

Council Highlights



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.

Regular Council Meeting | July 3, 2018

Delegation: Birch Grove Community Representative Ms. Stephanie Gostevskyh

On behalf of the Birch Grove Community, Ms. Stephanie Gostevskyh presented her concerns about the proposed Sun Gro peat moss harvesting project. Council thanked Ms. Gostevskyh for her presentation. Council directed Administration to contact Sun Gro and Alberta Environment to discuss residents' concerns related to the proposed project, and further to collaborate with residents regarding their communications with Sun Gro and Alberta Environment.

Amendment to Bylaw 16-001 Planning and Development Fees and Charges

Based on new planning and development policies, Bylaw 16-001 Planning and Development Fees and Charges needs a few changes to reflect these policies' fees. For instance, minor encroachment agreements come with a fee of \$500, and major encroachment agreements will be determined by Council based on fair market value. Council gave the amended bylaw first and second readings at the June 26 meeting, and third reading at the July 3 meeting. They amended the bylaw to include free-of-charge emailed Ortho Photo images to homeowners.

Bylaw 18-005: Council Procedure Bylaw

At the May 8 meeting, Council was briefed on potential changes to Bylaw 18-005: Council Procedure. The bylaw governs how Council runs its meetings. Proposed changes to the bylaw include the use of formal titles in meetings, clarification on meetings held electronically, and the use of personal and recording devices, among other changes. At the July 3 meeting, Council motioned to bring the bylaw back to a future meeting with the following changes: keeping the delegation notice to six days; updating wording to 'closed session' (removing 'in-camera' references); and including authority for the Chair to address inappropriate use of personal electronic devices.

Public Input Session: Mr. David Hanson Regarding the Mission Beach Water/Sewer Project

Mr. David Hanson spoke about his concerns with the water and sewer project in the Mission Beach area, including dividing the land improvement into different phases (Mission Phases 2 and 3) and the environmental impact of not completing the project.

Mission Beach Local Improvements Discussion

After Mr. David Hanson's presentation, Council was briefed on the Mission Beach local improvement project. To encourage all residents to hook up to County water and sewer in Mission Phases 2 and 3, the County will offer the water and sewer local improvement for \$12,100 per parcel plus interest for Phases 2 and 3.

Alberta CARE Fall Conference

The Alberta CARE (Alberta Coordinated Action for Recycling Enterprises) focuses on recycling programs, education, and opportunities to improve recycling projects throughout the province. CARE's fall conference will be held in Fort McMurray from September 5 to 7, 2018. Mayor Omer Moghrabi, Councillor Charlyn Moore, and Councillor George L'Heureux will register for the fall conference.

Walking Trail Lighting Policy

At the June 5 meeting, Council reviewed the Walking Trail Lighting Policy and Procedure, which will help address pedestrians' safety concerns and fulfill residents' lighting requests. Council adopted the new Walking Trail Lighting Policy (PI-30-022), and motioned to include that future lighting meet Dark Sky lighting requirements (which helps prevent light pollution and keeps the night sky more visible).

Victim Services Unit: Request for Additional Grant Funding

The Victim Services Unit (VSU) is requesting additional funds of \$45,000 per year for staffing expenses. This would bring their total yearly funding to \$60,000 (and \$180,000 over a three-year term). Administration will provide a letter to the VSU indicating that they may apply for additional funding for year two (2019) and three (2020) of their grant funding term as part of the 2019 budgeting process. Council also directed Administration to bring forward a briefing to a future meeting of Council with information on funding social service organizations in other municipalities.

Community Cemetery Improvement Program: Noral Cemetery Funding Request

This year, Council approved a Community Cemetery Improvement Program Policy to guide how to distribute funding to improve community cemeteries. All funding requests over \$10,000 are to be decided by Council, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church St. Mary the Protectress Society that cares for Noral Cemetery has requested \$15,000. That amount will cover the cost of fencing and a new sign. Council approved the request.

Community Access Bus Service (Briefing)

Currently, the County's paratransit service provides transportation for seniors and persons with cognitive or physical disabilities to medical care, shopping, or social activities. Many communities are moving towards a community bus to serve residents with limited incomes, especially in rural municipalities where there are significant distances for residents to travel. Administration will develop a policy and procedure for community access bus service in Lac La Biche County.

Lions Club Park

The Lac La Biche Lions Club and A&W approached the County to beautify the municipal reserve space in front of A&W into a park. The project will cost around \$8,000, and the Lions Club is proposing that the County covers 50% of those costs. Council discussed safety and funding concerns, and the project is currently under administrative review.

Spray Park Washroom, Concession, Shade Structure Layout

Council approved \$300,000 in the 2018 capital budget for the addition of washrooms, a concession rental space, shade structures, and landscaping near the Paul Richard Memorial Spray Park. Council asked Administration to provide a layout of the spray park with the approved new features before any addition to the area is completed, which Council reviewed at this meeting. See the news section of laclabichecounty.com for a link to a concept drawing of what these improvements may look like. The concept drawing will also be installed on a sign at McArthur Park for the public to view.

Bold Center Sports Fields

Council discussed a proposed layout for the sports fields next to the Bold Center. Visit the news section of laclabichecounty.com to view a concept drawing of what the layout may look like. Council accepted the sports field discussion item as information.

Proposed Walking Trail List

Administration presented a list of proposed walking trails in Lac La Biche County. Council accepted the briefing as information, and directed Administration to make a walking trail connecting the Young's Beach subdivision and the Bold Center a priority.

Water Conservation Policy and Procedure Changes

Administration proposed some changes to the Water Conservation Policy and Procedure (PI-40-001).

Residents that rely on water-hauling will now be able to access water at truck fill stations until the low water reserve volume reaches 25% of its capacity over a 24-hour period (when the County issues a 'red' water conservation notice). This change will make it easier for residents with property not connected to the County's water distribution system to access water when the County issues water conservation notices.

Rich Lake Seasonal Disposal

To prevent sewage from being improperly disposed of, Council discussed a sewage receiving tank in the Rich Lake area. Council directed Administration to look into the costs and provide information at a future meeting.

Traffic Light Along 101 Avenue in Hamlet of Lac La Biche

Administration briefed Council on the process of increasing the number of traffic lights along Main Street (101 Avenue) in the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. Main Street is a highway road controlled by Alberta Transportation, and the County must get traffic analyses completed for Alberta Transportation to consider adding more lights. No action will be taken at this time.

2018 Fall AUMA Convention

Council directed Administration to register four members of Council to attend the 2018 Fall Alberta Urban Municipalities Association convention.

Investing in Canada Grant

The County has an opportunity to apply for the Investing in Canada Grant. Council discussed potential project ideas, including the construction of a new aquatics centre at the Bold Center to replace Portage Pool. Council directed Administration to proceed with the Investing in Canada Grant application for the aquatics centre.

Road Maintenance Discussion

Council discussed improving maintenance of the Plamondon-Caslan connector and other County roads.

Regional Highways and Alberta Transportation Options

Council held a closed discussion on addressing highway maintenance in the region. Council directed Administration to initiate discussions with Alberta Transportation. Administration will meet with Alberta Transportation to discuss opportunities to partner on highway maintenance improvements.

Renewal of Assessor's Contract

Council directed Administration to renew the County's agreement with Municipal Assessment Services Group Inc. to provide property assessment services from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2021 for \$750,384 (excluding parcel growth). These numbers are based on a 20% property re-inspection rate.

July 5 Strategic Session: Planning and Development 101 & Cannabis Legislation

Council reviewed planning and development processes, including how developers get permits, development fees, and enforcement of the County's Land Use Bylaw (LUB). They also discussed the Municipal Development Plan, Area Structure Plans, and the LUB to gain a better understanding of how these documents will relate to developing Council's overall strategic plan for the County.

Council took steps to understand cannabis legislation and how its legalization will impact the municipality. They directed Administration to conduct a community survey on the use and retail sale of cannabis in the municipality, and will bring back results at an August 2018 meeting.