

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

October 5, 2020

Hay and Straw Hauler Information – Regional Enforcement Services provided Council with information on provincial legislation specific to hay and straw bale hauling and cargo securement. Every vehicle that travels on any road in the province is required to comply with load securement requirements, including passenger and commercial vehicles. It is unlawful to transport hay or straw bales unsecured at any time. There are axle weight restrictions for all commercial vehicles, including hay haulers. There are exemptions under the Alberta Traffic Safety Act for straw and hay haulers for width and height, and cargo securement, which allows for a reduced working load limit of the tie-down straps. These exemptions only apply under certain circumstances, including not exceeding a 50 km radius, not travelling on numbered highways, and not exceeding 80 km/hr.

Council directed Administration to develop an informational sheet and tips to be posted on the County's website and social media and be available as a handout regarding hay and straw hauling regulations for County residents and the public to reference.

STARS Gift Acknowledgement – Council approved the Reeve signing the 2020-2024 Gift Acknowledgement letter from STARS, which identifies how they will recognize the County's financial contributions. In 2020, Council committed an additional \$500,000 to be distributed over a five-year term for a new H145 aircraft.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-20-020 to redesignate 10 acres of land located approximately 2 ½ miles northwest of the Hamlet of Bezanson, adjacent to Range Road 34 and Township road 724 from an Agricultural (AG) District to Country

Residential (CR-5) District to allow for the subdivision of one residential lot. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council recessed Bylaw 3148 to adopt the Tradesman Area Structure Plan (ASP) to a future Council meeting to allow for the recirculation and advertising of the Public Hearing once the draft Area Structure Plan has been amended to address feedback received from Alberta Transportation.

Policies – Council directed Administration to revise the Community Beautification Initiatives Policy K-12 to dissolve the Communities in Bloom stream into one general Beautification Grant fund payable at \$1,000 per community within the existing total budget. The integration will provide access to beautification grants to more communities across the County.

Council approved Policy B22 – Physician Recruitment and Retention Incentive Policy as amended to include in the contract that doctors make available spaces for County residents. The policy sets out actions the County will take to attract and retain physicians to practice medicine within the County.

Council approved the Historic Resource Policy, including the initial intake application and an application for Municipal Designation. The policy provides a framework to guide the County is making decisions regarding preserving buildings and sites that are of significant historical value to the County.

New and updated policies will be available for viewing next week at www.countygp.ab.ca/policies.

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Contract Renewal – Council renewed their one-year contract with Alberta Counsel for government relations and advocacy planning and consulting.

Meeting Requests – Council will request a meeting with CN Rail to discuss their future plans for the rail line from the City of Grande Prairie west to Dawson Creek.

The Organizational Meeting and next Regular Council Meeting will take place on October 19, 2020. A Committee of the Whole Meeting will take place on October 21, 2020.

Council and Committee meetings can be accessed electronically through the [events calendar](#) on the County website.

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