

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

March 23, 2020

COVID-19 Planning Update – Administration provided Council with an update on the Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP) plans for the COVID-19 situation. GPREP is assisting various municipal departments in planning for Business Continuity of critical and vital municipal infrastructure in the event of a widespread pandemic. GPREP also monitors and shares updates from Alberta Health Services and Alberta Emergency Management Agency. For GPREP updates on the COVID-19 situation, visit www.gprep.ca.

2020 Budget Communication – Council approved the general key messages that will be communicated to inform property owners and residents in the County about the 2020 Budget process, how budget is funded and what the expenditures including taxes will go towards. Council also recommended further detail be included on the total amount of requisitions the County is required to collect on behalf of the Province, and a breakdown of various assessment and revenue types. 2020 Budget information will be distributed with the tax notice in mid-May.

Road Project Tenders – Council awarded tenders for the following projects:

- Paving of Township Road 712 from Range Road 75 west to Range Road 82 in the amount of \$2,841,578,30 to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers Ltd.
- Overlay of JD Willis subdivision in the amount of \$262,642.47 to Knelsen Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Bylaw 3119 – Council gave Bylaw 3119/Procedural Bylaw third reading, which will replace the previous Bylaw 3001. The bylaw has been updated to more accurately reflect the procedures at the County and removed redundant sections or sections with provisions that are covered through the Municipal Government Act. There is also a new section regarding the establishment and procedures for a Committee of the Whole. Starting in June, Committee of the Whole meetings will be held once a month; and Public Works Committee, Recreation Advisory Board, and Finance Committee meetings will no longer take place. All County bylaws are posted to www.countygp.ab.ca/bylaws.

Policy D10 – Council approved amendments to Policy D10, which addresses rental equipment. The amendments include changes to rates and deposits required for rental equipment. All policies are posted to www.countygp.ab.ca/policy.

Land Addition to Horse Lake First Nations Reserve – Council will send a letter to Indigenous Services Canada in support of the Horse Lake First Nations' proposal for 1,783 acres of land located in the County of Grande Prairie be added to their reserve. Also, Council will address their commitment to continue working with Horse Lake First Nations towards mutually beneficial community initiatives; request to negotiate compensation for loss of property taxes on the parcels of land being transferred to the reserve; and request clarity regarding the roads ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

Letter of Support – Council will write a letter of support to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for the continued regulation of Fusarium graminearum, under the Agricultural Pest Act.

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Meeting Request – Council will request to meet with Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks to discuss land use framework for the Upper Peace as it applies to crown land along the Wapiti River Corridor between Bear Creek and Pipestone Creek.

Letter to Municipal Affairs – Council will write a letter to Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting amendments be made to the County Connector Pilot Project agreement to waive the fare revenues until May 31, 2020.

Systems Equipment Upgrade – Council approved \$9,000 to go towards upgrading equipment to increase internet bandwidth in County buildings.

Grande Prairie Regional College Awards – Council directed administration review support currently provided to the Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) and other bursary programs that the County administers and bring back this information to a future Council Meeting, prior to making a decision on contributing financial support to the GPRC Awards.

Interdepartmental Transfer of Equipment – Council approved the request to transfer a retired fire tender from Regional Fire Services to the Public Works department. This fire tender will be used as a water truck.

Disposition of Compressor – Council directed administration to sell a low-pressure compressor that is no longer needed by the County or the La Glace Fire Station to a local safety company for \$6,000.

Employee Introductions – Council and staff welcomed Heidi Collins, Mackenzie Cronk and Tara Simard to the County. Heidi will be working for the Parks and Recreation department as the new Parks Supervisor. In previous years, Heidi worked in different roles as caretaker for Pipestone Creek Campground and Park, and Hommy Campground and Park.

Tara Simard, who previously worked as Administrative Assistant for Public Works, is working as a temporary Tax Clerk in the Assessment Services department. Mackenzie Cronk, previously worked as Tax Clerk, is filling a temporary Assessor for the Assessment Services department.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on April 6, 2020.

Council meetings will remain open to the public during the COVID-19 situation. Public who wish to attend are advised to follow the safety measures below:

- If you are sick and/or experiencing flu-like symptoms, please do not enter Council Chambers
- If you have travelled outside of Canada, please do not enter Council Chambers
- Use the hand sanitizer provided or soap and water in the public washroom to wash your hands prior to entering Council Chambers
- Practice social distancing by standing and/or sitting 6 feet apart
- Avoid touching your face
- Always cough and sneeze into your arm or cover with a tissue
- Use hand sanitizer and wipes provided upon exiting the Administration Building

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