

Council Highlights

May 8 2023

Public Hearing: Bylaw 12/2023 ~ 304 First Street East - Land Use Bylaw Amendment

A public hearing was held regarding a proposed land use amendment at 304 First Street East which is currently designated as Residential Mix (R-MX) District. Bylaw 12/2023 would re-designate these lands to Commercial Transition (C-T) District. This amendment would facilitate the re-development of 304 First Street East where the primary uses would be low intensity commercial, office and service.

Public Hearing: Bylaw 13/2023 ~ 313 Ross Avenue - Land Use Bylaw Amendment

A public hearing was held regarding a proposed land use amendment at 313 Ross Avenue which is currently designated as Residential Mix (R-MX) District. Bylaw 13/2023 would re-designate these lands to Commercial Transition (C-T) District and allow for low intensity commercial, office and service uses.

Regular Meeting of Council

Bylaw 06/2023 Annual Tax Rate Bylaw

Council gave all three readings to bylaw 06/2023 to set the 2023 tax rate, which reflects an increase of 3.85%. Property tax bills will be mailed by May 30 and are due by June 30.

A review of comparative Alberta municipalities demonstrated that Cochrane's property tax rate remains lower than most.

The average residential property saw an increase in its assessed value to \$561,200 from \$495,700 and should expect to see an increase of \$143.19/year or \$11.93/month in overall property taxes.

Bylaw 07/2023 Annual Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) Tax Rate Bylaw

Council gave all three readings to bylaw 07/2023 setting the tax rates for properties included in the Community Revitalization Levy (CRL) zone.

Of the property taxes collected from properties in the CRL zone, the Town maintains the portion of funds normally allocated to Alberta Education. Since approved in 2012, the Town has recognized more than \$7.5M in CRL revenue which is allocated to specific community improvement projects in the CRL zone.

Bylaw 09/2023 CRL Supplementary Tax Bylaw

Council gave all three readings to bylaw 09/2023. This bylaw permits the supplementary taxation of new CRL properties, in the same way other new properties are supplementary taxed upon completion.

Notice of Motion: Expense Reporting

Councillor Wilson brought forward a notice of motion that administration be tasked with proposing updated policies related to Cochrane's Mayor & Council & ADMIN expenses, conference/travel & training budgets, and online Councillor/Mayor/CAO expense reporting incorporating municipal best practices. Administration will bring back a report to the July 3rd Committee of the Whole meeting.

Notice of Motion: Cyclists

Councillor Nagel brought forward a notice of motion that Council direct Administration to prepare a report to Council on a potential bylaw amendment that would allow cyclists to use sidewalks provided there are no bike lanes available and that the cyclists have proper bells installed and that this report would be presented to Council by the end of June. This motion will be delayed until the May 23rd regular meeting of Council.