Citizens' Council Meeting – June 17, 2026

Unofficial Transcript

[Chair]
I've got 1 16 p.m. We will call the June 17th council meeting to order. A very short agenda today, but we will start with an opening prayer from Secretary Lisa Wolfe as is our custom.

[Secretary Lisa Wolfe]
Good morning, good afternoon everyone. Welcome and thank you for all those that came and for those that had safe travels. Thank you for being here today.

Heavenly Father, we'd like to thank you for your grace and mercy upon us in this council today. We thank you for the rain upon our districts that is so needed. Please bless our Métis people in Alberta as we celebrate our heritage and our culture for National Indigenous Peoples Month.

Help to bring understanding to our provincial government and to our citizens within the province of Alberta that they may also have understanding of our Indigenous heritage. Bless our families at home and reside with all people including those from the LGBTQ and 2IA spirit. Help them to find their place in our community and within their homesteads.

God of love and peace, we ask for your presence in our council chamber today. Bring your wisdom and patience and understanding so that we may remember to show love and compassion towards each other which is your commandment in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Thank you.

[Chair]
Thank you Madam Secretary. So your agenda for today is a single agenda item which is to deal with an in-camera personnel matter. Can I get a motion to adopt the agenda?

Secretary Leddy, seconded by Secretary Wolfe. Comments, questions to the agenda? Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Karen Collins]
Well it's not with respect to the agenda, I'll speak right after you do that vote.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins, go ahead.

[Secretary Collins]
Like I said, it's not in respect to this motion on the agenda, it's something else so I can speak after you pass that motion.

[Chair]
Very good, will do. Is there any opposition to the adoption of the agenda as presented? Seeing none, the agenda carries.

The agenda is so adopted. Secretary Collins, go ahead.

[Secretary Collins]
Thank you Mr. Chair. And so I'm very glad that we're all together face to face that we can address the issue before us. I understand with elected officials and the legal counsel that we had present during that meeting.

So that's my request to the President that it be continuing the discussion with our elected officials as I believe this is something that is a government issue. Thank you. And if need be I will put that to a motion.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier, do you want to speak to that now? Otherwise Representative Campbell.

[President Andrea Sandmaier]
So this is a Citizens Council meeting and our discussion that we had on virtually a week and a half ago was a confidential update. So we are in an official Citizens Council meeting. I'm not sure who it is that you want to dismiss from this meeting, but as far as James Henry, he is our in-house legal counsel for the OMG.

And as far as the Chair and Clerk, we do need someone to chair this meeting. It cannot be me and Tyler is away on holidays and we do need them in order to have a proper Citizens Council meeting.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins.

[Secretary Collins]
We didn't have a chair on our initial meeting either. It was pretty much the lawyer talking to us.

And so precedent has been set, Madam Chair, that we have had a discussion with elected officials. I really firmly believe that we need to have a discussion as elected officials. Once we've had that discussion, then bring in whoever it is that you need to bring in.

I'm aware that James is in-house legal.

[Chair]
So Secretary Wolfe on a point of order, Secretary Collins. Secretary Wolfe.

[Secretary Sarah Wolfe]

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Thank you. That is confidential information that you are speaking to at this moment. And we are in a Citizens Council meeting that is being currently live streamed and recorded as we have not gone in camera yet.

So I just wanted to make that point because that was confidential information that was spoken about. Thank you.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier is the leader of the discussion. Do you agree that was confidential information?

[President Sandmaier]
Yeah, there has been legal confidential information already disclosed. So I understand. I think that we need to do a motion to go into camera as soon as possible because this is a highly confidential matter that we're discussing.

And I'll say again, the virtual call that we had a week and a half ago was not a council meeting. We weren't setting precedent. It was a confidential update.

We didn't take minutes. We didn't call to order. It was an emergency update that needed to happen in order to inform council what has happened.

[Chair]
Secretary Collins, I tend to agree without having context from the discussion that you all had. It sounds like the President agrees that it was confidential information. So the point of order is clear and accepted.

Be cautious. Don't release anything. If it's confidential, it doesn't get said here in open session.

So I'll leave you to finish the rest of your commentary with that.

[Secretary Collins]
Okay. Because the understanding that I saw and I saw on the on the notice that the live stream was for tomorrow.

[Chair]
So all public portions of every citizens council meeting are live streamed, including the public portion of this meeting.

[Secretary Collins]
Okay. So I didn't know that that notice went out very, very shortly to our citizens for them to be that this piece was live streamed because I saw it advertised for the 18th. Thank you for that.

[Chair]

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Thank you, Secretary Collins. Secretary Leddy.

[Secretary Aura Leddy]
I would like to move to go in camera.

[Chair]
Okay. There's a motion to go in camera. Is there a seconder to the motion to go in camera?

Secretary Chodzicki. Representative Dunfield, is it a question or order on the motion? Very good.

Okay. So there's a motion on the floor. Before we go in camera, I want to speak to two housekeeping items.

Today you have this room until tomorrow. So there's some leeway in what we can do time-wise for you folks today. Tomorrow, the absolute drop dead date we are out of this room is 7 p.m. There is no negotiating with the hotel on that. Secretary Lisa Wolfe, do you have?

[Representative Shannon Dunfield]
Mr. Chair, can you put your mic a little bit closer to yourself? I can't hear anything. The room next door is a little bit loud.

And I'm sorry, I'd hate to ask you to repeat it, but I'm going to ask you to repeat it because I couldn't hear it.

[Chair]
Sure. How's that? Is that better?

Okay. So again, as I was saying, the room today, we have some leeway because we have this room tomorrow as well. So we can give you grace in timing of your agenda items today.

Tomorrow, we are all out of this room at 7 p.m. That is just the reality that we're facing. So those are the housekeeping items I wanted to go through. There's an active motion on the floor to go in camera.

Representative Dunfield

[Representative Dunfield]
Just a quick question, Mr. Chair. Can you clarify for tomorrow evening? I think there was a few of us that did respond.

There's an event happening with RLI. What time is that event? I know that, I mean, just for more housekeeping pieces.

[Chair]
President Sandmaier, please.

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[President Sandmaier]
It's at 6.30 at the art gallery downtown Edmonton.

[Chair]
Okay. It sounds like we're on the same page for tomorrow. So that's good news.

Is there any opposition to going in camera to deal with your personnel item? So you know opposition. We will go into closed session.

We're going to take two minutes. So audio, visual text can confirm that the recordings have stopped.

[Chair]
We turn the recording back on and live-streaming all those good things.

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden[
Sir, would you like me to read the draft?

[Chair]
Not yet, Jason.

We're just waiting for confirmation that the live-stream is back up. Very good. Thumbs are up.

It's all yours, Jason.

[Legal Counsel Jason Madden]
So the resolution would be motion to suspend Citizens' Council proceedings on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 for the purpose of obtaining privileged and confidential legal advice from legal counsel upon conclusion of which council proceedings shall be recalled and resumed.

[Chair]
Okay. Is the motion clear? Is there someone who wants to take carriage of that motion?

Secretary Collins so moves. Is there a seconder? Representative Ward seconds.

Is there a discussion, debate? Is there any opposition? I see none.

Oh, sorry. Let me rephrase that. Is there any opposition?

There is opposition to the motion. It's not by consensus. Madam President, is it your wish that I take this to a vote?

[President Sandmaier]
We need to move forward, so yes, please take it to a vote.

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[Chair]
Very good. Council, all in favour of the motion to suspend Council proceedings as per the motion? All those opposed?

The motion carries by majority, and Council stands suspended until you folks recall the Chair and the Clerk. The floor is all yours, Madam President, and we will take our leave.

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