

Council Highlights

May 2, 2022 - Committee of the Whole



Delegation: Cochrane & Area Humane Society

Janine Rossler, Executive Director and Jaimie Anton, Operations Manager, from the Cochrane & Area Humane Society provided Council with insight into the Society's activities, programs and services.

Delegation: Cochrane and District Youth Justice Committee

Rotary Club member, Alex Baum, provided Council with an overview of the Trail project.

The Trans Canada Trail stretches over 27,000 kilometers coast-to-coast. Portions of this trail between Calgary and Cochrane, as well as Cochrane to Canmore, remain unfinished or are not entirely usable for all travelers.

Stage one of The Trail project seeks to organize interested stakeholders to collaborate on the completion between Calgary and Cochrane. This will include Treaty Seven Territory, connecting the existing Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and the Rotary/Mattamy Greenway Trail in Calgary, through the Town of Cochrane via a future bridge to the east of Cochrane.

While much of this pathway system exists, it is yet to be fully connected and still requires fundraising and construction of a pedestrian river crossing into Cochrane. The Rotary Club of Cochrane is working to plan, develop and construct a lasting trail by 2025.

Delegation: Route 22 Artist Collective Gallery

Route 22 Artist Collective is a non-profit arts organization working to provide arts services and infrastructure for Cochrane and area. They are currently operating Route 22 Gallery and Art MakerSpace in downtown Cochrane.

Lara Kruger, President of Route 22 Artist Collective, provided Council with an update on their work and requested short term funding. Cochrane Administration will bring a follow up report for Council's consideration.

2022 Major Capital Projects Update

Administration provided Council an update on several significant capital projects, including:

- Highway 1A Improvement Phase 2
- Highway 1A/22 Utility Relocates
- The Station and Cochrane Crossing
- Protective Services Building
- 4th Avenue Bridge Replacement
- The Bow and Jumping Pound Flood Recovery and Erosion Control Projects

The construction industry continues to be challenged by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, increasing number of construction activities, and global geo-political events. These have resulted to disruptions in supply chain, tight availability of construction materials and increasing cost of materials, labour and services. To mitigate these issues, staff continue to build on rigorous contractual agreements, strong relationships and collaboration with contractors and consultants to ensure projects are successfully completed.

2022 Property Tax Rates

Council approves the annual operating budget, including the amount of municipal property taxes to be collected, in December each year. In May of the following year, Council sets the tax rates required to collect the required municipal property taxes, as well as requisitions for the Provincial Education Tax, the Rocky View Foundation, and the Designated Industrial Property Tax. Ahead of setting the tax rates and in accordance with the Committee of the Whole concept, administration provided background information to Council ahead of setting the rates on May 9.

- Residential assessments are up overall by 8.73%
- Non-residential assessments are up by 1.66%
- The Province has not yet set the final requisition amounts for the Provincial Education Tax.

Based on tonight's discussion, administration will prepare the tax rate bylaw for all three readings on May 9. The tax rate bylaw will reflect the split of municipal taxes between residential and non-residential properties.