



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 26, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Administration Update on COVID 19 Pandemic

The County Service Centre and Public Works office remain closed to the public. Staff are working in the office and can be contacted by phone at the County office at 780-663-3730, or by e-mail at administration@beaver.ab.ca.

Council was advised of 2 recent announcements:

1. The 14-day self-isolation period for travelers returning to Canada from out-of-country is now mandatory.
2. To protect the health and safety of Albertans, law enforcement agencies now have full authority to enforce public health orders and issue fines for violations. The County's Community Peace Officers have also been given this authority.

To report a violation of a public health order, go to www.alberta.ca/preventthespread.

Council Update on COVID 19 Pandemic

Council provided an update on the following Committees and how they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Beaver Municipal Services
- Beaver Emergency Services Commission
- Tofield/Ryley/Beaver West Family Community Support Services
- Beaver Foundation
- Beaver Ambulance Society

Alberta Education Tax Deferral

At the March 24, 2020, Special Council meeting, Council had discussed a recent announcement by the Alberta Government that in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, it is freezing the Education Property Tax at 2019 levels. The government expects municipalities to set education property tax rates on non-residential taxes as they normally would, but defer collection for six months. Earlier in the year, the Province had announced an increase to the 2020 Education Requisition.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs also suggested municipalities defer collection of municipal taxes on non-residential properties.

Council asked for information regarding the impact of this announcement on County taxpayers. Details of the tax deferral program are not known at this time.

Council passed a motion that a letter be forwarded to MLA Jackie Lovely, Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, requesting that the Province cancel the new policing model for 2020 and make a provision that the education property tax for non-residential properties be forwarded to the Province only once it is collected by the municipalities.

Fees for Services Bylaw - Bylaw 20-1084

Council passed third and final reading of the Fees for Services Bylaw – Bylaw 20-1084.

The Fees for Services Bylaw – Bylaw 20-1084 reflects a change to the fee paid for Dust Control - residents will pay 100% of the cost of the dust control product in 2020.

Operating and Capital Reserves Policy

Council approved the amended *Operating and Capital Reserves Policy*.

2020 Public Works Construction Schedule

Council deferred the matter of the 2020 Public Works Construction Schedule to the April 15, 2020, Regular Council meeting.

April 1, 2020 Council Meeting Location

Council will continue to hold their Council meeting via teleconference to respect social distancing guidelines. The public may attend Council Chambers to listen to Council proceedings. Social distancing measures will be implemented and seating is limited.

Offer to Purchase Property – Plan 062 8158;1;1 in SE 14-47-16-W4

Council accepted an offer to purchase Plan 062 8158, Block 1, Lot 1. The property had been seized under tax recovery and tendered for sale.

Offer to Purchase Telecommunication Tower

Council agreed to hold a public hearing regarding an offer to lease the site of the telecommunication tower in the Whispering Hills subdivision in NE 19-51-19-W4. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, no date was set for the public hearing.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020, commencing at 8:30 am. Please note: this meeting will be conducted via teleconference. The public may attend Council Chambers to listen to Council proceedings. Social distancing measures will be implemented and seating is limited.

For more information, contact Beaver County toll free at 1-866-663-1333 or 780-663-3730.
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www.beaver.ab.ca