

# Council Highlights

**April 3 2023**

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Bylaw 12/2023 ~ 304 First Street ~ Land Use Amendment**

An application was received for a land use amendment for 304 First Street East to re-designate the property from Residential Mix (R-MX) District to Commercial Transition (C-T) District.

The C-T District allows for the development of low intensity commercial, office and service uses that border mature residential neighbourhoods. The subject property is 0.25 acres with a single detached dwelling and has been used for residential purposes. The applicant has indicated that the intent is to use the existing heritage building on-site to operate a Health Care Office. However, it should be noted that any proposed development will be reviewed against the Land Use Bylaw through a separate development process.

### **Bylaw 13/2023 ~ 313 Ross Avenue ~ Land Use Amendment**

An application was received for a land use amendment for 313 Ross Avenue to redesignate the property from Residential Mix (R-MX) to Commercial Transition (C-T).

The property is 0.11 acres with a single detached dwelling and has been used for residential purposes. The applicant has indicated that the intent is to use the existing building to operate Professional Offices. It should be noted that any proposed development will be reviewed against the Land Use Bylaw through a separate development process.

### **Bylaw 14/2023 ~ Smoking Bylaw Amendment**

The smoking bylaw amendment is being brought forward in response to a request from Spray Lakes Sports Centre (SLSC), in response to the challenges they have experienced enforcing the current bylaw. The current Smoking Bylaw prohibits smoking on the property of a public recreation facility and does not allow for cigarette butt receptacles in areas where smoking is prohibited.

Both SLSC and the Cochrane Arena are identified as public recreation facilities within the current bylaw.

Since its adoption, the Bylaw has not been successful in achieving its original intention of stopping the behaviour and remains difficult to enforce. Smoking remains prevalent at both SLSC and Cochrane Arena and in the absence of receptacles to guide smokers to an appropriate place, many smoke directly outside the entry doors. Additionally, with receptacles not available, the butts end up on the ground outside of the main entrances.

Administration supports SLSC's request for this bylaw amendment which will allow for receptacles to be placed at both SLSC and Cochrane Arena. If approved, the receptacles will be required to be placed at least 5 metres away from public entrances in accordance with remaining bylaw provisions.

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#### Cochrane EMS Citizen Action Group Request

Administration provided a report to Council in response to the presentation made on February 6, 2023 by the Cochrane EMS Crisis Citizen Action Group. At that meeting, Council requested that Administration provide information related to Cochrane Fire Service's level of service and options in relation to fire medical response and possibilities related to a Fire Paramedic Response Vehicle.

Cochrane Fire Services (CFS) participates in the Medical First Response (MFR) / Emergency Medical Response (EMR) program. This means that medical first response is the response of an emergency services agency to medical calls in the absence of an ambulance or where arrival of an ambulance may be delayed.

Administration has thoroughly reviewed the current state of emergency medical response in Cochrane. The number of events where fire services employees and apparatus have been on-scene alone waiting for an ambulance has steadily been increasing throughout Cochrane over the past few years.

The department is currently equipped with a Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) which can accommodate a patient while stationary, basic life supports medical kit and a defibrillator. This vehicle is the primary apparatus used when responding to EMS calls when staffing levels allow.

While Administration appreciates the sentiment shared by the Citizen Action Group with respect to securing a community asset that could provide patient transport, the primary challenge impacting EMS response times is delays experienced by paramedics when transferring a patient from their care over to hospital care. Adding this level of service to CFS would result in our personnel and equipment being added to the backlog in Calgary when transporting to hospital.

Conversion of the current apparatus to allow patient transport would be complex and potentially costly. The estimated cost to purchase an ambulance is \$300,000 with an estimated wait time of two-years for delivery.

If Council wishes to increase support for medical first response, a change to our Fire Services - Level of Service policy could be made to upgrade our level of service from FMR/EMR level to full scope Basic Life Support (BLS). This change to the service level policy would require some additional refresher training, but would not result in significant Capital investment or operating costs.

Council requested Administration prepare an update to the policy to be brought back to a future Council meeting for consideration.