

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

January 20, 2020

Business Retention and Expansion Survey Results – A recent business survey found that 98.2 per cent of local businesses are satisfied with the County as a place to do business. The results also indicated highest levels of satisfaction with the availability of appropriate work-related training; zoning, availability in properties for purchase or lease; availability of adequate housing; and the development/building permit process. For more details, see media release **County of Grande Prairie Earns High Satisfaction Rates from Local Businesses** at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Strategic Priorities Chart – Council approved the latest update to the County’s Strategic Priorities Chart which solidifies upcoming priorities including the completion of Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks, Intermunicipal Development Plans, Fiber Optics Strategy, Road Enhancements Policy Framework, Safe Communities Strategy, and more. To view the chart, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan.

County Connector Phase Two Update – Council directed Administration to amend the County Connector service agreement with the Village of Hythe, adding service for Hythe (Route 92) every Saturday, effective on February 1, 2020.

Council will also write a letter to the Village of Hythe providing clarity on some sections of the service contract, and expressing their support to add a third day of service on Wednesdays for Hythe; however, will specify that funding for this addition would need to be approved and provided by the Village of Hythe, as it exceeds the operational grant

funding provided by the Alberta Government for this two-year pilot program.

Clairmont Addressing – Council directed Administration to engage area residents through public consultation to obtain their input into addressing challenges in certain areas of the Hamlet of Clairmont.

Sportsplex Pond Hydrocarbon Release Final Report – Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) presented to Council the final clean-up report for the Sportsplex Pond hydrocarbon release incident in spring of 2019. The report determined that the five cubic meter volume of hydrocarbon illegally dumped in the Sportsplex Pond in the spring of 2019 was an intentional act; and despite thorough investigation, fines will not be laid, and the file is now closed.

The final cost of clean-up and remediation was \$184,125. The County and AEP have been monitoring the habitat in the area since the incident and there is no known impact to wildlife and aquatic life. The facility was re-opened on July 17, 2019. The County has made updates to the health and safety management system to ensure quick response to similar events. For more information on the final report, see media release **County urges public to report illegal dumping following Sportsplex Pond hydrocarbon release in 2019 final report** at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Recreation Advisory Board Recommendations – Council approved the following recommendations from the Recreation Advisory Board:

- Transition the operation of the Clairmont Adventure Park from the Clairmont and District Agricultural Society to the County’s Parks and Recreation department, effective immediately

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- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with area resident, Devin Bateman to develop a Community Garden at the Clairmont Adventure Park that is overseen by the County's Parks and Recreation department
- That Pineridge Adventure Camp come back with more detailed financial information prior to the Recreation Advisory Committee and Council deciding on granting their request for \$17,000 in funding for 2019 camp expenses
- Forward the La Glace & District Agricultural Society's debenture request to Council for decision at a future Council Meeting
- \$2,500 sponsorship for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Grande Prairie and Area 12th Annual Ultimate Escape Fundraiser
- Revisions to the K1 Barbeque Rental Policy, and Community Assistance Policy K6. To view policies, visit www.countygp.ab.ca
- That Recreation Advisory Committee revisit Policy K4 Operating Assistance, after Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework negotiations have been completed

Landowner Concern– A landowner brought forward concerns to Council about a ditch, culvert and approach on approved subdivision located at PT.SE-15-73-5-W6 and adjacent to his property and requested the County's assistance to investigate the issue. Council directed Administration to work with both landowners adjacent to PT.SE-15-73-5-W6 to mediate the landowner's concerns and report back to Council at a future Council meeting.

Bylaws – Council gave Borrowing Bylaw 3130 first reading for the purchase of 273.1 acres of land for future industrial development to be

funded with long term debt. The Bylaw will be brought back for second and third reading for Council decision to a future Council meeting.

Council gave Borrowing Bylaw 3131 first reading to fund the 156 Avenue Storm Drainage installation project with long term dept. The Bylaw will be brought back for second and third reading for Council decision to a future Council meeting.

Council directed Administration bring back more information Bylaw 3126 regarding the Local Improvement Tax for Dunes on 17 and Tamarack Estates.

Extended Warranty for Approved Grader Purchase – Council approved the purchase of eight graders along with extended warranty for each unit through Finning Canada for \$4,747,154.

Letter to Alberta Transportation – Council will write a letter to Alberta Transportation requesting a second turning lane be installed at 84 Avenue/Bauman Road, Highway 2 east intersection in Clairmont turning left/south onto Highway 2 towards Grande Prairie. The addition of a second left turning lane would help mitigate the heavy traffic congestion at this intersection.

Letter to Alberta Energy Regulator – Council will write a letter to Alberta Energy Regulator requesting that they work with the County to direct industry to use County owned water points in the future.

Letters of Support – Council will write a letter of support for the Grande Prairie Curling Club's bid to host the 2022 Alberta Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

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Council will write a letter of support for the McNaught Homestead Preservation Society's application to receive an Alberta heritage marker for their homestead heritage site.

Council will write a letter of support for the Grande Prairie Pride Society's application for the Community Initiatives Program Project-Based Grant that would enable them to host educational and social networking events in the region throughout the year.

Joint Municipal Council Meetings – Council directed administration to organize joint council meetings with the Municipal District of Greenview, Saddle Hills County and Birch Hills County.

Contributions and Sponsorships – Council approved waving the development permit and safety codes fees valued at \$5,525 for the 2021 Dream Home, which will be located and built in the County of Grande Prairie.

Council approved a silver sponsorship of \$500 for the 22nd Annual Maple Sugar Festival being hosted by the ACFA Régionale de Grande Prairie which is taking place on February 29, 2020 at Muskoseepi Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

County Policies – Council approved County Policy I8 for Enterprise Risk Management, which is intended to guide all employees and stakeholders in their actions and their abilities to accept, assess and manage risks to ensure they are operating within stated risk tolerance parameters.

Council approved updated Policy C12 which addresses tangible capital assets and is aligned with current County business practices. The updated policy has been simplified, and thresholds for capitalization have been updated to \$10,000 across all asset classes.

Council approved updates to Policy B1, which consolidates three standard clauses into one simplified compliance clause, clarifies the policy requirements for staff, and removes negative wording in the non-compliance section. All County policies can be found at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Students' Association of Grande Prairie Regional College – Joshua Calkins, Vice President External for the Students' Association of Grande Prairie Regional College (SAGPRC) provided an overview of the Association's mandate and top priorities to Council in an effort to work with the County to better serve the students attending Grande Prairie Regional College.

SAGPRC represents all students that attend GPRC and ensures that all needs of the students are being met within the community and college.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on February 3, 2020.

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