



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - April 10, 2018

Community Standards Bylaw

- Athabasca County Council has been working towards creating a Community Standards Bylaw that helps keep our municipality safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- The first reading for bylaw 012-2016 took place back on July 12, 2016 and since that time it has been refined to address Council's concerns regarding unsightly premises, noise control and safety.
- Council held second and third readings for the bylaw after a public hearing was convened to receive concerns or suggested changes from the public. There were none recorded.
- Bylaw 012-2016 can be viewed by looking for a link on the Athabasca County website.

Development Officers

- Athabasca County Development Officers now have the authority to consider and decide upon all permitted discretionary uses and have the ability to grant variances up to a maximum of 10%.
- A hearing was convened to gather public concerns about the proposed change to Bylaw 004-2018 which allowed this additional decision making. No submissions were received at the hearing.
- The amendment was adopted following second and third reading of the bylaw. Council asked that a review of the change take place after six months and again after one year to evaluate how it is working.

County Library Board

- The Athabasca County Library Board will be hosting interactive Plan of Service sessions in Wandering River (Tuesday, May 1), Grassland (Thursday, May 3) and Rochester (Monday, May 7).
- The purpose of the meetings is to gather input from the public on the direction of the libraries over the next 5 years.

Recreational Vehicles

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26

- Council held 1st Reading for Bylaw 008-2018, a bylaw amending the Land Use Bylaw 6-2002 which deals with recreational vehicle placement on parcels of land.
- Changes are needed to the bylaw to provide clarity for both residents and the County for the upcoming summer season when recreational vehicles are more frequently used.
- The proposed changes to the bylaw set the number of permitted RVs based on the size of the land they will be placed on. It also removes a 14-day time limit for RVs and adds the use of recreational vehicles to a number of land districts in the municipality that didn't have them before.
- More information about the proposed bylaw can be found on the County's website. As part of the public consultation for amending the bylaw, a public hearing is scheduled for April 26, 2018 beginning at 9:30 am to gather suggestions and hear concerns. Questions about the proposed changes to the bylaw can be directed to the Planning & Development Department.

Sport Fishing Regulations

- Recent changes to sport fishing regulations in the province have a former biologist and now County Council questioning the rationale behind them.
- Mr. Ray Makowecki attended the meeting upon the request of Council to explain his concern about the 2018 Alberta Sport Fishing Regulations. Although a series of public consultation meetings were hosted by the province, and much research brought forward about the health of fish stocks, the limits have been made more strict.
- Athabasca County will be writing a letter to the Minister of Environment & Parks, copying the Premier, MLA, and Lac La Biche County's Mayor expressing concern and will invite the Minister to a future Regular County Council meeting.