

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Present: Mayor Brian Peterson
Deputy Mayor Craig Hewitt
Councillors: Bill Guise
Sandra Miller
CAO: Leona Hanson
Recording Secretary: Chelsea de Ruiter
Regrets: Councillor Smith

1. Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
2. MOVED by Councillor Guise to adopt the meeting agenda with the addition of the following items:
 - 8 j. County of Grande Prairie Media Release – County Declares Agricultural Disaster
CARRIED 11/19/242
3. MOVED by Councillor Miller that the minutes of the October 21, 2019 regular council meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED 11/19/243
4. Business Arising from the Minutes -- No business arising.
5. Delegations
Sgt. Ash Browne, Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment -- 5:00 PM

Chief Superintendent, Rhonda Blackmore, Western Alberta District and Sgt. Ash Browne, Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment presented a Crime Statistics report for both the Beaverlodge Detachment area and the Village of Hythe specific. Statistics show a 4% decrease in criminal code offense however still showing an increase of 8% district wide since 2018. Some of the statistics that appear to be significant such as “Fail to Comply & Breaches” show an increase of 188%, the percentage figures appear large however the total overall numbers are small in nature. Another example is missing persons with an increase of 700%, this number can also appear concerning however the number of incidents is 8, and this number also includes located missing persons. Hythe has seen an increase in “Break & Enter” and “Theft of Motor Vehicle”, this trend is expected to decrease as the weather gets colder and with the emphasis on crime reduction.

CAO Hanson inquired about a correlation between the RCMP presence and crime rates. Sgt. Browne communicated to Council that there has been an education element that has equated to an increase in RCMP presence. The public has been encouraged to call in and report thefts. The reporting helps to increase statistic accuracy and as a result may help increase RCMP resource deployment. Education about theft prevention such as gate types and other security measurements may be deterrents and aid in the theft reduction. Community Facebook pages that share information about suspect vehicles in their yard also help to educate the public about suspicious presences.

Mayor Peterson added that the public want to know that action has been taken when they call to report a complaint. Sgt. Browne and Chief Blackmore confirmed that there are measures being made to improve the follow up system with the person who reports so that they are aware action is being taken. This makes a difference to the public to know an effort has been made to help with the problem.

Councillor Guise voiced concern about large trucks travelling at high speeds through the Village of Hythe and the dangers that presents for people turning onto the highway. Sgt. Browne confirmed that when there is a ghost car in Hythe they are issuing a lot of tickets and speeders are an ongoing issue as the highway is very busy.

The Beaverlodge Detachment will fill have its last vacant spot filled next week and a full staff complement will be welcomed.

A meeting was held in the past with Sgt. Browne and the public where people were able to express their concerns. This meeting was able to begin conversations about what is needed in the community and what community members wanted to see. The public was able to express where they are frustrated and what the RCMP could do differently. Councillor Miller provided feedback that people felt good about this opportunity and that they were happy to be heard. Sgt. Browne was able to use that meeting as an opportunity to connect with and follow up with people who had made a call in the past. This meeting and follow up had some positive impact.

Inquiring into the outcome of the tour of the Justice Minister and Commanding Officer meetings was brought forward by Council. Response was that follow up meetings are in place. Mayor Peterson asked if other resources could be used as a relief to RCMP resources however the RCMP is reluctant to put people at risk. Other resources that could be considered helpful are groups such as Citizens on Patrol, this program trains people on how to identify and report suspicious vehicles before they become a Break & Enter. Another example of a resource is a Justice Steering Committee (diversion program) where first-time offenders may be referred to a facilitated representative meeting involving victims, offenders, and the RCMP. This program needs facilitators and Sgt. Brown is going to be asking for people that are interested in facilitating a meeting instead of pushing people into the court system. This program can help to hold the offender accountable; recognizing that facing their neighbors in some cases can have a different impact than going through the court system. Sgt. Browne is going to provide resources about the diversion program to the Village of Hythe for review.

6. Operations – Staff Report -- Attached.

7. Business & Information

a. Request for Decision – Financial – Accounts

Two Savings accounts held by the Village of Hythe no longer require separation and a request is being made to transfer funds to the Village of Hythe's General Revenue Operating Account and then close the accounts; MSI Capital – 2016 Budget Carry Fwd and Village General.

MOVED by Councillor Guise to transfer the funds from the MSI Capital – 2016 Budget Carry Fwd and the Village General accounts to the Village of Hythe's General Revenue Operating Account and then be closed. CARRIED 11/19/244

b. Request for Decision – PAZA Membership

The Peace Airshed Zone Association has sent an invoice to the Village of Hythe for an annual funding invoice. It appears the Village of Hythe has not been a member in the past. It was asked of Council to discuss the membership benefit to determine direction. The annual membership is \$525 and the information it provides is available online. Neighboring community information is available at this time.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Hewitt to reject the invoice and not pursue the membership. CARRIED 11/19/245

c. Request for Decision – Christmas Light Up

In the past years the Village of Hythe has sponsored a light up contest. Administration requested this contest be continued with the addition of a business category. To help encourage a 'support local' trend in the Village the suggestion is to purchase/obtain gift cards from local businesses to fill various sized gift baskets to reward participation/prize winners. Suggested values to remain the same, \$100 value, \$50 value, and \$25 value for residential and \$75 and \$50 values for business. Businesses would also receive a certificate of recognition to place in their business.

MOVED by Mayor Peterson to do the Christmas Light Up contest and to use local business gift cards and matching opportunities for prizes and for administration to keep a record of winners and prizes. In addition, the date of judging will be on December 17th, 2019 for business and residential categories.

CARRIED 11/19/246

d. Request for Decision – Community Improvements and Consolidation (CIC) Program
In a review of some Village policies information on a previous Community Improvements and Consolidation (CIC) program was reviewed. Programs such as this are often used to stimulate interest in developing rundown or derelict properties. Other incentive programs can encourage development on brownfield properties which may be abandoned and/or vacant property due to the potential presence of hazardous substance or contaminants. With discussions and planning for investment attraction considerations, incentive-based development programs of this nature may be beneficial. Council reviewed this information and would like to get parameters in place that would not only encourage improvements but also recognize outstanding property upkeep that is already in place.

MOVED by Mayor Peterson to direct Administration to research various incentive programs to bring back to Council for further discussion prior to March 2020. CARRIED 11/19/247

8. Correspondence

a. Royal Canadian Mounted Police – AUMA Follow-up

A letter was received as follow up to a meeting at AUMA with Mayor Peterson and the RCMP Commanding Officer, Curtis Zablock. The letter acknowledged the concerns that were brought forward, including concerns over rising crime in the region and response times. The RCMP is committed to addressing the concerns and believe that continued support will play a role in providing improved service to the community.

b. Alberta Municipal Affairs – Honorable Minister Madu re MSI Allocations

Informational email was provided to Council informing that an additional \$74 million in MSI capital funding to Alberta municipalities will be made available in 2019.

c. Hythe Community Memorial Garden – Information Night

The Hythe Community Memorial Garden is hosting a conversational gathering to discuss future plans for the Garden on November 6th, 2019 at the Hythe Community Centre. Council referenced the Community Garden at the Pioneer Home as another place for possible partnership and collaboration as some TLC would be helpful. Administration will connect with the organizers to share this information.

d. Canadian Natural Resources Limited – Project Information was provided for informational purposes.

e. Alberta Service Alberta – Honorable Minister Glubish re Broadband

A letter was received from the Honorable Minister Glubish requesting contact information and information about plans to expand access to high-speed broadband in the community. Follow up correspondence will be sent.

f. Municipal Services and Legislation – Half-Masting Notice – Remembrance Day

A reminder notification was received reminding all government buildings about upcoming Remembrance Day half-masting measures to be used.

g. Grande Prairie Regional Tourism Association – Website Launch – provided for informational purposes.

h. County of Grande Prairie – Joint Assessment Review Board Appointments – provided for informational purposes.

i. Peace Library System – Request for Support

The Peace Library System Director Linda Duplessis has requested support in relation to a current limited access to new releases in eBook formats. The limitation is that the Peace Library System can only purchase one (1) copy of an eBook new release and must wait 8 weeks before accessing additional copies. The eBook works the same as traditional books in the sense that only one (1) person can have it signed out at a time. TRAC, which is a partnership of four library systems and over 170 libraries, will only be able to purchase one (1) title of the new release eBook and then wait eight (8) weeks before making more purchases.

MOVED by Councillor Miller to provide a letter of support to the Peace Library System.

CARRIED 11/19/248

j. Media Release – County of Grande Prairie Declares Agricultural Disaster – provided for informational purposes.

9. Meetings Attended and Members' Business

Councillor Guise: No Meetings Attended.

Councillor Guise inquired about the current construction at the old UFA site.

Councillor Guise inquired about the installment of fiber optic cables near existing sewer lines. It was confirmed that contact had been made with the company and they will be coming back to remove what was installed and place it in a better location in consultation with the Village of Hythe's Public Works Foreman.

A concern was raised about the current external electrical system at the south units of the Pioneer Home. It was relayed to Council that residents were not able to use the outlets to plug in vehicles, so improvements were to be made. The improvements appear to be temporary or possibly outside of regulation parameters and the information was provided to Mayor Peterson as the Pioneer Home Representative for follow up.

Councillor Miller:

Attended a Christmas Tree Drop Committee meeting. Planning has been coming along well.

Deputy Mayor Hewitt: No Meetings Attended.

Deputy Mayor Hewitt inquired about the process of the street, curb and sidewalk improvement program. It was discussed that it would be beneficial to get the work scope done up in phases allowing Council to determine scope of tendering in line with available funding. Administration will follow up with Beirsto Engineering to bring forward a phased work plan with estimated costing.

Mayor Peterson:

Attended a meeting in Edmonton regarding the Pioneer Home and indicated that good progress is being made on coming a resolution on the expansion project.

Mayor Peterson inquired if the insurance report had arrived. CAO Hanson indicated that additional information on the Curling Rink building had been requested and provided. The Insurance Report is being finalized and should be received in the coming weeks.

CAO Leona Hanson:

A second Policing Funding Model webinar is coming up at the end of the week with the Honorable Minister Schweitzer from Justice presiding. Mayor Peterson and CAO Hanson will participate in the webinar.

10. In Camera

MOVED by Mayor Peterson to go In-Camera at 8:05 p.m. CARRIED
11/19/249

- a. Contracts
- b. Human Resources

MOVED by Mayor Peterson to go Out-of-Camera at 8:45 p.m. CARRIED 11/19/250

11. Adjournment

MOVED by Mayor Peterson that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED 11/19/251

Time of adjournment was 8:49 p.m.