

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

May 8, 2017

County Awards Canada 150 Grants – Council awarded \$100,000 in Canada 150 grants to 14 groups from across the region that will use the funds to celebrate this significant milestone. Read media release, “**County announces recipients of Canada 150 grants**” at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Animal Control Bylaw 3032 – Council gave the Revised Animal Control Bylaw third reading. Bylaw 3032 focuses specifically on dogs and will take effect immediately. See media release, “**Council Approves Modernized Animal Control Bylaw**” at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Regional Enforcement Services Quarterly Report – Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, Stuart Rempel; Sergeant Stuart Fry; and RCMP Staff Sergeant Kyle Palfy presented Council the 2017 first quarter report for the County’s Regional Enforcement Services, RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit, and RCMP Grande Prairie & Beaverlodge Rural Detachments. Grande Prairie RCMP Superintendent Don McKenna attended to provide additional support and answer any questions Council had arising from the RCMP report.

Regional Enforcement Services Report – From January to March 2017, a total of 469 violation tickets were issued in comparison to 856 in 2016.

Traffic safety and road/infrastructure protection, adhering to road safety, parking, unsightly premises, regulatory municipal bylaws, animal control, community safety, special events coordination, and traffic safety and crime prevention will remain as Regional Enforcement Services main priorities.

RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit – A total of 89 traffic violation tickets were issued in the first quarter of 2017 as opposed to 70 in 2016.

The majority of the RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit’s time in the first quarter was spent delivering DARE to regional schools. Second quarter will focus on special events policing as well as impaired driving, speeding, seatbelts, school zones, distracted driving, and intersection related infractions.

Regional Enforcement Services remains active in delivering several crime prevention initiatives such as special events coordinating, various patrols, Checkstops, Rural Crime Watch, Report-A Drug House, and Unsightly Premises investigations; seasonal parks patrol; and traffic safety programs and presentations to various groups, schools, and communities throughout the County such as DARE, Bike Safety, Detachment Tours, Internet Safety, Bullying, and Cyberbullying.

Contribution to ANAVETS – Council approved a contribution to the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS), of \$5,000 to go towards the construction of a new Veterans Memorial Park.

2017-2018 Additional Road Construction Program Borrowing Bylaw – Council gave Bylaw 3065 third reading which would allow funds to be borrowed to complete an additional \$20 million in road improvement projects in all nine of the County’s divisions over the next two years. The

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bylaw will return for second and third reading at a future Council meeting.

Sponsorships – Council will sponsor the 7th Annual Odyssey House and Sunrise House Golf Tournament for \$3,000. The tournament will be held on June 8-9 2017 at the Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club.

Council approved a contribution of \$1,329 to the East County 4H Committee to help pay for repairs required on the East County 4H Livestock Weigh Scale.

Council approved a \$1,200 sponsorship for the Subway Texas Scramble in support of United Way and Swan City Rotary Club and to split the sponsorship costs with Nustadia. The Subway Texas Scramble will be taking place on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at the Bear Creek Golf Club.

Employee Introductions – Council and staff welcomed Shawn Peyton and Claire Bibby as well as new and returning seasonal employees to the County. The seasonal employees will be helping maintain various parks, greenspaces and recreational areas within the County over the summer. Shawn will be working as a Service Desk summer student and Claire as a temporary fulltime employee in Business Solutions for the Systems department.

Xplornet Communications Inc. Presentaton – Xplornet Business Relationship Manager Gerry Moser presented to Council the 2017 footprint expansion of Xplornet LTE and Satellite High Speed Internet services in the County. Xplornet is a rural internet service provider.

Geothermal Project Report – Dr. Jonathan Banks from the University of Alberta and Moreen Kolla from Alberta Innovates presented the final report for the Deep Drive Analysis of the Best Geothermal Reservoirs for Commercial Development in Alberta. Dr. Banks and Kolla also answered Council's queries. The County invested \$20,000 to have this study completed. The final report reveals a viable technical and potentially cost competitive geothermal resource base in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin and specifically in the County of Grande Prairie with the most promising areas located near Sexsmith and in an area northeast of Grande Prairie.

Community Readiness Report –The County's Economic Development Officer and one Council member will be a part of a subcommittee for the Community Readiness Report which identifies the economic impact and gap analysis of the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital. The Report is being led by the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce. The subcommittee will consist of all major stakeholders in this project, who will review the Report and discuss the impacts on the Peace Country and how to best take advantage of opportunities.

Next Council meeting will take place on May 15, 2017.

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