

Delegations

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council to speak on a particular issue, or with whom Council has requested a meeting.

Program For Adult Learning

- Representatives from the Program for Adult Learning (PAL) and Community Learning for Adult Students Society (CLASS) met with Council to request the reallocation of funds provided by the County to the non-profit organization for the 2015 budget year. Specifically, the reallocation of operational funds to pay for staffing.
- Council approved the use of funds previously earmarked for operational costs like rent and utility payments to include staffing costs, in order to meet the group's needs.

Public Input Session

The purpose of a Public Input Session is to provide Council with an opportunity to obtain public comment on matters relevant to the municipality. They are generally scheduled at 12:15 p.m. during Regular Council Meetings. It is not necessary to pre-register. Each speaker has up to 10 minutes to speak.

St. Catherine's Catholic Church

- Representatives from St. Catherine's Catholic Parish were in attendance at the 12:15 p.m. Public Input Session to request that parking adjacent to the church on 103 Street be changed from parallel to angle. Church representatives had previously made a similar request in 2010.
- Church representatives made the case that angle parking would increase the number of parking stalls available on the street, which would benefit the church during services, weddings and funerals, as well as the hamlet during events like Pow Wow and Festival of Speed.
- Later in the meeting, Council discussed this request and explored the possibility of cost-sharing with St. Catherine's to complete this project.
- Council directed Administration to discuss the possibility of a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement with the church to complete the project.

New Business

2016 Capital Budget Priorities

- County Councillors began the process of submitting their 2016 “capital budget wish lists” to Administration in preparation for 2016 budget discussions. Some Councillors submitted written lists at the meeting, while others will be submitting their capital project priorities over the next week via email.
- Once these priority projects are collected, Administration will prepare cost estimates, which will help Council debate and decide which projects will be greenlit for the 2016 budget year during deliberations this fall.

Donation to Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS)

- Council approved a \$10,000 donation to SCARS, a non-profit organization that shelters, treats and finds adoptive homes for stray dogs in the region.
- SCARS has been working with the local municipal pound and providing their service to County residents for a number of years.
- Council approved the donation in response to a letter from the society, soliciting sponsorship funding for their annual fundraising event.

FireSmart Projects Awarded

- Administration briefed Council on the selection of the consulting firm that will be responsible for developing and managing three FireSmart projects in the County.
- In 2014, the County applied for and received funding for these FireSmart projects. The first project will update the existing draft Lac La Biche County Wildland/Urban Interface Plan, a document which will be a comprehensive plan to reduce the threat of wildfire in the County.
- The second project will create a 100-metre brush reduction buffer on the north and west sides of the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
- The final project will see up to eight hectares of County-owned property north of Deer Ridge targeted for brush reduction in order to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- After preparing a Request for Proposal for the three projects, the successful candidate for the project was Mistik Environmental Ltd.

Revision of Public Works Committee and Policy and Priorities Committee

- Council approved changes to the bylaws that govern the Public Works Committee and the Policy and Priorities Committee. These committees have been committees of the whole, meeting once a month to address issues related to the County's public works departments and to discuss and review County policies and procedures.
- In order to function more efficiently, Council approved changes to these committees—instead of being committees of the whole, these committees will now be comprised of only three councillors. The Public Works and Policy and Priorities committees will be responsible for providing recommendations to Council. These committees will not have the authority to pass or adopt bylaws or policies or expend funds. The committees are meant to represent Council's interests to Administration and provide advice and direction on County programs and services.