

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Monday July 12, 2021



OFFSITE LEVY BYLAW

At the June 21, Committee of the Whole, Council was presented with proposed Bylaw 09/2021 Off-Site Levies, which was subsequently given first reading on June 28, 2021.

The current off-site levy (OSL) bylaw 07/2018 was passed on May 28, 2018. It is fiscally prudent to periodically review this bylaw to update projects, their costs, timing, and other assumptions that are part of the rate calculations.

The OSL bylaw includes approximately \$184 million in capital projects over the next 20 years resulting from growth, in whole or in part, financed by the Town. An additional \$9 million in projects to be initially funded by developers are also considered.

Major changes in the proposed bylaw update include:

- three new highway intersections
- River Heights reservoir
- removal of the Community Enhancement Fee and the Centre Ave grade-separated project
- future widening of the Jack Tennant Memorial Bridge.
- updated project costs, including the Protective Services Building and HWY 1A projects.
- updated grant funding assumptions for the wastewater pipeline project
- updated inflation and borrowing interest rates to reflect current and anticipated economic impacts
- opportunities for developers to front-end qualifying intersection projects ahead of full levies being collected for them

Council adopted Bylaw 09/2021 and the new off-site levy rates will now come into effect.

FRONT-ENDING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE OFF-SITE LEVIES

Council adopted Policy 1708-01 Front-ending Infrastructure Within the Off-Site Levies Bylaw, which includes opportunities for developers to front-end qualifying infrastructure projects ahead of full levies being collected for them.

The purpose for this policy is to provide direction around when infrastructure included within the OSL Bylaw may be front-ended by developers, and the way in which the costs of doing so may be recovered over time and repaid to the front-ending developers without impacting the Town's debt position.

The following projects have been included in the OSL Bylaw through this recent update, that are not intended to be front-ended by the Town unless and until fully funded through the Off-Site Levies:

- River Heights Reservoir and Pump Station
- Other Highway Intersections

2020 RCMP ANNUAL MAYOR'S REPORT

As part of the Municipal Policing agreement and relationship, each year the RCMP provide a statistical report on prior-year activities and events for Council's information.

Inspector Dave Brunner presented the 2020 statistical information on policing trends, and provide insight into successes and challenges experienced in 2020:

- File counts: 6,880 files between January – December of 2020, which is a decrease of 14.6% compared to 2019 (8,057 files)
- Traffic offences: highest reported category of offence with 1,002 on 2020, down from 3,191 in 2019
- Increase in mental health calls from 161 in 2019 to 210 in 2020. an increase of 23.4%
- Wellbeing Checks increased from 97 (2019) to 119 (2020) an increase of 18.5%
- Cochrane and Area Victim Services: opened 588 files in Cochrane with 58% or 248 files domestic violence related
- Through COVID, there was a noticeable drop in property related crime in Cochrane

DOWNTOWN BOULEVARD PROJECT

As part of the 2016 Council approved spring budget adjustments, the Downtown Revitalization project was approved with a budget of \$840,000. This project was to complete Phase 1 (Main street tree and seeding additions, Fourth Ave closure upgrade, 1 primary and 1 secondary entry feature). The project was wrapped up in 2019 with a total cost of \$801,060.

In 2020, additional work was required due to pedestrian safety concerns, tree plantings not surviving, and beds in the sidewalks being damaged.

Council approved funding the \$54,560 Downtown Boulevard Project from the Downtown Revitalization Capital Reserve.

CENTENNIAL PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - FUNDING REQUEST

This project looks to update accessible playground equipment and replace the protective surfacing zone in the accessible playground located on the east side of Centennial Park.

Council approved up to \$20,000 to cover any shortfall in funding of the Playground Equipment project being fundraised by the Variety Charity, funding to be allocated from the Parks Infrastructure Capital Reserve.

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Council Highlights is prepared by Town of Cochrane Legislative Services.
Questions or comments: 403-851-2500 or legislative@cochrane.ca



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COCHRANE CORRIDORS PLAN

In 2019, Town Administration initiated the Corridor Plan project to assess and define the long-term aspirations, including potential future design and function, of four main corridors in town:

- Fifth Avenue
- Railway Street
- River Avenue
- Griffin Road

The project was kicked-off and proceeded with public engagement and drafting of 'visions' for each corridor before being paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was re-launched in May 2021 with the completion of the draft Corridor Plan and re-engaging the public and stakeholders. The plan outlines a vision and core planning principles to establish the potential of what these corridors can become in the future. The plan acts as a guide for future planning and development decision making.

Council adopted the Cochrane Corridor Plan with a two-year review period.

HERITAGE HILLS STAGE 2 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AMENDMENT

The Heritage Hills Stage 2 Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2016. Since that time development has been occurring within the Plan area. A developer recently approached the Town to request minor amendments to the Stage 2 Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposed amendments:

- change one block of homes currently proposed for townhomes to semi-detached to meet market demand
- change to the Garden Lot product to remove the provision for sidewalks and include more details on rear public access to the homes

Council established a Non-Statutory Public Hearing for the Heritage Hills Stage 2 Neighbourhood Plan amendment for Monday September 13, 2021 at 6:00pm.

BACK-UP ALARMS

Discussion and consideration related to Back-up Alarms and their use in Cochrane has been ongoing for a number of years. New technology and the use of broadband style alarms have been implemented by some businesses to minimize the impacts of their operations on surrounding residents.

Administration has researched options and implications with implementing a bylaw that prohibits the use of all back up beepers, except for the Broadband style. Council directed administration to develop a Broadband beeper rebate program for consideration in the 2022 Budget process.

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