

Council Highlights



Regular Council Meeting of December 16, 2020

Council Highlights briefly identify decisions made by Council. Council encourages its residents, businesses and stakeholders to keep in touch with Council news.

2021-2023 Business Plan and Budget—First Draft

Council reviewed the first draft of the 2021-2023 Business Plan and Budget with additional options for consideration as follows:

- Council approved that under the Legislative Services budget, to not include the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Council in 2021.
- Council defeated a motion that under the Corporate Services budget, to further reduce the Contracted/General Services budget to the 2019 actual amount of \$1,130,990, less 10%, which equates to a 15% reduction on the current proposed budget of \$1,193,300.
- Council defeated a motion that under the Fire Protection budget, to reduce the 2021 budget of \$904,100 to be equivalent to the 2019 actual budget of \$502,285 and \$600,000 for 2022 and 2023.
- Council defeated a motion that the grader maintenance areas remain at ten (10).
- Council approved to proceed to decrease the grader maintenance areas from 10 to 9.
- Council approved that the following streets in Galahad and Strome will be dust free utilizing cold mix with no seal coat:
 - Hamlet of Galahad:
 - Sir Galahad Street (Main Street) from Guinevere Avenue West to SH 861
 - Lady Helen Avenue East (Health Care Centre) from Sir Galahad Street to King Arthur Street
 - Hamlet of Strome:
 - 50th Street (Main Street) from 50th Avenue north to 52nd Avenue
 - Highway Access Road from Highway 13 north to 50th Avenue
 - 52nd Avenue from Rge Rd 151 west to the west boundary of the hamletOnce the inventory of recycled oil is depleted, all other streets will be reverted to a gravel surface road once the surface has dehydrated.
- Council approved to continue the current service level for residential dust controls, arterial residential dust controls and strategic locations as follows:
 1. Provide residential dust controls at 100% cost recovery.
 2. Provide arterial road residential dust controls at 100% cost recovery.
 3. Continue to apply MG 30 dust suppressant product at strategic locations.
- Council approved to continue providing one application of MG 30 to designated roads within the Towns and Villages as per Policy PW 009, at full cost recovery.
- Council approved to reduce the recreation grant to the Agricultural Societies by 5% for 2021.
- Council approved to discontinue funding of \$6,000 to the Flagstaff Library Board.
- Council defeated a motion to not discontinue the rental subsidy of \$36,000 for healthcare professional's for 2021.
- Council approved that the Shelterbelt program continue with 100% cost recovery for a savings of \$12,500.
- Council approved to discontinue the Health and Wellness benefit for full-time staff, for a savings of \$27,000.
- Council defeated a motion to freeze the current grid and remove Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and to review current policy HR001 with revisions presented to council for approval in 2021.
- Council approved to review current policy HR001 in 2021 with revisions to be presented in 2021 for council approval.
- Council approved to continue with the current roadside mowing program twice per year.
- Council approved to continue with the custom weed spraying and change the costing formula to closer reflect actual costs to the county and include all additional time.
- Council approved the Strome and Galahad Hamlet utility rates as follows:
 - decrease the maximum cubic meters from 20m³ to 15m³;
 - increase the water fixed rate to \$69.00/month plus \$4.00/m³ for every cubic meter over 12m³;
 - increase the water infrastructure fee to \$32.00/month
 - increase the sewer fixed rate to \$17.25/month
- Council approved to put the following items in the Strategic Plan on hold:
 - Develop Environmental Sustainability Framework
 - Review Social Sustainability Framework

Once approved, the full Council Meeting minutes can be found at www.flagstaff.ab.ca under the "Council" tab and in the "Meetings and Minutes" section.

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Public Input for the 2021 Business Plan and Budget

As part of the revised Public Participation Plan for the purpose of informing the public regarding Council's development of the 2021 Business Plan and budget, an online survey will be conducted to obtain public input on specified issues identified by Council.

Allocation of Funds

Council approved to authorize the allocation of funds for municipal expenditures, pursuant to section 248(1)(a) of the municipal government act, chapter m-26, 2000 as follows:

- WHEREAS it is anticipated that the estimates of the County for Municipal and all other purposes will not be finalized until February 2021; now
- THEREFORE the Council of Flagstaff County hereby approve the temporary allocation of \$3,000,000.00 for Municipal and all other purposes to take care of all necessary expenditures of the Council until such time as the 2021 estimates and budget for Flagstaff County has been made and adopted for the year 2021.

Broadband Internet—Strategic Options to Enhance Service

Flagstaff County will work with Taylor Warwick Consulting Limited to further investigate partnering with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to develop an integrated hybrid fibre-wireless network using the remaining previously approved broadband funding to be carried over to 2021.

Strome Post Office

Council defeated a motion to tender for the sale of the Strome Office/Post Office building and explore the option of adding a First Right of Refusal for Josee Milroy, Postmaster for the Strome Post Office.

Council approved to tender for the sale of the Strome Office/Post Office building.

Schedule of 2021 Regular Council Meetings

Council scheduled the following dates for regular council meetings to be held in 2021 as follows:

January 13 and 27, February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24, April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26, June 9 and 23, July 14, August 11, September 8 and 22, October 13 and 27, November 10 and 24, and December 15.

2020 Cancellation of Taxes

Council approved to cancel taxes and penalties in the amount of \$49,680.91 from the following companies:

- Canadian Coyote Energy Ltd - \$6,709.37 (Roll #'s 803990, 804130, 808010, 808020, 810570, 811630)
- Dreadnought Energy Inc - \$1,105.04 (Roll #'s 805950, 805970, 805990)
- Elcano Exploration Inc - \$31,492.47 (Roll #'s 732410, 801430, 801450)
- Elmdale Resources Ltd - \$1,854.07 (Roll # 730910)
- Incipient Exploration Ltd - \$1,828.16 (Roll #'s 725610, 809160)
- Ohana Resources Inc - \$790.37 (Roll # 733160)
- Petrocapita GP I Ltd - \$1,009.51 (Roll # 733200)
- Sedna Oil and Gas Ltd - \$3,871.10 (Roll # 805720)
- Valparaiso Energy Ltd - \$1,020.82 (Roll # 731300)

Stars Foundation—Request for Continued Funding

Council approved to continue to fund STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society) in 2021, in the amount of \$2.00/capita based on the official County population of 3,738.

Business Investment Tax Credit

Flagstaff County will approach Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to assist in further advocacy efforts towards the establishment of a Business Investment Tax Credit for Rural Co-ops.

Town of Daysland Stormwater Master Plan ACP Grant

Flagstaff County will partner with the Town of Daysland in the submission of their Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant application in the amount of \$200,000 for a Stormwater Master Plan and upon grant approval proceed with tendering for this project as it exceeds \$75,000.

Killam and District Health Care Foundation—Request for Funding

Council approved to request the Killam & District Health Care Foundation to present the senior's housing project and discuss the loan request for the construction of the senior's housing project at the next Council meeting.

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