

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

**August 19, 2019**

**Presentation to Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation** – Council presented a cheque for \$1,000,000 to the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation for a patient bedside engagement system. The Grande Prairie Regional Hospital will be one of only two hospitals in Canada with this type of engagement system to enhance patient care. The funds will be distributed over ten years beginning in 2020.

**Municipalities Ask for Feedback on County Connector Transit Service** – Municipalities partnering on the County Connector transit service are asking the public to weigh in with their feedback on the service. The County Connector has been operational for eight months and is part of a two-year Government of Alberta pilot project.

“It’s important that the project aligns with the needs of residents,” says County Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “Now that we’ve been operational for several months, we want to hear from the public what is working well and what aspects of the service can be improved.” A short survey will be available from September 9 to 30, 2019. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/2JeDaBa>.

**Tender for Spring Creek Road Repair Work** – Council approved that Administration move forward to tender repair work for the bridge and road stability on a section of Range Road 72, crossing Spring Creek, for an estimate of \$5,000,000. This section of road is closed to traffic after the slope began slumping resulting in the road and bridge becoming unstable due to wet conditions in previous spring seasons.

**Volunteer Firefighter Compensation** – Council approved compensation for County volunteer firefighters to be at the same rate as part-time volunteer firefighters from the beginning of this fire season, which began March 1, 2019, in recognition of their response to the Northwestern Alberta Wildfires.

The Compensation During Extraordinary Circumstances Policy L-14 will be bought back to Council for updating to ensure volunteer firefighters are compensated at the same rate as part-time firefighters during extraordinary circumstances, like responding to wildfires.

**Emerson Trail Cemetery Road Improvements** – Council approved \$9,825 for improvements to the road to Emerson Trail Cemetery, including additional gravel and weed control.

**Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban** – County Technical Services reported to Council on environmental issues with single-use plastic bags and bans that are in place in other municipalities. Council will add this topic as an agenda item to the upcoming multi-municipal meeting in October.

**Equipment Replacement Plan for 2020** – Council approved \$8,426,000 to replace County equipment that has finished its useful life. Administration will begin the replacement process, with the total amount being subject to change during interim and final budget deliberations.

**Celebrating GPRC’s President and CEO** – Council will write a letter of congratulations to Don Gnatiuk, the longest-serving CEO of Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) on his retirement. Councillors who are available will attend a celebration event on September 12.

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**Contributions** – Council approved the waiving of the development and safety codes fees of more than \$5,000 for the 2020 Dream Home. Money raised from the Dream Home Lottery supports various local charities and programs through the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie. Administration will develop a policy on waiving development and safety code fees and present the draft to Council in the future.

Council approved \$1,500 in funding for the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau in support of hosting an Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre event educating about racism. The event will take place on September 21.

**Upcoming Fundraisers** – Council approved that available Council members attend upcoming golf tournaments that raise funds for local nonprofits:

- Alberta Transportation Peace Region Golf Tournament on August 29, 2019
- 2019 APEGA / ASET Peace Region Golf Tournament on Friday, September 6, 2019
- Reading University Hole-in-One Tournament on September 12, 2019

**Letters to local Members of Legislative Assembly** – Council will write letter to Minister Toews, MLA Allard and MLA Lowen requesting notification and an invitation to participate when government officials, Ministers and MLAs visit the region.

**Invitation to Meet Horse Lake First Nation** – Council will send a letter to Horse Lake First Nation inviting their Council to meet with County Council.

**Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on August 26, 2019.**

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