



4812 – 51 Street | Box 540 * Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

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www.onoway.ca

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Council Achievements and Our Commitment to You

Onoway, AB, (June 10, 2024) –Dear Residents of Onoway,

I am addressing you today with additional information I feel is pertinent to our residents after having received notice of a recall petition against myself, Deputy Mayor Lisa Johnson, and Councillor Robin Murray. My commitment to transparency and honesty compels me to provide you with information that I believe is vital to understanding not only the recall petition but also to foster unity within our community for its betterment. And to support my fellow councillors for whom I have great respect.

It is important our residents understand the good work that we've done during our term for our fine town. Change is difficult and sometimes misunderstood as the positive results intended from change take time to be realized. That said, change is necessary for any municipality to improve and flourish and we are committed to completing the hard work necessary for our town to succeed.

Positive Achievements

We as your Council has achieved numerous successes during our term aimed at improving Onoway:

- **Organizational Improvements:** Conducted a full organizational review and staffed the organization with qualified candidates.
- **Financial Reforms:** Implemented a financial review leading to an improved and more efficient budget, established a financial reserve policy for long-term sustainability, and approved a tax rate bylaw focusing on internal training to reduce future consultancy costs.
- **Governance and Administration:** Consulted municipal governance experts before making changes, shifted Council's approach from administrative to strategic governance, and improved the Council agenda process and reports for better communication and decision-making.
- **Interim and New CAO:** Secured services from Bloom CME at a discounted rate, providing interim CAO services with multiple experts, and hired a new CAO, Jennifer Thompson, whose efforts have significantly improved our administrative team, processes, and financial controls.
- **Economic Development:** Directed the creation of an economic development committee to foster industry and business growth.
- **Community Projects:** Successfully organized the Town's 100-year celebration, created and implemented a strategic plan with an administrative action plan already showing results, and completed a restructure that reduced staffing costs while improving service.



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- **Infrastructure and Utilities:** Collaborated with Town Engineers to fix flooding culverts and authorized the negotiation of a municipal access agreement for high-speed internet.
- **Staff Development:** Provided staff resources and training to enhance capabilities, creating a higher level of expertise within our office.
- **Internal Controls:** Added internal controls to reduce financial fraud opportunities and requested a Code of Conduct for Administrative staff to improve organizational culture and public service quality.
- **Positive Culture:** Promoted a positive atmosphere within the office, allowing administration to make staff decisions without political interference.
- **Strategic planning:** Completed a strategic plan and subsequent action plan that is already bearing fruit.

Commitment to Transparency and Unity

As your Mayor, I remain dedicated to clear communication and combating misinformation. We also believe in good governance and understand the need for recall legislation. That said, it is my stance the legislation is being misused in this circumstance to push personal agendas. The undue stress caused by the misuse of recall legislation will not deter us from our commitment to Onoway. We will continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of our town, supported by a dedicated administrative team and experts.

We ask for your support and understanding as we navigate these challenges together, ensuring a bright future for Onoway.

Sincerely, Mayor Len Kwasny (contact – lkwasny@onoway.ca)