



Council Brief of the

March 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

This document is provided for informational purposes only and is not the approved minutes of the Lethbridge County Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1) Bylaw 22-021 - Road Closure, Sale and Consolidation

Council approved that the bylaw be sent to the Minister of Transportation for approval and that land fees be waived. The application is to close a portion of Road Plan 9511762 (Township Road 9-0B) to be consolidated with the adjacent lot to the north. If the bylaw receives Ministerial approval, second and third reading can proceed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1) COMMUNITY SERVICES

a. Bylaw 23-002 - Country Crossroads Estate Area Structure Plan and Bylaw 23-003 Land Use Bylaw Amendment (Rural Agriculture to Grouped Country Residential) - First Reading

Council approved first readings of both bylaws, which would allow for the phased subdivision of the parcels for Country Residential use in the SW5-8-20-W4. A public hearing is anticipated for April 2023.

2) CORPORATE SERVICES

a. 2023 Post-Secondary Bursary and Bursary Ad-Hoc Selection Committee

Council approved that the 2023 post-secondary bursary program increase the number of awards from 2 to 3 and the amount be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500, with the additional funding to come from the Council Discretionary Reserve. Deputy Reeve John Kuerbis and Councillors Lorne Hickey and Mark Sayers were chosen to sit on the Ad-Hoc Bursary Selection Committee. More information on the program is online at <https://lethcounty.ca/p/bursary-program>.

b. 2022 Year End Surplus/Deficit Report

Council received the report, which showed an overall unaudited operating deficit of \$395,000. Council approved that the reallocation of funds from Restricted Surplus (Reserves) to Unrestricted Surplus be transferred from the Tax Equalization Reserve in the amount of \$395,000 to offset the 2022 deficit.

c. 2023 Business Tax Bylaw 23-010

Council approved first, second, and third readings of the bylaw, which allows for the collection of a Business Tax for 2023.

d. 2023 Business Tax Rate Bylaw 23-011

Council approved first and second readings of the bylaw.

3) MUNICIPAL SERVICES

a. Road Ban Information

Council received information from administration on the current Road Ban Bylaw and Road Ban Policy. These are in place to protect the County's roads from damage from overweight commercial vehicles when the roads are most susceptible to damage.

b. 2023 Public Works Level of Service Policy

Council approved the 2023 Public Works Level of Service Policy, which provides an overview of road maintenance activities in hamlets, subdivisions, and rural areas. The full document is available at <https://whatshappening.lethcounty.ca/level-of-service>.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1) Minister of Transportation – Highway 25 Conversion

A letter was received from the Alberta Minister of Transportation informing the County that a 19.4-kilometre portion of Highway 25 from Highway 521 to Highway 526 will be converted to gravel.

2) Minister of Municipal Affairs

A letter was received from Alberta Municipal Affairs introducing municipalities to the Local Government Fiscal Framework that will provide infrastructure funding. Additionally, the Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding will be increased for municipal operations and the federal Canada Community Building Fund will also be available.

3) MP Thomas

A letter was received from MP Rachel Thomas requesting a meeting with Council to discuss current challenges and opportunities in the County.

4) Fortis Alberta Invitation

An invitation for Council was received from FortisAlberta to the grand opening of their flagship Net-Zero building in Coaldale on April 20.

5) SouthGrow Southern Alberta Economic Development Forum

An invitation for Council was received for the SouthGrow Southern Alberta Economic Development Forum in Lethbridge on March 30.

6) Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy Invitation

An invitation for Council was received to attend the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation conference in Lethbridge from June 20 to 23.

7) United Way Red Tie Gala Invitation

An invitation for Council was received to attend the United Way Red Tie Gala on April 1.

8) Vimy Dinner Invitation

An invitation was received for Council to attend the 15th Annual Vimy Dinner on April 22.

9) Link Pathway Committee Invitation

An invitation was received for Council to have a representative sit on the Link Pathway Committee. Council directed administration to request that two Councillors sit on the Committee and report back with more information at the next meeting.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE UPDATES:

1) Lethbridge County Council Attendance Update – February 2023

Division 1 – Councillor Lorne Hickey

February 1	Family and Community Support Services Meeting
February 2	Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 15	Green Acres Finance Meeting
February 22	Green Acres Board Meeting

Division 2 – Reeve Tory Campbell

February 1 Exhibition Park Board Meeting
February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 2 Exhibition Park AGM
February 13 Lethbridge County/City of Lethbridge Intermunicipal Development Plan Meeting
February 14-16 Exhibition Park/Travel Alberta Ottawa Trade Mission
February 28 Meeting with William Wang, Director, Alberta China Offices
February 28 Meeting with Mayor Van Rijn, Coaldale Administration, County Administration

Division 3 – Councillor Mark Sayers

February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 16 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Asset Management Workshop
February 22 Coaldale Chamber of Commerce AGM

Division 4 – Deputy Reeve John Kuerbis

February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 3 Mayors and Reeves
February 13 Lethbridge County/City of Lethbridge Intermunicipal Development Plan Meeting
February 16 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Asset Management Workshop
February 17 Emperor of Japan Birthday Celebration

Division 5 – Councillor Eric Van Essen

February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 7-8 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association Conference
February 16 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Asset Management Workshop
February 17 Highway 3 Twinning Development Association Board Meeting

Division 6 – Councillor Klaas VanderVeen

February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 27 Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association Board Meeting

Division 7 – Councillor Morris Zeinstra

February 2 Lethbridge County Council Meeting
February 6-8 Alberta Irrigation Districts Association Conference
February 28 AgExpo

CLOSED SESSION:**1) Closed Session - Infrastructure Project Discussion (*FOIP Section 24 - Advice from Officials*)**

No motion was made.