



Council Brief of the April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting

Please note that this document is provided for informational purposes only and is not the approved minutes of the Lethbridge County Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

- 1) 10:00 a.m.- Wayne Petersen, Counsel, North & Co. and Maria Zavala, Employee Resources & Safety Advisor, Lethbridge County Re: Policy 180- Workplace Violence and Policy 181- Workplace Harassment**

Council approved that Policy 142- Workplace Violence be deleted and approved Policy 180- Workplace Violence (as amended) and Policy 181- Workplace Harassment. The updated policies are current and comply with all applicable legislation including Human Rights and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).

- 2) 11:00 a.m.- KPMG Re: 2019 Audited Financial Statements.**

Council approved the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 as presented by KPMG LLP.

BYLAWS:

- 1) Bylaw 20-004- Lethbridge County/Village of Barons Intermunicipal Development Plan- First Reading**

Council approved first reading of the bylaw. The IDP provides a framework for working with the Village of Barons on development that will be of mutual interest.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

- 1) Lethbridge County Public Operations Report- Budget Considerations**

Council approved that the report be deferred to the May 7, 2020 Council meeting.

- 2) 2020 Capital Projects Update**

Council received the report for information. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Administration felt it would be appropriate to review the status and financial implications of planned 2020 capital projects. All capital projects that have been approved in the 2020 Budget will move forward as planned.

- 3) Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Resolution RE: Agriculture Service Board Grant Status**

Council approved the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) resolution for the Agriculture Service Board grant funding to be presented at the RMA resolution session scheduled for April 17, 2020 as an emergent resolution.

- 4) Soil Conservation Officer Appointment/Weed and Pest Inspector Appointment**

Council approved that the County's Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Derek Vance be appointed an officer under the Soil Conservation Act and an inspector for the Agriculture Pest Act and Weed Control Act.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

- 1) Coalhurst Fire Engine 108 Replacement**

Council approved that the report be deferred to the May 7, 2020 Council meeting as some clarification was needed on the matter.

2) Public Hearing Procedure During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Council approved allowing written and oral (telephone) submissions for consideration at public hearings by allowing:

- telephone submissions at the time of the public hearing
- new e-mail and telephone submissions after the first part of the public hearing (adjourning the hearing to a set time later in the day to allow for these submissions). Once the public hearing is re-opened County Council can consider any additional submissions made and proceed with the public hearing process.

The procedure will allow for the public to participate in the public hearing process without having to physically attend the hearing itself.

3) Donation to the Family of Firefighter Jacob Sansom, Nobleford Fire Department

Council approved a donation of \$500.00 to the family of Jacob Sansom, with funds to be derived from the Council Discretionary Reserve. Nobleford Firefighter Jacob Sansom was tragically killed in March, leaving behind a wife and three children.

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1) Bylaw 20-005- 2020 Business Tax

Council approved first, second, and third readings of the bylaw. The Business Tax Bylaw has been implemented to generate municipal revenues for Lethbridge County to assist with the maintenance and improvements of its Market Access Network.

2) Bylaw 20-006- 2020 Business Tax Rate

Council approved first, second, and third reading of the bylaw. The proposed 2020 Business Tax Rate Bylaw (No. 20-006) mirrors the 2019 Business Tax Rate Bylaw (No. 19-013).

3) 2019 Year End Surplus Report

Council approved the reallocation of 2019 surplus funds from Unrestricted Surplus to Restricted Surplus (Reserves) in the amount of \$208,088. Council also approved that funds in the amount of \$101,307 received from the Town of Coaldale as per the Annexation Agreement be transferred to the Tax Equalization Reserve.

Surplus Transfer to Reserve	Amount
Utility Capital	\$148,494
Council Discretionary Reserve	\$20,000
Tax Equalization	\$39,594
SURPLUS TRANSFER TOTAL	\$213,330

Tax Equalization Reserve (Coaldale Annexation Tax Per Agreement)	\$101,307
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ADMINISTRATION:

1) Lethbridge County/City of Lethbridge Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement

Council approved the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement, which is a high-level document that identifies shared services, commits each municipality to consultation and cooperation, identifies the roles and responsibilities of both councils and provides a conflict resolution protocol.

2) Lethbridge County/Urban Municipalities Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (Picture Butte, Coaldale, Coalhurst, Barons, and Nobleford)

Council approved the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreement and signed the document.

3) Lethbridge County/Urban Municipalities Recreation Agreement (Picture Butte, Coaldale, Coalhurst, Barons, Nobleford)

Council approved the Recreation Agreement and signed the document.

4) Council Remuneration- Policy #183 (Rescind Policy #177)

Council approved that Policy #177 be rescinded and approved Policy #183. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic there have been changes in how Council duties can be performed, therefore administration recommended it would be appropriate to move Council to salaried compensation (instead of paying per diems for meetings attended as this is not feasible at this time).

Council also approved a temporary 10% salary reduction for Council members, with salaries to be reviewed once the COVID-19 pandemic is over.