

Rocky Mountain House Town Council highlights from the Aug. 7, 2018 meeting.

### Land use amendment

Following a public hearing for Land Use Bylaw Amendment 2018/19 LU, council changed the land use designation for a portion of Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 1422133 and Lot 3, Block 2, Plan 1420703 to General Residential District (R2) from Low Density Residential District (R1). The parcel of land is situated at 58A Street south of 65 Avenue.



The applicant had initially requested a portion of the land be redesignated as Multiple Family Residential (R3). After considering public and developer input, councillors granted the R2 rezoning as a compromise between town residents and the applicant while still adhering to municipal legislative requirements.

### Combined utility rate bylaw

Council directed administration to finalize the draft of Bylaw 2018/17. The new Utility Rate Bylaw will combine Solid Waste, Water and Sewer Bylaws into one.

Under the current water/wastewater and solid waste bylaws, utility fees collected from residential and commercial properties are subsidized by general tax revenue to pay the full operating costs of those services.

In combining the utilities into one bylaw council will also increasing consumption rates for water and sewer in a user-pay model, thus attaining full cost recovery. Council is taking a long-term strategic approach by adopting cost-recovery rates now. Municipalities that operate utilities at full cost-

recovery have an increased chance of receiving provincial and federal grant funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

The new fee structure will be phased in over the next year, with rate increases to take effect in January and July of 2019.

Bylaw 2018/17V will also introduce a monthly billing cycle, emphasis on the land title holder being the primary utility account holder and clarification on base rate billing services for residents away from Town for a period of time such as snow birds.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will soon begin notifying residents and businesses about the coming changes.

### Community grant policy

Council adopted a new Community Grant Policy (Policy 004/2018). This new policy is designed to simplify and standardize the process for non-profit, community and sporting organizations to request town funding for special projects and events.

The two-tier granting system will allow council to consider major grants (up to \$5,000) twice a year: at the end of September and again at the end of March. Council will consider minor grants (up to \$500) as requests are received year-round. There will be a total annual maximum of \$30,000 available to this grant program.

The application forms will be available at [www.rockymtnhouse.com](http://www.rockymtnhouse.com) and the Town Office.

### Public Works paving tender awarded

Seven small road and trail paving and construction projects will be completed this year. Council awarded the \$518,095.92 contract to Border Paving Ltd. The Town saw considerable cost-savings on this project by using the same inspection service for these, and the major 52 St. project also underway.



Council also approved \$156,284 to purchase a 2018 Freightliner M2 106 dump truck. The truck will replace a 2006 Top Kick model, in accordance with the Town's Tangible Asset Management Policy and its fleet and equipment replacement priorities.

### **Municipal policing**

Council is considering creating a police committee to oversee policing in Rocky Mountain House.

Under the Police Act, the Town is responsible under the Police Act to have its own municipal police force. The Town meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP. The 2018 budget for the municipal police force (RCMP) is \$2,258,000. The net cost of policing is 12.5 per cent of property taxes collected from ratepayers. (The cost of the RCMP and Town's Peace Officers' services combined represents 15 per cent of all taxes collected.)

The Police Act provides for towns to implement police committees where the RCMP serves as the municipal police force. These committees work with the RCMP in establishing yearly plans for the strategies and policing priorities desired by municipal councils.

Rocky Mountain House council will discuss the idea in further detail at its Sept. 4 meeting.

For more information on these items, please contact:

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