

The regular meeting of the Lacombe County Council was called to order by Reeve Law at 9:00 a.m. on April 9, 2020 in the Council Chamber of the Lacombe County Administration Office.

Present

Present: Reeve P. Law; Deputy Reeve, K. Wigmore; Councillors, J. Ireland, D. Kreil, B. Knight, B. Shepherd and K. Stephenson; County Manager, T. Timmons; Director of Corporate Services, M. Minchin; Director of Planning Services; D. Freitag, Director of Community Services; K. Boras; County Fire Chief, D. Bussiere; and Administrative Coordinator, D.M. Grant.

**C/178/20
Agenda**

Mrs. Law inquired if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were three additions to the agenda.

5.7 Spring 2020 Resolution Session
5.8 2:30 p.m. RMA – Running Effective Virtual Meetings
5.9 Future Council Meetings

Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/179/20
Minutes**

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/180/20
COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Bussiere provided an update on the activities, strategies and plans that Lacombe County has implemented with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Bussiere also reviewed the Provincial action items that are in place. A question and discussion period took place throughout the presentation.

Mr. Timmons inquired if Council is satisfied that they are receiving enough information with regard to COVID-19 initiatives. Council agreed they are getting enough information at this time but would need notification if services were to be reduced.

9:17 a.m. Cajun Paradis entered the meeting.

Moved by Mr. Stephenson that the update on the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to Lacombe County be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

9:20 a.m. Mr. Bussiere withdrew from the meeting.

**C/181/20
MPC Structure
Tabled – Motion Lost**

Ms. Paradis advised that as per Council direction, Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) structures in other municipalities, specifically in terms of when MPC meetings are held and who sits on the MPC has been researched by staff.

Ms. Paradis provided an overview of the research and analysis undertaken on several other municipalities' MPC's with regard to 1) the number of meetings per month, 2) composition of MPC and 3) scheduling of meetings.

Currently Lacombe County MPC meetings are held during regular Council meeting hours, twice per month, or less frequently based on application volumes. The Lacombe County MPC is composed of the seven members of Council. Ms. Paradis addressed questions of Council.

Council discussion took place.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the matter of the Municipal Planning Commission structure be tabled.

Motion Lost.

**C/182/20
MPC Structure
Maintained**

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the existing Municipal Planning Commission structure be maintained; and further that this matter be reviewed at the October 2020 Council Organizational meeting.

Carried.

**C/183/20
Social Services
Support for COVID-19**

Mr. Minchin informed Council that the provincial government has just recently announced that they will be providing \$30 million to municipalities, charitable and non-profit organizations to provide help to individuals, seniors, families and other vulnerable Albertans who are isolated or impacted by measures to contain COVID-19. Fourteen million of this funding will go to the Family and Community Support Services Association (FCSSAA) for municipalities and Metis settlements outside of Edmonton and Calgary (one-time grant).

Lacombe and District FCSS has indicated that organizations from Lacombe County could submit their application to the closest urban FCSS office (Alix, Bentley, Blackfalds, Eckville, Lacombe) rather than the County office. The office who receives the application will determine the merits of the program and provide a recommendation to FCSSAA. Mr. Minchin addressed questions of Council.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the County Manager be directed to promote the Social Services Support for the COVID-19 Program to County organizations; and further, that inquiries be directed to local urban FCSS agencies.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/184/20
Just Freehold Energy
Property Tax
Cancellation**

Mr. Minchin advised that on May 3, 2019, Trident Exploration Corporation was placed into Receivership. Lacombe County was one of the municipalities affected by that receivership. Unlike other municipalities however, the County's exposure was limited to a small number of wells with only the 2019 property taxes outstanding.

Lacombe County has expected that most of the wells in the County would be retained by the Orphan Well Association and that the County would not recoup any taxes from these sites. On April 1, 2020 the County was advised that three well sites had been conditionally sold to Just Freehold Energy. The company is now seeking the cancellation of the outstanding 2019 and a portion of the 2020 taxes.

As part of the order issued by the Court, the outstanding taxes as well as the portion for the 2020 taxes related to the wells prior to the purchase date are effectively cancelled by the Sales Order. Just Freehold Energy is now seeking formal approval from municipalities to confirm that these taxes are not the responsibility of Just Freehold. Mr. Minchin addressed questions of Council.

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the request of Just Freehold Energy Corp. to cancel the 2019 property taxes and penalties for well sites located at 13-32-39-26 W4M and 06-12-40-27 W4M in the amount of \$1,927.56; and further, that the request of Just Freehold Energy Corp. to cancel the 2020 prorated property taxes for the well sites located at 13-32-39-26 W4M and 06-12-40-27 W4M subject to Freehold Energy providing confirmation of the purchase of the assets and date of closing be approved.

Carried.

**C/185/20
MPC**

Moved by Mr. Stephenson that the meeting recess in order to conduct a Municipal Planning Commission meeting.
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/186/20
Reconvene**

Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the meeting reconvene.
Time: 1:15 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

1:15 a.m. Bill Cade entered the meeting.

**C/187/20
Proposed 2020 Tax
Rates**

Mr. Minchin provided a report on the proposed 2020 tax rates. Mr. Minchin commented that the combination of the global pandemic and the uncertainty of the oil industry will have a major impact on all levels of government including Lacombe County. Council was presented with potential scenarios for determining the 2020 tax rates. Administration will be bringing a full analysis to Council at its first meeting in May including adjustments to operational expenses. A question and discussion period took place.

Moved by Mr. Wigmore that report on the proposed 2020 tax rates be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/188/20
Missing Link Internet
Collaboration –
Motion Lost**

Mr. Timmons advised that Missing Link Internet is an internet company based out of Rimbey and provides internet services in Central Alberta, including Lacombe County. Missing Link is wishing to apply for a Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) grant to install fibre optic cable in an area(s) of the County as determined by Lacombe County.

Missing Link is of the view that having Lacombe County participate as a funding partner on these projects would improve the chances of the grant application being approved. If Council is open to considering this request Missing Link would like the County to identify a project or projects. Missing Link will then prepare a formal proposal for Council's consideration and if Council is supportive of it a grant application will be submitted. The application deadline is April 30, 2020. The project(s) would only proceed if the grant application was successful. Mr. Timmons addressed questions of Council. Council discussion took place.

1:50 p.m. Mr. Boras withdrew from the meeting. Cajun Paradis entered the meeting.

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the County Manager be directed to collaborate with Missing Link Internet in the development of a fibre optic project(s) proposal for the purpose of applying for a CRTC Broadband Fund Grant; and further, that this proposal be considered by Lacombe County Council at the April 23, 2020 Council meeting.

Motion Lost.

2:00 p.m. Mr. Cade withdrew from the meeting.

**C/189/90
RMA 2020 Spring
Resolutions Session**

Mr. Timmons advised that the RMA 2020 Spring resolutions were to be considered at the Spring Convention from March 16 -18, 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Convention was cancelled. As such, a session to consider the resolutions will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 24, 2020.

Moved by Mrs. Knight to convene a special Council meeting for the purpose of participating in the RMA 2020 Spring Resolution virtual meeting on April 24, 2020 commencing at 1:45 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

A discussion took place in regard to continuing to hold live Council meetings or changing to virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**C/190/90
Council Meetings
COVID-19**

Moved by Mr. Ireland that Council continue to convene live Council meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Carried.

**C/191/90
LUB & MDP Bylaws
2019 Review**

Ms. Paradis advised that the County's *Municipal Development Plan* (MDP) and *Land Use Bylaw* (LUB) were adopted in July 2017. Policy MUNI 8.3.2 requires an annual review and report based on the findings of the Monitoring Matrix of the MDP. The matrix was created to test the success or failure of the policies within the plans and to indicate if the policies are meeting the plan's objectives.

At the February 13, 2020 Council meeting a review of the *Municipal Development Plan & Land Use Bylaw 2019 Review - Annual Report & Monitoring Matrix* was presented for Council's consideration. This review has identified some areas for improvement in the plans, to which amendments are proposed. Bylaw 1318/20 proposes a number of amendments to the MDP and Bylaw 1317/20 proposes a number of amendments to the LUB.

At that meeting Council requested that Bylaw 1317/20 be revised to include adding setback requirements from cannabis production facilities in the Agricultural 'A' District and Hamlet Industrial 'I-H' District to residential uses. Ms. Paradis provided an overview of those revisions.

2:30 p.m. Council participated in a webinar presented by the RMA on Running Effective Virtual Meetings. Time out: 2:58 p.m.

Ms. Paradis continued with 2019 Review of LUB and MDP.

Ms. Paradis addressed questions of Council.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the Municipal Development Plan & Land Use Bylaws 2019 Review - Annual Report & Monitoring Matrix be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/192/20
Bylaw 1317/20
First Reading**

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that Bylaw No. 1317/20, a bylaw of Lacombe County to amend the Lacombe County Land Use Bylaw No. 1237/17 as it relates to general regulations and district requirements

now be read a first time.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/193/20
Bylaw No. 1318/20
First Reading**

Moved by Mr. Ireland that Bylaw No. 1318/20, a bylaw of Lacombe County to amend the Lacombe County Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1238/17 as it relates to general regulations and district requirements

now be read a first time.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/194/20
Bylaw Nos. 1317/20 &
1318/20
Public Hearing**

Moved by Mr. Stephenson that in the matter of Bylaw Nos. 1317/20 and 1318/20:

- 1) that a public hearing be held on July 9, 2020 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Lacombe County Administration office;**
- 2) any person present at the public hearing will be heard upon recognition of the Chair; and**
- 3) the publication of the notice of the public hearing be advertised in local papers.**

Carried Unanimously.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Freitag and Ms. Paradis withdrew from the meeting.

Council Reports

Mr. Wigmore reported on the following:

- Parkland Regional Library meetings via zoom
- North Red Deer Regional Wastewater and Water

Mrs. Kreil reported on the following:

- Rimbey RCMP Consultative Group Meeting
- Eckville Library via zoom

Mr. Stephenson had nothing to report.

Mrs. Knight reported on the following:

- Social Media Webinar
- CAEP

Mr. Ireland reported on the following.

- PAMZ – upcoming meeting

Ms. Shepherd reported on the following:

- Blackfalds & District Recreation, Parks & Culture Board
- Ellis Bird Farm Conference Calls

Mrs. Law reported on the following:

- Prairie Dog Sports
- Lacombe & District Recreation, Parks & Culture Board
- Lacombe Airport
- Lacombe Foundation Conference Call

**C/195/20
Agenda Item
Follow-up**

Moved by Mr. Stephenson that the Agenda Item Follow-up be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/196/20
Consent Agenda**

Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Inquiries

Ms. Shepherd referred to the FCM's request for the submission of shovel ready projects that may be eligible for Federal funding. Mr. Timmons advised a list will be compiled and presented to Council at the April 23, 2020 Council meeting.

Mr. Stephenson advised that a resident of Blissful Beach has inquired if there will be another years' extension for tying into the communal system and paying for this service. Mr. Timmons advised that with regard to the Sylvan Lake and Lacombe West communal systems it would appropriate to have the discussion around deferring tying into the systems and the payment timelines at an upcoming Council meeting.

**C/197/20
In-camera**

**Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the meeting recess in order to meet In-camera for the purpose of discussing advice from officials.
Time: 3:52 p.m.**

Carried Unanimously.

**C/198/20
Reconvene**

**Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the meeting reconvene.
Time: 4:05**

Carried Unanimously.

**C/199/20
Past 4:00 p.m.**

Moved by Ms. Shepherd that the meeting go past 4:00 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/200/20
Adjourn**

**Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the meeting adjourn.
Time: 4.05 p.m.**

Carried Unanimously.

Reeve

County Manager