

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

May 11, 2020

Dimsdale Recreation Society Funding Request – Council approved the Dimsdale Recreation Society’s request for \$45,647 in funding to help cover 50 per cent of the expenses to replace the damaged flooring in the Dimsdale Community Hall caused by moisture getting into a floor crawl space. The Society will be fundraising to cover the remaining costs to replace the flooring.

Nitehawk Adventure Park Request – Council approved Nitehawk Adventure Park’s request to repurpose \$43,750 of the \$113,250 of capital grant funding the organization received this year for operating budget purposes. The repurposing of funding will allow the Park to cover cash flow shortfalls due to lost revenue and suspension of operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tax Payment Options – Council approved additional options for property owners to pay their 2020 taxes. Residents and businesses will be able to enroll in a Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPP) where they can divide their tax payments into six monthly payments throughout 2020, or make a six-month lump sum payment upfront and pay the remaining balance in six monthly payments by December 2020. More information about these new options will be posted to www.countygp.ab.ca/propertytaxes next week.

2019 Audited Financial Statements – Council approved the 2019 Audited Financial Statements as presented. The audit was completed by Metrix Group LLP. The 2019 financial statements will be available at www.countygp.ab.ca later this week.

Town of Sexsmith IDP – Council rescinded a resolution on April 6, 2020, to support the Town of Sexsmith’s decision to opt out of the Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) and directed Administration to re-engage with the Town of Sexsmith in completing an IDP. This is in response to a notice the County received from the Town advising of their decision to rescind their resolution to opt out of the IDP.

IDPs are intended to address future growth opportunities and other development-related matters of joint interest between the municipalities that the County shares a boundary with.

Tri-Municipal Industrial Partnership Update – Council received a letter from the Municipal District (MD) of Greenview advising the County of their decision to pause the ongoing development of the Tri-Municipal Partnership (TMIP) for the foreseeable future due to current economic market conditions. The County of Grande Prairie, City of Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the development of crown land located within the MD of Greenview. Council accepted the notification to pause TMIP for information.

The County will continue offering support if necessary and as requested by the MD of Greenview for more time-sensitive related tasks that have already commenced.

Wedgewood Homeowners Association Presentation – Brent North, Chair and Teresa Souliere of the Wedgewood Hamlet Homeowners Association and made a presentation to Council about the options to mitigate slope failure and land erosion issues occurring on select properties backing onto Bear Creek in the Wedgewood subdivision.

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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Beaverlodge Health Complex Committee Appointment – Council appointed Deputy Reeve Peter Harris and Councillor Bob Marshall to serve on the Beaverlodge Health Complex Committee. County representatives will request a terms of reference be established for the Committee at the first meeting.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-20-006 to redesignate 10 acres of land located five and a half miles northeast of the Hamlet of Teepee Creek, adjacent to Range Road 32 from an Agricultural (AG) District to a Country Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one lot for residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-20-007 to redesignate 0.38 acres of land located within the Hamlet of Bezanson, adjacent to 100 St and Range Road 32 from Urban Reserve (UR) to a Limited Institutional (L-IR) District to accommodate the subdivision of one lot for a proposed parking lot. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Demmitt Recreation Area – Council directed Administration to continue to pursue information on the next steps from Alberta Environment and Parks regarding the status of the County's lease at the Demmitt Provincial Recreation Area. This is in response to the Province's announcement of the initiative to optimize Alberta Parks. The County currently operates a 15-site campground and day-use area in the Demmitt Provincial Recreation Area.

Road Project Tenders – Council awarded the contracts to Klassen Brothers Northern Ltd. for \$1,024,667.09 to complete 3.2 km of grading on Township Road 724 from Highway 723 west to Range Road 102; and \$963,865.07 to complete 3.2 km of grading to Township Road 730 from Range Road 35 east to Highway 733. A complete list of roads projects scheduled for 2020 are available at www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction.

Assessment Reclassification Request – Council took no action on a request from a property owner to change the assessment class of a property from Industrial to Farmland to allow for a reduction on the 2019 assessment for the 2020 tax year.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on May 25, 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@
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Division 8
C 780-831-0902
E krosvold@
countygp.ab.ca

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