



## AGENDA ITEM

# MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN & LAND USE BYLAW

## Bylaw Nos. 1318/20 and 1317/20

June 11, 2020

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### BACKGROUND

At the April 9, 2020 Council Meeting, Council gave first reading to Bylaw 1318/20 and 1317/20 to amend the County's *Municipal Development Plan* and *Land Use Bylaw*. Further, Council set a Public Hearing for the bylaw amendments on July 9, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Based on current public health guidance due to COVID-19, Alberta continues to restrict gatherings during Stage 1 of relaunch to protect Albertans' health and limit the spread of COVID-19. During Stage 1 of Alberta's relaunch, gatherings are restricted to no more than 15 people allowed in one indoor location, and must still maintain mandated physical distancing of at least 2 metres from each other.

There is potential that during Stage 2 of Alberta's relaunch, larger gatherings might be permitted in some situations, with the number of people to be determined when Stage 2 is announced. Until we are provided with further details from the province, we cannot be sure of the gathering restrictions in place for July 9, to allow all interested members of the public to attend the public hearing in person.

Council can discuss the options to proceed:

- Continue with the scheduled July 9, 2020 public hearing (allowing a number of in person participants following public health guidelines, and allowing Zoom participants); or
- Delay the scheduled public hearing until it is safe to host a larger in person public hearing.

## LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The *Municipal Government Act* gives Council the sole authority and responsibility to consider amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and the Municipal Development Plan.

Section 640(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* states that a Land Use Bylaw may prohibit or regulate and control the use and development of land and buildings within a municipality.

The *Municipal Government Act* also requires that all amendments must be passed by bylaw, and a public hearing must be held by Council to allow all interested parties to comment on the proposed amendments.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging the public through a variety of mediums and is committed to open, accountable and responsive decision making, including different levels of engagement with the public as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The levels of engagement within the policy are as follows:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.
- *Consult*: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
- *Involve*: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
- *Collaborate*: To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- *Empower*: To place final decision making in the hands of the public.

A Public Hearing allows members of the public to provide input into the proposed amendments before adoption (*Inform* and *Consult*).

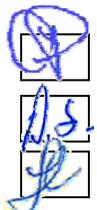
**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend that Council proceed with the July 9, 2020 (9:00 am) Public Hearing, using Zoom as an option to allow the public to participate.

**COUNCIL DECISION**

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**PREPARED BY:** Cajun Paradis, Senior Planner  
**PREPARED BY:** Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services  
**REVIEWED BY:** Tim Timmons, County Manager

Three blue ink signatures are stacked vertically, each enclosed in a small square box. The top signature is a stylized 'C' or 'P', the middle one is 'D.F.', and the bottom one is 'T.T.'.