

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Strathmore Town Council Prioritizes Sustainable Growth, Approves Steps to Safeguard Water Supply for Future Generations**

**STRATHMORE, ALBERTA | June 9, 2023** – During the June 7, 2023 regular Meeting of Council, Strathmore Town Council unanimously moved to begin the acquisition process of a new water license, a move that reflects their proactive stance on environmental stewardship and the responsible management of vital resources. The water license is valued at \$650,00 and will be funded through the *Capital Reserve – Water*. This investment further highlights Strathmore’s commitment to ensuring a reliable and abundant water supply for residents, both present and future.

“While Strathmore currently holds licenses adequate to support the current population and accommodate some projected growth, the opportunity to enhance capacity for future expansion is not always guaranteed.” said Mayor Pat Fule, adding “It’s easy to take for granted, but water is our most valuable natural resource. This move ensures that future generations will continue to thrive in a well-prepared and water-secure community.”

Recognizing the finite nature of water resources and the escalating concern of water scarcity in Southern Alberta, where new water licenses are no longer being issued, Strathmore seeks to expand its available water supply by acquiring licenses from current holders.

“Approving the process of investing in water licenses represents a significant opportunity to proactively enhance the Town’s capacity and prepare for future growth.” said Ethan Wilson, Manager of Infrastructure with the Town of Strathmore, adding “The Town aims to bolster its resilience against potential water scarcity challenges. By securing a more robust water supply, Strathmore aims to continue providing an environment conducive to thriving businesses, vibrant residential communities, and flourishing agricultural practices.”

Strathmore, like over 10 other municipalities, relies on the Bow River for its water supply. In Alberta, water is owned by the provincial government, and a water license is required for any entity seeking to use or divert water. Since August 2006, new water license applications have been closed for the Oldman, Bow, and South Saskatchewan sub-basins due to concerns of over-allocation and insufficient in-stream flows.

With Council approval, the Town of Strathmore will now commence the water license acquisition process. In the coming months, Administration will collaborate with stakeholders before seeking final approvals from the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas. The acquisition of water licenses plays a pivotal role in the Town’s overarching Water Supply Strategy, currently in development.

### **About Strathmore, Alberta**

*The Town of Strathmore is a growing community in Southern Alberta. Ongoing investments in solar energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and real estate are attracted to the region’s skilled workforce, competitive taxes, and high quality of life.*

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