

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

June 15, 2020

Strategic Priorities Chart – Council approved the latest update to the County’s Strategic Priorities Chart which outlines 2020 actions to achieve Council priorities.

Council also approved the addition of an Action Plan as part of the 2020-2025 Corporate Business Plan within the new Strategic Plan. The Action Plan provides more details and timelines on Administration activities to achieve Council themes in the new Strategic Plan including: 1) Effective Transportation Networks, 2) Fiscal Sustainability, 3) Economic Development, 4) Technology Infrastructure, 5) Density and Service Standards, 6) Safe Communities, and 7) Governance and Leadership. To view the chart and Strategic Plan, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan.

Funding requests

Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association – The Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association made a presentation to Council requesting \$15,000 in funding to go towards operational expenses. The Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association is a humane care provider in the region. The Grande Prairie Regional Animal Pound has had an agreement in place with the Association for several months where the Association accepts a limited amount of unclaimed animals from the pound.

Council directed Administration to collaborate with the City of Grande Prairie and Bandaged Paws Animal Rescue Association to identify funding required in the short and long term and review the transfer fees from the pound to the Association

Beaverlodge Mural Foundation – Council approved a contribution of \$2,500 to the Beaverlodge Mural Foundation for the creation of a train station mural to be displayed on the Beaverlodge Hotel exterior wall that would help tell a story about the area’s local history, heritage and culture.

Wolverine Adapted Sports Association – Council took no action on the Wolverine Adapted Sports Association’s request for \$5,000 to help cover the administrative costs for the organization.

GPREP Essential Services Program – Local non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to continue accessing the Essential Services Resource Request Program through the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP). This program helps identify and ensure organizations on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other resources such as proper sanitation equipment to maintain a safe work environment during the pandemic. For more information, visit <https://www.gprep.ca/covid19/resources/>.

Grant Funding Transfer Request – Council approved the Agricultural Service Board’s (ASB) request to transfer \$26,500 that was awarded to the County for the development of a livestock Emergency Preparedness Plan from the ASB Reserve to the Livestock Emergency Response Supply Line to offset the County’s portion of costs to develop a Livestock Emergency Response Plan in conjunction with the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP).

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780-933-3074
E pharris@countygp.ab.ca

Linda Waddy
Division 7
C 780-897-5609
E lwaddy@countygp.ab.ca

Karen Rosvold
Division 8
C 780-831-0902
E krosvold@countygp.ab.ca

Corey Beck
Division 9
C 780-831-6394
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Bylaws – Council gave first reading to Bylaw 3122 and directed Administration to amend the bylaw and bring back to a future Council meeting for second and third reading. The County’s Regional Enforcement and Fire Services performed a review of Bylaw 2924 to reflect recent changes in the Alberta Fire Code, Forest Prairie Protection Act, Municipal Government Act, and legislation. Proposed amendments to be included in Bylaw 3122 would include simplifying the language, removing redundancies that are captured in other bylaws, and updating definitions and compliance with current Alberta Health Services provisions and legislation.

Council gave Bylaw 3140 three reading, which authorizes Administration to access short-term borrowing to a maximum of \$10 million to cover any short-term cash shortfalls due to the late collection of property tax payments.

All County bylaws are available to view at www.countygp.ab.ca/bylaws.

RCMP Update – The Grande Prairie RCMP Detachment provided an update on the RCMPs operational and response plan during the COVID-19 pandemic and their Annual Performance Plan moving forward.

The RCMP members also addressed Council’s questions regarding Enhanced Policing Program position vacancies in the County. The County funds a total of eight enhanced policing positions that are intended to work on rural crime initiatives in a variety of different areas including the General Investigative Section, Crime Reduction, Integrated Drug Unit, Traffic Safety, Specialized Patrols, Special Events as well as the Beaverlodge Detachment.

The RCMP also provided information about a new pilot initiative where citizens can report lost or stolen items and vandalism under \$5,000; and, crimes that take place in Alberta at <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta>.

Employee Introductions – Council and staff welcomed 44 new and returning employees to the County. These employees will be working seasonal positions for the Agricultural Services department or Parks and Recreation department in roles including mowing, weed inspection, agricultural assistance, herbicide application, and Rural Extension assistance; and, greenspace, park, cemetery, and campground maintenance and groundskeeping.

Road Project Tenders – Council awarded the request for proposal for the base paving of 162 Avenue in Clairmont to Allnorth Consultants Ltd. in the amount of \$98,511. This project is one of several capital road construction projects slated for 2020. To view the 2020 capital road construction project list and interactive webmap, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction.

Animal Disposal – Council accepted the information Administration brought back regarding options for the disposal of animal carcasses, offals and hides. The County recycling and waste management facilities do not to dispose of animal offals, hides, etc; however, they are accepted at the Aquatera Landfill for a fee. For information regarding animal disposal, visit <https://www.aquatera.ca/your-bill/rates/landfill-rates>.

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780-933-3074
E pharris@countygp.ab.ca

Linda Waddy
Division 7
C 780-897-5609
E lwaddy@countygp.ab.ca

Karen Rosvold
Division 8
C 780-831-0902
E krosvold@countygp.ab.ca

Corey Beck
Division 9
C 780-831-6394
E cbeck@countygp.ab.ca

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Rural Health Professional Action Plan Conference – Council approved the coverage of expenses for County members at large who are part of the South Peace Physician Attraction and Retention Committee that are attending the Rural Health Professional Action Plan Conference taking place in Drayton Valley from October 6-8, 2020.

Property Tax Relief Requests – Council took no action on five requests to reduce the amount of taxes owing.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on June 29, 2020.

Council meetings can be accessed electronically through the events calendar on the County website.

Harold Bulford
Division 1
C 780-876-9009
E hbulford@
countygp.ab.ca

Daryl Beeston
Division 2
C 780-933-3464
E dbeeston@
countygp.ab.ca

Leanne Beaupre
Division 3
C 780-814-3121
E lbeaupre@
countygp.ab.ca

Ross Sutherland
Division 4
C 780-512-5385
E rsutherland@
countygp.ab.ca

Bob Marshall
Division 5
C 780-933-2053
E bmarshall@
countygp.ab.ca

Peter Harris
Division 6
C 780-933-3074
E pharris@
countygp.ab.ca

Linda Waddy
Division 7
C 780-897-5609
E lwaddy@
countygp.ab.ca

Karen Rosvold
Division 8
C 780-831-0902
E krosvold@
countygp.ab.ca

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Division 9
C 780-831-6394
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countygp.ab.ca