

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

August 26, 2019

Regional Fire Service Report – County Regional Fire Service reported to Council on operations during the first two quarters of 2019.

From the beginning of the year until June 30, 930 calls for service were received across the region, including for medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, fire alarms, brush fires and more. The first four months of the year were busier than average, with medical response being the most common request. Total calls are expected to surpass last years at the Bezanson, Clairmont, Dunes, La Glace and Teepee Creek fire stations.

Highlights from the report to Council include:

- Regional Fire Service personnel and equipment were deployed in May to assist in responding to wildfires in Northwestern Alberta.
- Construction continues on the new fire hall in La Glace, with an anticipated move-in date by the end of the year.
- A focus for Regional Fire Service is continuing to ensure high-quality firefighting equipment across all stations, while remaining financially balanced.
- Educating on fire prevention is a continued priority, including through the Annual Wood Waste Clean-up Event, at tradeshow and other community events, and school programs like *Learn Not to Burn*.

- A Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Program will seek input from stakeholders to identify retention and attraction (recruitment) strategies specific to the County's fire stations. It will include strategies that provide inclusion, and continued support, of our volunteer stations.
- Council requested that Regional Fire Service work with Financial Services to explore options to partner with industry for firefighting.

Financial Report on Clairmont Heights – Council heard a report on the financial impact of the Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan (ASP) and proposed Clairmont Parkway. The Parkway is intended to be the focal point and core area of the Hamlet of Clairmont, as outlined in the Clairmont Heights ASP. The report to Council outlined estimated development costs, revenues and when the development plan could breakeven. It was identified that newly developed areas typically lose money before gaining net revenue. Visit www.countygp.ab.ca/approvedasp for details.

Letter to the City of Grande Prairie – Council will write a letter to the City of Grande Prairie in an effort to re-establish access between Trader Ridge to the neighbouring County Industrial Area (Highway 43 West Industrial Park). The County learned that the City of Grande Prairie closed an access between the areas, impacting traffic to the Industrial Park. The road access was originally discussed during the Trader Ridge Area Structure Plan and Outline Plan.

The County will also contact Alberta Transportation to discuss access.

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Small Business Week Proclamation – Council proclaimed October 21 – 27, 2019 as Small Business Week in the County of Grande Prairie. Reeve Beaupre will read the proclamation with the City of Grande Prairie Mayor at a breakfast event on September 12 at Centre 2000.

Updated CAO Bylaw – Council approved Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Bylaw 3120 to clearly outline the roles and responsibility of the CAO, as per the updated Municipal Government Act (MGA).

Council and Administration Communication Framework Policy – Council approved Policy B27, Council/Administration Communication Framework, that guides communication between County Council and Administration to ensure timely and effective decision making.

Valhalla Rec Centre – Council approved adding the Valhalla Rec Centre as an Additional Named Insured facility under the County's Liability Policy. The volunteer-run not-for-profit organization operates Valhalla's skating rink and hosts the Valhalla Archery Club in their curling rink.

Tender Award – Council approved the tender for upgrades to Range Road 92, from Township Road 720 to Highway 43 to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$1,204,839.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-19-038 to redesignate 9.89 acres of land, located adjacent to Horse Lake Reserve and Township Road 734 from an Agricultural (AG) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for country residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-19-039 to redesignate 12.39 acres of land, located six miles east of the Hamlet of Clairmont, adjacent to Range Road 44 and Township Road 724A from an Agricultural (AG) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for country residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-19-036 to redesignate 5.63 acres of land, located half of a mile east of the Hamlet of Lymburn, adjacent to the Horse Lake Reserve, Township Road 734 and Range Road 122 from an Agricultural (AG) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for country residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-19-037 to redesignate 13.87 acres of land, located within the Hamlet of Clairmont, adjacent to Range Road 63 and Township Road 730 from a Country Industrial (CM) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for country residential use and two Environmental Reserve (ER) lots to protect the watercourse. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2068-19-040 to redesignate 17.89 acres of land, located four miles southwest of the City of Grande Prairie, adjacent to Range Road 64 within the Deer Ridge Estates subdivision from a Country Residential (CR-3) District to Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the opportunity to apply for a development permit for a Home Occupation, Major. The landowner is proposing the development of a Health & Wellness Retreat Centre. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

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Development Permit Request – Council approved a development permit application from Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd., located six miles southeast of the City of Grande Prairie to build an additional office space. The permit was approved with conditions.

Dino Derby Fundraiser – Council approved \$1,000 to support two participants in the Dino Derby, a fundraiser for the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum that took place at Evergreen Park.

Council Appointment – Council appointed Reeve Beaupre to the Wetland Centre at Evergreen Park Advisory Group as the representative for the County of Grande Prairie.

The Wetland Centre at Evergreen Park is a three-year pilot project (September 2018 – July 2021) led by the Evergreen Learning and Innovation Society (ELIS) and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). An advisory group is being established to represent users of the Wetland Centre, including government, Indigenous, industry, research, and non-profit groups. The Centre is primarily funded through a Provincial sentencing order through the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Employee Introduction – Council and staff welcomed Serena Boyte-Hawryluk to the County in the new position of Library Team Lead, with the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on September 16, 2019.

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