



## City to divest of the Civic Building after receiving Facility Utilization Review recommendations

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta)** - Following the [presentation of a Facility Utilization Review report](#) to Wetaskiwin City Council at their regular November 22, 2021 meeting, Council voted to divest of the Civic Building—with the caveat that the sale be contingent on any future owner allowing the Wetaskiwin Archives to remain within the building as leased space.

Retaining the near-empty Civic Building costs the City approximately \$266,000 per year due to building maintenance, utilities, and insurance. Divesting of the property will allow the City to recoup some of the costs incurred over the years while also providing any future owner with the ability to bring new services or office space to the City's downtown core—including retaining the Wetaskiwin Archives as a tenant at this location.

"Council believes that we must continue to find efficiencies for our community," stated Mayor Tyler Gandam. "Being able to sell and potentially repurpose the Civic Building will not only save the City money but also offer the space to another business as a location for growth or development."

The Civic Building—located at 4904 51 Street in Wetaskiwin—has been owned by the City since its construction in 1964 to function as the City's municipal office. When the City relocated its municipal office to its current location of 4705 50 Avenue in 2007 following renovations to the old courthouse building, a few of the City's departments remained working out of the Civic Building location. Since that time, these remaining departments have been re-located to other City-owned buildings—except for the Wetaskiwin Archives.

"The Civic Building has become redundant since most City departments have vacated the premises," stated Alan Harris, General Manager of Corporate Services. "The sale of the building will increase efficiencies while also providing space for potential expansion opportunities for agencies or businesses."

[The Facility Utilization Review](#) also recommended that the City divest of the Memorial Arts Centre, however, City Council directed Administration to conduct a community-wide survey on the importance of the Memorial Arts Centre to evaluate community needs risks before any decision to divest the property was made. Information about the survey—including how to participate—will be published [on the City's website](#) once the details are finalized.

### About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.





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