

Council Highlights



An initiative Designed to Keep **YOU** Better Informed of Council Decisions and Initiatives

February 25, 2013

County Open Houses Venues – The County of Grande Prairie will be holding its 3rd Annual Open Houses on June 25-27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Council approved motion to hold the open houses at Teepee Creek Hall, the County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex, and Valhalla Viking Centre.

New staff introduction – County Council and staff welcomed Laurie Barry. Laurie will be working as the Parks Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation department.

Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan – Council gave the bylaw 2945 also known as the Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan third and final reading.

The ASP area encompasses approximately 567 hectares (1,426 acres) and is located north of Clairmont Lake within the Hamlet of Clairmont. The Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan will provide a unique opportunity to plan and develop a sustainable community that incorporates mixed land uses and natural amenities. Clairmont Heights is envisioned as a mixed use, sustainable and livable lakeshore community of approximately 15,000 residents, where they are able to live, work, play and shop for their day to day needs. The long term (20-30 year) vision for the Clairmont Heights ASP area builds on the goals and objectives for a comprehensively planned, sustainable community.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2680-12-004 to redesignate 11.12 acres of land located one mile northeast of Grande Prairie, adjacent to Hwy 670 from Agricultural District (AG) to Rural Light Industrial District (RM-1) to allow for the subdivision of one lot for industrial use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2974. Bylaw 2974 is a road use agreement that would protect the integrity of municipal roads for things such as well servicing and completions, and water, soil and logs hauls. Council gave the bylaw second reading.

Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2680-13-008 to redesignate 15.94 acres of land located within Clairmont adjacent to Rge Rd. 63 from Agricultural District (AG) to Country Residential (CR-5) to allow for the subdivision of one lot for residential lot. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Red Meat Industry Update – Walter Paszkowski, County Economic Development Officer provided Council with an update on the red meat processing industry. Council discussed their concerns regarding the local red meat vendors' decreased access to the global market and the increased transportation costs to export red meat. Council made a motion to submit a request to the Code of Practice for the Beef Industry to have an elected official from the County to represent the County and advocate for an increase of red meat exporting opportunities.

Harold Bulford

Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countypg.ab.ca

Sharon Nelson

Division 2
C 780-814-9731
E snelson@
countypg.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre

Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countypg.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland

Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countypg.ab.ca

Pat Jacobs

Division 5
C 780-296-4200
E pjacobs@
countypg.ab.ca

Lois Dueck

Division 6
C 780-296-4300
E ldueck@
countypg.ab.ca

Brock Smith

Division 7
C 780-296-1973
E bsmith@
countypg.ab.ca

Richard Harpe

Division 8
C 780-831-5156
E rharpe@
countypg.ab.ca

Mary Ann Eckstrom

Division 9
C 780-296-4100
E meckstrom@
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Regional Enforcement Services Year-End Report – Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, Stuart Rempel; Sergeant Dave Campbell; Corporal Myles Peckham; and RCMP Staff Sergeant Kelly Kokesch presented Council the 2012 year-end reports for the County’s Regional Enforcement Services, RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit, and RCMP Grande Prairie/Beaverlodge Rural Detachments.

Regional Enforcement Services Report – A total of 2,484 violation tickets were issued in 2012 of which 88 per cent were traffic safety related. Approximately 1778 complaints were received and investigated.

Recruiting and training for new positions was a reported theme in 2012. Animal Control Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Peace Officer, Enhanced Police Unit Officer, and Administrative Assistant positions within the County Regional Enforcement Services were successfully filled.

Traffic safety and road/infrastructure protection, parking, unsightly premises, snow removal, animal control, community safety, special events coordination, and crime prevention will remain as Regional Enforcement Services main priorities.

RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit – A total of 456 traffic and safety violation tickets were issued in 2012.

The unit will focus more on a number of infractions such as speeding, seatbelts, school zones, distracted driving, and intersection related infractions.

Grande Prairie Rural/Beaverlodge RCMP Detachments – Grande Prairie Rural members responded to 5,419 service calls. A total of 1,128 criminal charges were issued.

Beaverlodge members responded to 3,445 service calls. A total of 1,856 criminal charges were issued.

All three sectors of Regional Enforcement Services remained active in delivering several crime prevention initiatives such as special events coordinating, various patrols, Checkstops, Rural Crime Watch, and Report-A Drug House; and traffic safety programs and presentations to various groups and communities throughout the County such as DARE, Drama Trauma, Bike Rodeo, Detachment Tours, Internet Safety, Bullying, and Cyberbullying.

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Grande Prairie Stompede 2013 – Andrea Ferris, on behalf of Grande Prairie Stompede requested that County sponsor the 36th Annual Grande Prairie Stompede in the amount of \$12,000. The Stompede will be held at Evergreen Park from May 29 to June 2 and is expected to attract over 30,000 spectators. Council requested that Grande Prairie Stompede provide their budget for review.

Harold Bulford

Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countypg.ab.ca

Sharon Nelson

Division 2
C 780-814-9731
E snelson@
countypg.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre

Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countypg.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland

Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countypg.ab.ca

Pat Jacobs

Division 5
C 780-296-4200
E pjacobs@
countypg.ab.ca

Lois Dueck

Division 6
C 780-296-4300
E ldueck@
countypg.ab.ca

Brock Smith

Division 7
C 780-296-1973
E bsmith@
countypg.ab.ca

Richard Harpe

Division 8
C 780-831-5156
E rharpe@
countypg.ab.ca

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Division 9
C 780-296-4100
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Final 2013 Budget Review – Council approved the motion to hold the Final 2013 Budget Review Council Meeting on Thursday, April 18th at 10 a.m.

Odyssey House Affordable Housing Project – Odyssey House requested funding from the County to help build a second stage shelter. Council made a motion to request a meeting with Alberta Deputy Minister of the Housing Division of Municipal Affairs, Mike Leathwood during the AAMD&C Spring 2013 Convention to clarify the funding process and increase in affordable housing for Grande Prairie area.

Alberta Transportation Local Road Bridge Program – Herb Pfau, Director of Public Works put forth the several recommendations in regards to the Local Bridge Program made by the Local Road Bridge Committee in partnership with Alberta Transportation, the Alberta Municipal Administrators' Association, and the Alberta Municipal Supervisors' Association. One of the recommendations made was that Alberta Transportation provide more funding for local bridge projects. Council made a motion to support the Local Road Bridge Committee recommendations.

Local Road Tender Award – Council awarded 2013 Local Road Improvements projects tender to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers in the amount of \$4,231,014.

Equipment purchases– Council awarded the tender for the purchase of two new special services utility vehicles to Edmonton Motors in the amount of \$89,010; and awarded the tender for the purchase of two new articulated group 4 motor graders to Brandt-John Deere in the amount of \$575,400.

Peace River Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists – Council approved a motion to donate \$500 to the Peace River Chapter of the Federation of Canadian Artists for the “Peace without Borders” event that will be taking place at the Beaverlodge Cultural Centre from April 28 to May 23, 2013.

The Federation of Canadian Artists is a non-profit organization that shares and promotes the passion and pleasure of the visual arts through exhibition, education and communication. The Federation also provides many services that elevate artists and their art for all to appreciate.

Philip J Currie Museum Update – Brian Brake, Philip J Currie Museum Executive Director provided Council with an update on their fundraising efforts and tender process. Furthermore, Council approved motion to hold the Annual Dinosaur Ball on June 15, 2013 and Geo Cache Family Day on September 7, 2013.

Next Council meeting is on March 4, 2013.

Harold Bulford

Division 1
☎ 780-876-9009
✉ hbulford@countygp.ab.ca

Sharon Nelson

Division 2
☎ 780-814-9731
✉ snelson@countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre

Division 3
☎ 780-814-3121
✉ lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

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Division 4
☎ 780-512-5385
✉ rsutherland@countygp.ab.ca

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Division 5
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