July 10, 2023

Public Hearing - Bylaw 16/2023 – Downtown Road Closure

The purpose of the road closure is to close an undeveloped road allowance and consolidate it with 639 First Street East to create one larger parcel for future development. Council gave First Reading of the Bylaw on June 26. All comments received will be submitted to the Minister of Transportation as part of the request for approval.

Bylaw 18/2023 – Water Utility Bylaw Amendment

Council gave Second and Third Reading to Bylaw 18/2023, Water Utility Bylaw Amendment. The Amendment is required to support Cochrane's 25-year growth and water supply requirements, the Town needs to acquire new water licences.

Water Licence Connection Fees will be used as an allowable and defensible mechanism to fund the acquisition of new water licences. The Connection Fees will be based on the size of the water meter. The implementation of Connection Fees will begin on September 1, 2023.

Municipal Development Plan – Naming & Branding

Council reviewed and approved the naming and visualization of the new Municipal Development Plan.

Telecommunication Tower – 7 River Heights Drive

Council approved the request to issue a Letter of Concurrence for a Type A Telecommunication structure located at 7 River Heights Drive with the additional requirement of a solid fence along the eastern boundary.

Public notification letters were mailed out the landowners on May 15, 2023 and the Open House meeting was held at the St. Mary's Catholic Church at 10 River Heights Drive on May 31.

Cochrane Ranche ClubHouse Use Opportunities

The Cochrane Ranche Clubhouse is a building located on the historic Ranche site. It was originally built in 1909 and was used as a gathering place for the local community, hosting social events such as dances and meetings. The space is suited to offer a limited range of community programming.

Expanding the opportunity for local community groups to use the space meets Cochrane's commitment to bringing people together physically and socially. Increasing the use of the Clubhouse would support and enhance community events and promote neighborhood connections and sense of place.

Council approved Administration's request for a public competition process for Community Groups to put forward submissions to lease/occupy the space with the final decision being made by Council in a September meeting.

Glenpatrick Drive Infrastructure Replacement Project Update

Council approved the deferral of the Glenpatrick Drive Infrastructure Replacement, Glenpatrick Road and Glenhill Drive Intersection Upgrades and the Glenbow Drive Flood Mitigation projects, which were approved as part of the 2023 Capital Budget.

This decision will allow Administration the opportunity to address inconsistencies raised in an annual audit, re-engage the impacted community on the project and ensure a comprehensive plan that delivers long term value to residents, Council and the Cochrane community.

Council Highlights is a summary of actions and decisions; it is not an official record of the meeting. For the full archive of agendas and minutes, visit cochrane.ca/agendas.

Questions or comments: 403-851-2500 or legislative@cochrane.ca

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HOW THE WEST IS NOW

July 10, 2023
Regular Council Meeting

Budget Engagement

Council were presented with the findings of the Budget Survey report from Advanis. The primary purpose of the survey was to assess the views of residents concerning the budgetary planning process for the 2024 budget. The survey was available from May 23 to June 19. Residents were able to participate in three ways:

- Random phone call from Advanis, through a set of landline and mobile telephone numbers.

- Opting to provide feedback through a QR code link that was included on a postcard delivered to every Cochrane household. This information was also directly coordinated through Advanis.

- An online survey posted on Let's Talk Cochrane.

- Number of respondents included 448 via random phone call, 196 via the postcard QR code and 38 via Let's Talk Cochrane.

2024-2026 Budget Process

Council approved the budget date schedule which provides Administration direction for preparation of the 2024 - 2026 operating and capital budgets from the present through to the publication of the final budget document.

Fiscal Health Analysis Funding Request

Council approved funding of up to $100,000 to undertake a fiscal health analysis of the community. This amount will be funded from the Operational Reserves. Mapping and analyzing the financial health of a community is crucial for policymakers and practitioners to prioritize capital improvements and make informed decisions about community design. By processing tax assessment data, along with additional economic metrics such as retail sales and income, we can gather data to provide a comprehensive examination of fiscal health.

Undertaking a fiscal health analysis activity would include a consultant using existing data from multiple departments within the organization in order to provide the Town with data sets which may include a 2D and 3D graphic visualization of the land uses within the Town, value per acre and productivity comparisons, the economic potency of the downtown core as a ratio, comparative analysis of varying housing typologies and an analysis of the taxable vs. nontaxable land in the Town. This will then create a holistic economic story for the town that will illustrate the impacts of various development types on the town's long-term health of its municipal finances.

Notice of Motion

Councillor McFadden presented a Notice of Motion that Council direct Administration to enable comments on the Cochrane Facebook pages effective immediately and that ongoing commenting is available across all social media platforms. Council voted by 2/3 majority to vote on the Motion immediately and the motion was passed.

In Camera

Three In-Camera items were presented to Council retaining to Personnel, Council Priorities and Water License Acquisition. After the Water License Acquisition In Camera presentation, Council returned to the Regular Meeting and directed that the In Camera meeting discussion and documents remain confidential pursuant to Sections 24 (1)(g) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and Council directed Administration to proceed with Option 1 as presented during the In Camera session.