

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

November 23, 2015

100 Years of Farming Presentation – Council and the Agriculture department presented a gate sign and plaque to William and Rose Badger in recognition of 100 years of farming in the County. William’s father travelled the Edson Trail in 1913 from Ontario and settled on the family homestead located just northwest of Sexsmith. Council annually recognizes those families who have farmed the same lands in the County for a minimum of 100 years.

Land Use Bylaw – Council gave first reading to a number of amendments to the County’s Land Use Bylaw. The Land Use Bylaw regulates the use and development of land and buildings within the County. It sets out the various zoning districts, what is acceptable land use in each district, and how decisions on development permit applications are made. The County is doing a comprehensive review of the Land Use Bylaw to ensure it remains current and meets the County’s long-term strategic direction. Some of the changes being considered for the Land Use Bylaw include secondary suites, a revised definition for the home based business, accessory building size on rural estate lots, wind energy, medical marijuana facilities, bee keeping, breweries and microbreweries.

A survey was available earlier this summer, and the public was given the opportunity to voice their opinion. . All feedback will be incorporated into a report to be presented to County Council at a Public Hearing early next year.

Power Approved at Bear Hill Rec Area – Council approved funding approximately \$18,000 towards the cost to provide power at the Bear Hill recreation area.

Bezanson Cell Phone Tower – A request for an additional cell phone tower to improve service in the Hamlet of Bezanson and the Smokey River Valley was made as a result of public consultations for the Bezanson Area Structure Plan. Council made a motion to discuss other infrastructure options with the MD of Greenview. In addition, Council directed Administration to investigate other options such as cell boosters to provide the area with cell coverage.

Hwy 43 West Industrial Park Local Improvements – Landowners along 100 Street within Highway 43 West Industrial Park submitted a Proposal for Local Improvements for street frontage upgrades including pavement and connecting to Municipal Water and Sanitary Services. Council passed a motion to approach all landowners in Highway 43 West Industrial Park and see if they are interested in Water, Sewer and Asphalt and bring the information back to Council and notify landowners of the information.

Pursuit of Excellence Funding Request – The Pursuit of Excellence Committee presented Council with a request for \$10,000 over the next three years for the Pursuit of Excellence Fund. The fund is designed to provide assistance to athletes, coaches, officials and sport organizations to achieve excellence in their chosen sport. Council deferred the request to the November 30, 2015 Council meeting and request the chair of the Pursuit of Excellence Committee to present additional information.

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Grande Prairie & Catholic School District Theatre Project Funding Request – Karl German, Superintendent of Schools from the Grande Prairie & District Catholic School District presented a major capital grant request of \$1 million to help in the construction of a new performing arts multipurpose theatre. The centre would be located in the new K-8 school in Whispering Ridge, would seat 350 people and would have multiple uses including other academic programs, dances and banquets. Council deferred the request to the 2016 budget deliberations.

Webster Road (Range Road 53) Paving Request – Council heard a request seeking support to pave the Webster Road (Range Road 53). Public Works presented traffic counts and options for Council to consider.

Oil and Gas Surface Lease Agreement Fees – Council passed a motion for the schedule of fees for Oil and Gas Surface Leases be adjusted to reflect a fee of \$400 per acre for loss of use and a minimum fee of \$2,500 per site for adverse effect.

International Volunteer Day Proclamation – Council proclaimed December 4, 2015 as International Volunteer Day. International Volunteer Day offers an opportunity for volunteer organizations and individual volunteers to make visible their contributions at the local, national, and international levels.

D.A.R.E Program – Council passed a motion to investigate hiring a retired RCMP or Bylaw officer to teach the D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program in order to free up current Enhanced RCMP Officers to investigate crime in the area. The D.A.R.E Program is

taught in 16 grade 5 and 6 classes throughout schools in the County annually.

Tenders Awarded – Council awarded the contract to rehabilitate the Weyerhaeuser Bridge to Northstar Energy Services Inc. for their bid amount of \$1,959,093.81 as well for bridge maintenance for their bid amount of \$354,284.60. The contract for various work including crushing and stockpiling within County pits was awarded to Westridge Rock Ventures Ltd. for the bid amount of \$970,750.00.

Employee Introductions – Council welcomed Jennifer Besinger, Technical Services Manager and Mikayla Rempel, Records Clerk.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-15-066 to redesignate 5.81 acres of land located approximately 6 miles northwest of the Town of Sexsmith, adjacent Township Road (Twp. Rd.) 65, from Country Residential (CR-5) District to Urban Reserve Residential (UR-R) to allow for the opportunity to apply for a development permit for a kennel. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-15-067 to redesignate 4.23 acres of land located near Dimsdale, adjacent to Rge. Rd. 72A, from Agricultural (AG) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of two lots for residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-15-068 to redesignate 10 acres of land located 1 ½ mile east of the Hamlet of Teepee Creek, adjacent to Twp. Rd. 740, from Agricultural (AG) District to Country

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Residential (CR-2) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-15-069 to redesignate 9.16 acres of land located 4 miles northwest of the Town of Beaverlodge, adjacent to Twp. Rd. 725 and Highway 43, from Agricultural (AG) District to Limited Institutional Recreation (L-IR) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for recreational use. This parcel is the proposed new location for the Albright Community Hall. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council approved the request to withdraw the application to redesignate part of SW-29-74-05-W6M, located 4 miles northeast of the Town of Sexsmith and adjacent to Range Road 55, from Agricultural (AG) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for country residential use.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-15-070 to redesignate 22.46 acres of land located in the Hamlet of Clairmont, adjacent to Twp. Rd. 730 and Rge. Rd. 63, from Agricultural (AG) District to Country Industrial (CM) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for industrial use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Next Council meeting will take place on November 30, 2015.

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