



AGENDA ITEM

Lacombe County

Fire Protection and Emergency Response Bylaw

March 11, 2021

BACKGROUND

The current *Fire Protection and Emergency Response Bylaw* was approved by Council in 2015. Since then, there has been numerous name, language and definition changes that require updating within the bylaw. In addition to this the province has adopted the National Fire Code – Alberta Edition which makes certain references in the current bylaw obsolete.

ANALYSIS

Many of the changes within the bylaw involve updates to names and positions such as County Commissioner changing to County Manager. As well, the definition of Peace Officer was added in replacement of Enforcement Officer and other definitions were updated to more recent standards.

Section 8 was shortened significantly with the removal of redundancies with Provincial legislation. By removing this verbiage and referencing the legislation the need for more frequent updates to this section is eliminated.

The current bylaw also has many references to the Alberta Fire Code, which, since the adoption of the National Fire Code – Alberta Edition are now outdated. The most significant change presented from this is the removal of fireworks regulations from the fire code. As a result, Municipalities are responsible for deciding to permit and regulate the sale and discharge of low hazard fireworks within the municipality. This has resulted in various approaches throughout the province with some municipalities choosing to disallow the use of these fireworks within their boundaries, others choosing to continue issuing permits for the use of these fireworks and some others choosing to eliminate the need for low-hazard fireworks permits.



Lacombe County's current practice is to issue permits for the sale and discharge of consumer fireworks and, wording changes have been made to the bylaw to reflect the continuation of this practice if that is the will of Council.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) That Council approve the *Lacombe County Fire and Emergency Response Bylaw* by giving three readings at this meeting.
- 2) That Council direct the County Manager to amend the *Lacombe County Fire Protection and Emergency Response Bylaw* to discontinue the practice of requiring permits for the discharging of low-hazard consumer fireworks.
- 3) The Council give first reading to the *Fire Protection and Emergency Response Bylaw* with amendments as directed by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications to the current budget with this bylaw update.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Section 5(b) of the MGA states that a municipality has the duties that are imposed on it by the MGA and other enactments and those that the municipality imposes on itself as a matter of policy.

Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each



public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform:* To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of Lacombe County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: “An attractive, balanced, and progressive community”.

Our Mission: “To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships”.

Our Key Principles: “Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the *Lacombe County Fire and Emergency Response Bylaw* by giving three readings at this meeting.

PREPARED BY: Drayton Bussiere, County Fire Chief



REVIEWED BY: Keith Boras, Director of Community Services



REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

