

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

November 9, 2015

2015 Recreation Volunteer Recognition Award – Council congratulated Ross Mather for receiving the 2015 Recreation and Volunteer Recognition Award. Mr. Mather is one of four volunteers in Alberta to receive this award in 2015. The Recreation and Volunteer Recognition Award is a program through Alberta Culture and Tourism that recognizes outstanding members of the community who go over and beyond to advance the development of recreation in Alberta by helping connect members of their community to sports and recreation.

The County nominated local resident Mr. Mather for his 20 plus years of volunteering in the Grande Prairie Area and in the rodeo community in northwestern Alberta, where he has played an important role in organizing numerous rodeos and ensuring they run smoothly and mentored young rodeo athletes.

National Child Day Proclamation – Council proclaimed November 20, 2015 as National Child Day in the County of Grande Prairie.

Letter of support – Council will write a letter of support to the Government of Alberta for the Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society (PARDS) Community Initiatives programs grant application for the relocation and expansion of PARDS facility.

Town of Sexsmith Fire Hall Building Committee – Council made a motion to appoint Councillor Beck and Community Services Director Arlen Miller to represent the County of Grande Prairie on the Sexsmith Firehall Building Committee, with Reeve Beaupre and CAO, Bill Rogan as the alternates.

Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network – Bruce Rutley, Director of the Grande Prairie Regional College Centre for Research & Innovation made a presentation to Council about working towards the formation of a new innovation service model for the region known as the Grande Prairie Regional Innovation Network (GPRIN); as well as requested the County of Grande Prairie become a founding partner of the GPRIN by contributing financially to the initiative. GPRIN is a consortium of business development stakeholders in the region collaborating to facilitate economic wealth creation through innovation in products & processes, companies and jobs'. Council deferred the decision to contribute to budget deliberations in December.

Business Visitation Program – Holly Sorgen, on behalf of Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region, and the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce requested the County consider funding a Business Visitation Program at a cost of \$50,000 annually over three years. The Business Visitation Program is an economic development initiative with a goal of obtaining data about all businesses operating in the County. The data collected will help the County, Community Futures and the Grande Prairie Chamber better serve the region by identifying opportunities for future programs, services, projects and more. Council deferred the request to budget deliberations.

Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance – Rhonda Clarke-Gauthier, Executive Director for the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance (MPWA) provided an update on MPWA and upcoming funding they are seeking for their major projects. Some of the major projects the MPWA is participating in are the Redwillow Watershed Restoration Plan, Heart River Watershed Restoration Plan, Wapiti River Water Management

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Plan, State of the Watershed Report, and the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

2018 Alberta Summer Games Bid – Karna Germsheid of the GP Sport Council presented information on the 2018 Alberta Summer Games Bid including the Bid Package Overview, committee members and their profiles, budget, facilities that are being considered to be used over the games, as well as the County’s responsibilities if the County and City wins the bid. A letter of support for the bid package from County Council was also requested by the Committee. Council approved the motion to accept the information in the bid package and will provide a letter to be included in the bid package.

Drager Flashover Simulator – Council approved the purchase of a gently used Drager Flashover Simulator for the cost of \$49,550. The simulator will be used to expand on the education and training Regional Fire Service provides. The simulator allows for teaching advanced fire behaviour, ventilation, fire flow paths, fire attack, fire confinement, and flashover control and rescue techniques. Furthermore, the simulator will be able to be towed to any of the County’s rural fire stations to facilitate training, to contract service providers, and regional partners.

Rio Grande Bridge Replacement – Council reviewed the results of the public consultation that was undertaken in the summer for the Rio Grande Bridge Replacement Project. The decision to replace the bridge in 2019 was deferred to budget deliberations in December.

Next Council meeting will take place on November 23, 2015.

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