

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

August 14, 2017

New Columbarium at Emerson Trail Cemetery – Niches will be available for purchase in the new columbarium located at the Emerson Trail Cemetery in the County starting on Tuesday, August 15. Council approved a fee of \$1,250 per niche, \$250 opening fee for the placement of a second urn in a reserved niche, and \$220 to inscribe a name and date on the niche door through Bylaw 3073. The County installed the columbarium in response to increased requests from the community to offer alternatives to traditional burials. See media release “New Columbarium installed at Emerson Trail Cemetery” at <http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EN/meta/whats-new/latest-news.html> for more information.

Evergreen Park Lagoon Maintenance – Dan Gorman, Evergreen Park General Manager requested that the County de-sludge as well take over the maintenance of the sewage lagoon that is located in Evergreen Park. Council approved the funding to de-sludge the lagoon and directed administration to look into options to take over operation of the lagoon and bring back a report to a future council meeting.

University of Alberta Paleontologist Update – Corwin Sullivan, University of Alberta Paleontologist and Curator of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum provided Council with an update on the fieldwork being completed in the Pipestone Creek Bonebed and in the region for the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. Sullivan also addressed Council's questions. The County funds this paleontologist position through the University of Alberta Endowment Program.

Physician Recruitment and Retention Incentive Policy – Council approved \$5,000 to go to Dr. Hawman, who will be practicing in the City of Grande Prairie.

Roska DBO Inc. Tree Removal Request – Carla Richard, Roska DBO Inc. Loss Control Coordinator requested that select trees be removed along Highway 668 between the Roska DBO Inc. property's fence line and highway due to a high number of break-in's and vandalism events. Council directed administration to look into options and costing to have the trees removed and bring back these findings to a future council meeting.

Bylaw 2680-17-023 – Council gave Bylaw 2680-17-023 third reading to amend the County Land Use Bylaw by proposing a textual amendment to Section 40: Beaverlodge Airport Direct Control District (BA-DC). This allows the North Peace Bracket Racers Association (NPBRA) to apply for difference uses on site including daily business operations on the lot, site and equipment rentals, advertising on site, required maintenance and camping and RV storage. Other proposed amendments including the addition of 11 new discretionary uses and more leniency and the removal of any unnecessary regulations in the district that are already governed under other jurisdictions such as Nav Canada.

Temporary Work Camp Development Permit Request – Council rejected a development permit application that would allow Minhas Holdings to erect a temporary work camp in Rural Industrial (RM-DC) District consisting of one camp structure, five camp trailers and one sea can.

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211 Alberta Committee – Council appointed Councillor Rosvold and FCSS Director Kathleen Turner to serve as representatives for the County on the 211 Alberta Committee. Ran by United Way Alberta Northwest, the 211 Program would be a 24/7 phone service to connect callers to a range of social, health, community and government services in the area and province.

Joint Recreation Master Plan Administrative Coordinator Request – Council approved funding the County's share of an administrative position for the Grande Prairie and Area Joint Recreation Master Plan Committee. This position would facilitate the implementation of the Joint Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted in fall 2016 by the County and City of Grande Prairie and other municipal partners.

The Joint Recreation Master Plan is a comprehensive document, which provides a short, mid and long-term roadmap to guide capital investment in recreation. The plan also includes recommendations on how to enhance recreation programs, services and facilities in the area. The Committee is made up of representatives from the County and City of Grande Prairie, towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith and Wembley, the Village of Hythe and the MD of Greenview.

Sponsorships – Council approved a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Community Foundation of Northwestern Alberta's Nourish the North Wine and Auction taking place on September 28, 2017 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre.

Bobcat Grader Attachment Purchase – Council approved the purchase of a bobcat grader attachment for \$18,000. The attachment

will be used to grade back alleys in the hamlets of Bezanson, Clairmont and La Glace.

Road Project Tenders – Council awarded the tender for the Saskatoon Lake Park Entrance Access Road to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$785,042.

Council awarded the tender to base and pave Township Road 714 for 3.2 km to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$1,958,900.

Council awarded the tender to base and pave Township Road 750 for 3.2 km and Township Road 722 for 2.4 km to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$3,665,377.

Letter of Support – Council will provide a letter of support for the County of Stettler to the Minister of Municipal Affairs supporting their position on the matter of uncollectible Education Tax requisitions and Seniors Housing requisitions that municipalities and districts must collect and remit on behalf of the Provincial Government.

NRC BEAST Pilot Project – Technical Services Manager Jennifer Besinger provided Council with information on the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) Bio-Electrochemical Anaerobic Sewage Treatment (BEAST) pilot projects for wastewater treatment. Elkan Environmental Engineering is working with NRC, a local industry and the County to perform a small and medium sized scale pilot of the BEAST technology at the Bezanson sewage lagoon. If the pilot projects are successful, it may provide an alternative to lagoon expansion at a competitive cost with a better treatment outcome.

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Wedgewood Estates Land Issue – Homeowners from the Wedgewood subdivision requested that the County fund a second geotechnical study to further investigate a potential solution for the slumping occurring in the backyards of select properties that back onto Bear Creek. Council made the motion to take no action; however, directed Administration to look into provincial and/or federal grant funding that can potentially assist in covering costs to remediate.

Next Council meeting will take place on August 21, 2017.

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