

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL

5015 – 49 Avenue, St. Paul, Alberta, T0A 3A4

www.county.stpaul.ab.ca

Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences



Council Meeting – Highlights

January 9, 2024

Council & Public Works meetings are [live-streamed](#) on YouTube under '[County of St. Paul No. 19](#)'.

The public is welcome to observe the Council proceedings from the Public Gallery in the Council Chambers, located in the Administration Building.

Administration

Council and the County of St. Paul are happy to **welcome Jason Wallsmith, newly appointed CAO**, as he began his first days with the County on January 8. Sheila Kitz will continue with the County on a contract basis as Mr. Wallsmith continues his transition.

Council approved **Jason Wallsmith, CAO to replace Sheila Kitz** as Signing Officer and for Ms. Kitz's Committee Appointments.

Council approved **Open House dates for Hamlet Residents in Ashmont, Lottie Lake, and Mallaig the week of February 20-23**. These sessions will be an opportunity for residents to meet with Council and County representatives to discuss utility rates and the Infrastructure Replacement Project for Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection Systems. Administration will finalize details and notify residents of their local Open House through the County website and [Facebook page](#).

Administration has been **approved to set up a Reserve Account for the Elk Point Medical Clinic Contribution in the amount of \$185,660** to be transferred from the Community Reserve Fund for the clinic's building lease. Administration will be working with the Town of Elk Point to develop an agreement between the Town and the County outlining an annual amount and length of time for this contribution.

Council has set a date of May 14, 2024, at 11 a.m. for the **Public Auction of Lands**.

Council approved an amendment to the **Joint Use and Planning Agreement (JUPA) with St. Paul Education**, which will allow the joint school/county libraries in Ashmont and Mallaig to be governed by their respective site-specific agreements.

Council approved a **refund of 50%** of the combined total of the County's portion for the Caouette & Sons Implements Ltd. **building permit**, due to setbacks caused by the pandemic and other circumstances out of the business' control.

Bylaws and Policies

Bylaws and Policies can be found on the County website under '[Governance > Bylaws & Policies](#)'.

Council gave third reading and **passed Bylaw 2023-24 Fee Schedule**, with the final Bylaw including: amendments to NSF charges, tax certificates and searches, Alberta Transportation rate for fire units, pickled sand and salt, custom work, and front load bin rental fees; addition of dust control fees; and removal of unsightly properties fees.

Bylaw 2024-01 Penalties was also passed by Council. “Unsightly Properties Fees” previously under the Fee Schedule Bylaw is now included in the updated Penalties Bylaw.

A **Public Hearing was held for Bylaw 2023-19** to rezone part SE 25-58-10-W4, Roll #1082101, from Agriculture (A) District to a Direct Control (DC) District. The majority of attendees were in favour of the Bylaw. As a result, Council **passed Bylaw 2023-19**, effectively defeating Bylaw 2023-12.

The **Public Hearing for Bylaw 2023-26** to amend Land Use Bylaw 2021-13, originally scheduled for January 23, has been **moved to February 13, 2024**.

Council approved the **amendments to ADM-28 Public Participation Policy**. These amendments clarify the policy objective and provide clearer definitions.

Council approved the **PW-19 Towing Policy** to support the County Safe Operating Procedure.

Council has approved the amendments to HR policies **HR-19 General and Declared Holidays Policy** and **HR-20 Termination of Employment Policy** to better align with LAPP and employment standards.

Public Works

The **Public Works meeting for January 23 has been rescheduled to January 30 at 1 p.m.**

Council approved the proposed submission by WSP for the scope of work which includes tender and contract negotiation of the repairs required for the **Moosehills Road (Twp Rd 574A)** base repair and other work as presented at an estimated cost of \$5,923.

With the County obtaining provincial funding, Council approved the ratification of the engineering and environmental work for **Bridge File 6873** as well as to proceed with the tender for construction in July 2024.

Community Services

Council has directed Administration to **establish a Parks Facilities Reserve** and place \$24,000 in that reserve from the 2023 operating budget for use in 2024 to **fund the remaining repairs of the Lac Bellevue campground caretaker cabin floor**. Moving forward, the annual surplus from the Parks' operating budgets will be placed in this reserve to offset future capital expenditures.

Council will **provide a letter of support** to the Regional Director of Emergency Management for a proposal to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA). This proposal is for the **2023/24 Emergency Management Preparedness Program (EMPP)**, to hold a tabletop exercise in Fall 2024 clarifying roles and responsibilities as well as to identify additional mitigation and preparedness needs for the region.

Economic Development

The County of St. Paul approved an application submitted by the STEP Economic Development Alliance to the **Small Community Opportunity Program (SCOP)** on behalf of the STEP partner municipalities to further develop the structure/framework, marketing materials, and website development.

Council approved the funding requests of all regional **Chambers of Commerce** in support of their **2024 operating years**. The St. Paul & District Chamber of Commerce will receive \$10,000; the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce will receive \$5,000; and the Mallaig Chamber of Commerce will receive \$5,000.

For more information, please contact:
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