



Mayor's Weekly Update

The Week of November 9 to November 14

Monday morning I started my day with a Gazette interview with Brittany related to capital projects and the Badger Lands, then I unfortunately forgot my surface pro at home and had to Zoom into the morning meetings from home. Community Living Standing Committee meeting and our Special Council Meeting took the majority of the morning followed by the Community Growth and Infrastructure meeting in the afternoon. I finished off the day with an EMRB Audit and Finance Committee Mtg Pre-Brief then the evening in the World Café Discussions.

Tuesday morning started with a prep meeting for the Smart City Sandbox event that I will be participating in on November 17th. After that I had a one on one with Kevin and then into the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Meeting. In the afternoon I prepped for the EMRB Strat Planning sessions, then into agenda planning. I virtually attended in the Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus. During that meeting we went around the room and talked about proposed tax increases. We seem to be in line with others:

Lloydminster – 3%

Fort Sask – 0.5%

Stony Plain 1.71% - most of this is debenture payments for the new RCMP building and COLA for staff

Camrose – 0% this year and 1.5% next year

Lacombe they are finished and landed at 0.8%

Beaumont 1.5%

Spruce Grove 1%

GP – 1.5% (they have options to go to zero much like we do) Bill pointed out that over all for the term they will be at 0% because that had a 4% decrease a few years ago due to restructuring their debt.


Lethbridge – they have asked their administration to bring forward a 5% and a 10% decrease. Wow. Chris still doesn't know what that will look like so hard to say what will happen. They did a full operational review and are now seeing the fruits of that. They also do a 2 year budget. Chris also mentioned they are questioning whether they can continue to afford to have their own police department.

Cochrane 1.27%

Okotoks – 1%

Airdrie - 1-1.5% as well as other fee increases

Calgary wasn't there but the regional mayors from the south mentioned that they are looking at a 4% decrease which is putting the pressure on the suburbs

I spent Remembrance Day preparing for my State of the City address at home and took a moment of silence in the morning to remember our brave veterans. Not attending a physical event makes me realize how much I value gathering with others for this important day. I hope for the best that we can attend a physical event next year. 

Thursday morning was spent in day 1 of the EMRB Strategic Planning Summit. In the afternoon I met with Cory to put the finishing touches on my State of the City speech then into the AUMA Waste-to-Energy Webinar. The rest of the day was spent in my very last Homelessness Task Force meeting.

Friday morning was day 2 EMRB Strategic Planning Summit. Really good speakers today. Some amazing youth talking about what they look for in a place to live and work. I listened in on the Budget 2021 Town Hall with Minister Toews. The afternoon I attended the ribbon cutting for the first show homes in Midtown and then met all of you for the Annual Council Meeting with the Policing Committee.

Today is of course the Civic Agencies 2021 Intake. I hear we have some breakfast items and lunch provided... I think it will be hard to forgo the meal... I know Brittany intends to treat us. Thank-you all for putting a full day on a Saturday

The Week of November 15 to November 21

Monday was fairly standard, starting with my Council Prep meeting, followed by my one on one with Kevin. In the afternoon I participated in the Metis Week proclamation; thank you to Ray, Jacquie and Ken for being there, and to Wes for sending regrets. After that we were right into our Council meeting.

Tuesday was the Smart City Sandbox virtual webinar. It feels like it has been a long time since St. Albert was highlighted for our Smart City work. After that I had an interview with Brittany related to budget, followed by a one on one with Kevin. In the afternoon I caught up on emails and worked on my Climate Leadership course, and in the evening I watched the Flourish Presentation.

Wednesday was the State of the City and despite the fact that it couldn't be what I had envisioned at the beginning of 2020, I think we did the best we could do considering the circumstances. The feedback I have received has been overwhelmingly positive and I am happy that I can now check that one off of my to do list. Thanks to those on council who hosted a breakout room. After the presentation I had a celebratory lunch, then came back to the office to catch up on emails. Late afternoon I participated in the Provincial Town hall. Pretty standard responses from Kenney and Hinshaw. Allard did confirm we will see a reduction in MSI next year but did not indicate how much

Most of the day Thursday was spent in Edmonton at the AUMA Executive Committee Meeting, followed by a virtual Recovery Task Force pre brief meeting. The evening was spent with you folks meeting with the Chamber and Civic Committees. Cindy did a great job.

Friday morning started with me chairing the AUMA Municipal Governance Committee until I had to duck out half way through to meet with Dale Nally and Dean Kurpjuweit, related homelessness. We talked about getting St. Albert some of the 7 cities money for homelessness. Immediately after that Dean left and Kevin and Trevor joined Dale and I to chat about our value proposition, our investment readiness and trying to get Kenney here for a tour. Dale did not know that we had a lower business tax rate than Edmonton and was super excited to hear this. In the afternoon I made my way over to the St. Gabriel Education Centre Grand Reopening to bring greetings and then participated in a virtual Progressive Ladies happy hour, hosted by Charlene Smylie, in the evening.

Saturday I will try and check out the indoor Christmas Market at the Enjoy Centre, and aside from some light budget reading I will spend the rest of my weekend hanging with the fam. ❤️

The Week of November 22 to November 28

Monday morning started with Gazette interview, related to the Cultivate Conversation platform, followed by a one on one with Kevin, and then the Recovery Task Force meeting for most of the afternoon. I finished off my day in a meeting with the Friends of the Northern Alberta International Children's Festival. They were seeking input on their next strategic direction. I told them that the Festival was very important to myself and our community and we want to see them successful. This may be something we spend some time and energy on next year

Tuesday morning started with a phone meeting with Kevin, followed by an Alberta Recycling Board Meeting for the better part of the day. In the afternoon I participated in our budget meeting, and then into the Emergency Management Advisory Committee while the Premier made his announcements. In the evening I virtually participated in the Saint City Rotary Club 25th Anniversary.

Wednesday morning I virtually met with Diane Enger, to chat about IR 19-2020: Skating on the River. They are going to present us with some options. All of which I suspect will have budget implications, but it may be something we can consider to answer the residents call for more out door spontaneous activities. I then watched the ICD series featuring the Premier as the guest speaker. After that I participated in my Climate Leadership course. Final live chat. Woohoo! In the afternoon was agenda planning, immediately followed by a meeting with Mayor Iveson and Mayor Frank to discuss the regional collaborative. I finished my day with a Rec Agreement pre brief meeting.

All day Thursday was spent in Edmonton at the AUMA Board of Directors' Meeting. Due to the new covid restrictions, my meeting with Councillor Hamilton was

once again postponed, so I read through the Operational review and worked on our Christmas Poem instead.

My Friday morning was spent conducting the OIC interviews. I think we have found an excellent candidate. Kris Wells was invaluable during the interviews. Thanks to Ken for taking my place at the EMRB Special Board Meeting Workshop!

Saturday will be spent in the office on Council prep and Sunday evening I will virtually watch the St. Albert and Sturgeon County Hospice Associations Light Up Celebration.

The Week of November 29 to December 5

Monday started with one on one with Kevin, followed by a Council prep meeting, then our in-camera meeting, and the AHS and Council meetings in the afternoon.

Tuesday morning I had a pre brief meeting in preparation for my meeting with Minister Allard, followed by agenda planning, then an Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting. After that, I had a one on one with Kevin, then into our Committee of the Whole meeting. Budget is over. It seems a bit anti-climactic but I think we did well. Raced home and attended the Virtual Cultivating Care event for CSD.

Most of the day on Wednesday was spent at the AUMA Human Resources Committee Meeting, part of the evening was spent filming the Christmas Tree lighting with the Chamber, and Santa. I was relieved when Santa showed up with a face shield! The video should be ready for distribution next week

Majority of Thursday was spent in Edmonton at the AUMA Executive Committee Meeting. The evening I ran an AUMA Municipal Budget Interaction Session.

Friday morning I had a zoom meeting with Kris Wells. It went well. He understands why his appointment is only 1 year. I sorted through the storage stuff earlier in the week, which allowed me to work from home. I caught up on office work and reading for most of the day and finished off my week with a prep meeting with Keith McLaughlin and Greg Moffat related to our meeting with Minister Allard.

The weekend was spent enjoying my family and turning our home into a Christmas



wonderland. . A reminder to have your portion of the Christmas video sent to Brittany on or before December 7.

The Week of December 6 to December 12

The last 9 months have proven to be more challenging than any of us could have anticipated. We have had to lead through unprecedented uncertainty and fear, and I am proud of the way my Council Colleagues have navigated through this unique time in history. It looks like we have a little ways to go before the vaccine will be widely distributed and we can finally put this behind us, but I wanted to take a moment to

sincerely thank you all for the hard work you have put into leading this Community. While this virus has tested all of our limits, I feel that we have shown strength and flexibility in the face of adversity, and for that, we should all be proud. ❤️

Monday morning started with a quick update meeting with Catriona, related to the Rapid Housing Initiative. You all received a memo earlier today on this discussion. After that I participated in the Edmonton Chambers' Conversation with Premier Kenney, and the afternoon was spent in our Council meeting.

Tuesday morning I had the Recovery Task Force pre brief meeting, followed by a Gazette interview with Brittany related to MES enforcement. After that was a virtual grade 6 Municipal Government chat and then I did some office work and prepped for my AUMA Resiliency and Recovery meeting. In the afternoon I had a meeting with Kevin, Sharon and Darija, related to the planning of our 2021 Council Retreat. It will be our last. As of right now I have no idea if it will be in person or not. I do know virtual strategic planning sessions just don't work. My day finished off with a one on one with Kevin and agenda planning.

Wednesday morning was spent at the AUMA Economic Resiliency and Recovery Task Force Meeting, and in the afternoon I did some office work and then participated in an Municipal Measurement Index walkthrough for AUMA conducted by municipal affairs. As expected it is horrible and compares apples to kumquats. Right now this info is embargoed so I can't go into details, but this index will be released publicly soon and will cause us all a bunch of headaches, work and red tape to try and explain it to our residents. Immediately after that I was in a phone meeting with Kevin, Trevor and Minister Allard. I think she was really impressed with what we have done and what we are looking at doing in the near future. She was very excited about the Regional Economic Development Collaborative (coalition of the willing) and our search for non-traditional revenue. After that I was supposed to participate in another meeting with the Minister related to recycling reform and EPR, but due to an unfortunate scheduling error, I missed that meeting. 😞 I was able to catch the tail end of the Mid-Sized Cities Mayors' Caucus.

All morning Thursday was spent in an EMRB meeting. We did publicly approve the chair's compensation at \$36,000/ year plus expenses. The afternoon was spent in a SISB Task Force Meeting. It is almost hard to explain how bizarre this meeting was. I have never seen such chairing. You really would need to watch the YouTube video to understand. We have agreed to a process to assess whether projects are regionally significant or not, but there is much confusion about whether municipalities should be allowed to opt out or not. More meetings in January on this. In the evening I participated in the St. Albert Victim Services Zoom Christmas Party. Fun group of people

Friday morning Kevin and I had a zoom meeting with Mayor Iveson and Adam Laughlin. This afternoon I have a Zoom meeting with Brian Nilsson, one of the new owners of the Enjoy Centre. It's just a meeting and will be asking about future plans.

Aside from watching Children's Theater 12 Days of Christmas, I have nothing else planned for my weekend. Just like the rest of the world