on preparing the revised 2027 Budget.

Centennial Park Improvement Plan Approved

Council approved a 10-year plan to guide future improvements to Centennial Park while preserving its green space and existing amenities. The plan identifies four areas for improvement: a performance stage, better seating and gathering spaces, updated washrooms and buildings, and green space preservation. Community feedback helped shape the plan, with residents emphasizing the need for washrooms, more places to gather and recreation opportunities for children. The Town aims to fund at least 75% of capital costs through grants, partnerships and community contributions. Each project will require separate Council approval before proceeding.

Council's Action: Approved the Centennial Park Improvement Plan as a long-term planning framework, with individual projects subject to future Council approval.

Community Services Reports on Third Quarter Activities

Council received the Community Services report for July through September 2026, highlighting recreation, community programs and Town services. The Back 2 School Backpack Program supported 200 students through contributions from 11 organizations and 46 residents. Bookings at the Community Connection Centre increased from 81 to 135 compared with the same period in 2025. The report also highlighted a $25,000 federal grant for tree planting and the completion of the Sportsplex electrical upgrade project.

Council's Action: Accepted the Community Services Third Quarter Report for information.

Town Adjusts Naturalization Program

The Town made changes to its naturalization program in 2026, reducing no-mow areas in several locations and resuming regular mowing in others. The changes included Imperial, South Beech, 56 Street, North Beech, Duncan and Sherwood Crescent. Report a Problem related to naturalization dropped from 67 in 2025 to 14 in 2026. The Town is also reviewing mowing practices and exploring future landscaping opportunities.

Council's Action: Received the Community Services Third Quarter Report, including an update on the naturalization program.

Council Considers Open-Source Software Review

Council considered a motion from Councillor Chad Taylor to examine whether the Town could benefit from using Linux-based operating systems and open-source office software. The proposed review would assess potential costs and savings, cybersecurity, compatibility with existing municipal software and technical support needs. Open-source software allows users to access and modify its underlying code. The review would help determine whether these systems offer practical alternatives to the Town's current technology. It would not authorize the Town to replace its existing systems.

Council's Action: Directed Administration to prepare a feasibility report on open-source software options for future Council consideration.

These highlights touch briefly upon the key information presented and decisions made at the meeting. More from this meeting can be found on the Town's Website.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2026, at 1:00 PM.
Visit www.olds.ca/councilmeetings for all meeting agendas and minutes.