

Highlights from the Aug. 20, 2019 regular Council meeting

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54 Street (Sutherland Drive) extension project financing

Council passed second and third reading of Borrowing Bylaw 2019/09F, authorizing the Town to borrow up to \$4,214,000 for the construction and improvement of 54 Street (Sutherland Drive).

The repayment plan for the \$4.2 million includes developer contributions of \$2,390,000 by 2024, and offsite levies. The ultimate project cost will be born by benefitting lands.

Related documents:

[Administrative Report](#)

[Borrowing Bylaw 2019/09F Construction/Improvements to 54 St.](#)

Public engagement ahead of 2020 budget

Council approved a public engagement plan ahead of the 2020 budget deliberations. A public input survey will be available from Sept. 3 through Sept. 20, and citizens may also direct comments in writing to Budget2020@rockymtnhouse.com.

Clean Energy Improvement Program

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will develop a Clean Energy Improvement Program to offer property-owners. Clean Energy Improvement Programs – also called PACE – are a voluntary way for property-owners to finance clean energy investments for their homes or commercial properties. PACE programs have been established in other Canadian provinces since 2010.

Council has directed Administration to work with Energy Efficiency Alberta to develop its own Municipal PACE program. Council will review a Clean Energy Improvement Program draft bylaw later this fall.

Related documents:

[Administrative report](#)

[Energy Efficiency Alberta Clean Energy Improvement Program overview](#)

[Bill 10 An Act to Enable Clean Energy Improvements](#)

[Clean Energy Improvements Regulation](#)

Conversion Therapy

Council intends to amend the Business Licence Bylaw to list conversion therapy as a prohibited business within the Town of Rocky Mountain House. This follows [similar action taken by the City of St. Albert](#).

Council will also write to the provincial and federal governments asking for action to discourage and end conversion therapy nationwide.

Related media and documents:

[Administrative Inquiry Report](#)

[Video: Council discussion](#)

Property Tax Exemptions

Sections 362-370 of the *Municipal Government Act* allow municipalities to grant property tax exemptions to organizations that meet criteria established within the Act and the provincial Assessment Regulation. The Town of Rocky Mountain House provided property tax exemptions to 22 properties in 2019, representing \$96,223 in property tax exemptions.

The Town will require all organizations to submit an application in accordance with provincial regulations by Nov. 30, 2019, to be considered for tax exempt status in 2020.

Council is anticipating [further information from Rocky Support Services Society](#) before considering its Aug. 6 request for 2019 exemptions or waivers.

Related documents:

[Administrative Report](#)

Other items of note:

[Councillors discussed](#) the current management structure of the North Saskatchewan River Park. Council asked Administration to bring a report back to Council in September regarding past and current practice, and options for the future.

Rocky Mountain House Town Council has proclaimed Oct. 6, 2019 as [World Cerebral Palsy Day](#).

The Town of Rocky Mountain House is moving ahead with its [10-year Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan](#), in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*. This plan will assess current Town infrastructure and determine future maintenance or replacement schedules, allowing for evidence-based long-term financial planning.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House is the successful recipient of a [\\$531,000 grant from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre](#) (MCCAC) to go towards the new combined heat and power unit for the Credit Union Co-op Aquatic Centre. This \$785,000 project is cost-shared between the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County. The grant will reduce the cost to each municipality by almost \$250,000.

If you have any questions on these or any other items, please contact:



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