

Highlights from the June 2, 2020 Special and Regular Council meetings

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Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples

The Town of Rocky Mountain House wishes to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including the Blackfoot, Cree, Saulteaux, Stoney and Métis.

Special Council Meeting

The Town of Rocky Mountain House held a Special Council Meeting at 5 p.m. for the purpose of receiving the Rocky Agricultural and Stampede Association (RASA) as a delegation [to discuss the North Saskatchewan River Park \(NSRP\) annual event lease agreement.](#)

The Town of Rocky Mountain House consulted with RASA and other user groups in the fall of 2019 to review the current agreement and improve the booking/managing process of the NSRP. In response to this and community calls for a professionally-managed facility with consistent booking procedures, the Town of Rocky Mountain House will resume control of the park on July 15, 2020.

The Town and RASA agreed to discuss a draft North Saskatchewan River Park Annual Event Lease Agreement with the provincial Ministry of Culture to ensure it meets provincial CFEP grant guidelines. RASA, as the named recipient of a 2019 [\\$375,484 Community Facility Enhancement Program \(CFEP\) grant,](#) is required to have guaranteed usage of the facility for a minimum of five years.

If the ministry is satisfied with the content of the agreement, Town and RASA will both sign the agreement and RASA will release the \$375,484 grant funding to the Town, for expenses already incurred in the construction of the covered grandstand.

Related media and documents:

[Special Council Meeting agenda package](#)

Video: [Special Council Meeting](#)

[Grant Funding Agreement between the Province and RASA](#)

[North Saskatchewan River Park Annual Event Lease Agreement \(DRAFT\)](#)

Late fee relief during COVID-19

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will continue to waive late fees and penalties on accounts receivable, including utilities, until Sept. 1, 2020. Council had previously suspended late fees on March 15 for a period of 90 days in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, any utilities in arrears will not be transferred to property taxes until Sept. 1, 2020, rather than the current 90-day practice.

Council also reviewed a [forecast of the financial impact of COVID-19](#) on the Town of Rocky Mountain House. Overall, the current forecast projects a deficit of \$393,000 for the 2020 fiscal year, related directly to the pandemic. The situation continues to change, and as new information becomes available it will be incorporated into the forecast.

Related documents:

[Administrative Report on late fees](#)

[Municipal COVID-19 relief and response](#)

[Administrative financial forecast](#)

Municipal Emergency Plan

Council approved the Municipal Emergency Management Plan that will guide the Town's response in the event of a municipal emergency. The plan meets legislative requirements for municipalities, as outlined in the provincial *Emergency Management Act*.

Related documents:

[Administrative Report](#)

[Municipal Emergency Management Plan](#)

AUMA resolution in support of linear taxation reform

Council will submit a resolution to the [Alberta Urban Municipalities Association](#) (AUMA) for the consideration of member municipalities. The resolution would see the AUMA call on the provincial government to develop a fair and equitable regional linear tax revenue sharing funding model that removes disparity and minimizes conflict and between urban and rural communities

Related documents:

[Administrative Report](#)

Other items of note

Council received a presentation from Rod Vikse of Wild Rose Assessment Services Inc. He [provided an overview of property assessment in Alberta, and the role of the assessor](#).

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will contact RCMP K-Division regarding police service levels in Town.

Council will send a letter to the Rocky Mountain House, Clearwater County and Caroline Physician Recruitment and Retention Society to ask the society to consider expanding its focus to include recruitment of all health care professionals to the region.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will [join the Town of Edson with a letter in support for a Northwest Alberta Electric Vehicle Charging Network](#), aligning with the Town's [Strategic Plan](#) goals of tourism and environmental sustainability.

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will assist with parade route planning and traffic control for the [West Central High School graduates' recognition parade on June 26](#). Route and time details will be finalized with the school and shared to social media.

Residents and business-owners [can sign up to receive e-mailed notices of Council meetings](#) via www.rockymtnhouse.com.

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



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