

For Immediate Release

Council Notes

May 3rd, 2016

1. **Municipal Intern.** Daniel Lukac was introduced to Council as the new Municipal intern for the Town of Edson. He will serve a one year term with the Town under the Municipal Affairs Internship Program, learning all aspects of municipal operations.
2. **Public Hearings.** A public hearing was held for Bylaw No. 2181 to rezone all Town Owned Lands that are currently used for park space, but not zoned PR, to the Parks and Recreation zoning. No submissions were received and Council passed second and third reading of the bylaw.

Council also held a public hearing for Bylaw 2179, amending the Land use Bylaw by changing minimum residential yard setbacks to 2.4 metres for a residence and 1.2 metres for a detached garage or shed. This lines the Land Use Bylaw up with Alberta Building Codes. There were no submissions and Council passed second and third reading of the bylaw.

3. **Mill Rate Bylaw.** Council has given three readings to the 2016 Mill Rate Bylaw. With a new Town Assessor, there were a few shifts in the 2015 assessment for the 2016 taxation year. The Town of Edson's overall taxable assessment has risen by 10.31%. This is used to generate the taxation revenue and is what drives the mill rate calculations for Municipal taxes, School, and Evergreens Requisitions. With the shift in assessment, the Town of Edson combined non-residential mill rate is the lowest it has been in 20 years

2016 Residential Mill rates:

Municipal mill rate – 5.1468 mills (2015 mill rate – 5.2626 mills)
Evergreens Foundation mill rate – 0.3080 mills (2015 mill rate – 0.3307 mills)
School mill rate - 2.3352 mills (2015 mill rate – 2.3267 mills)
2016 Total Combined mill rate - 7.79 mills (2015 mill rate – 7.92 mills)

2016 Non-residential Mill rates:

Municipal mill rate – 12.6210 mills (2015 mill rate – 14.6049 mills)
Evergreens Foundation mill rate – 0.3080 mills (2015 mill rate – 0.3307 mills)
School mill rate - 3.0310 mills (2015 mill rate – 3.3244 mills)
2016 Total Combined mill rate – 15.96 mills (2015 mill rate – 18.26 mills)

4. **2016 Revised Operating Budget.** Council has approved the 2016 Revised Operating Budget. There were limited changes to the 2016 budget that was passed in December. In order to balance the 2016 Operating Budget a 3% increase in residential and non-residential tax revenues is required. This does not necessarily mean taxes for every property will go up as the actual taxes owed by a property owner is dependent on their property assessment.
5. **Summer Meeting Schedule.** Council has set the summer Council Meeting schedule for 2016. The July and August meetings will be held July 19th at 7:30 P.M. and August 23rd at 7:30 P.M.

6. **Reimbursement for Training.** Council voted in favour of reimbursing Councillor Brian Boyce at the per diem rate outlined in the Council Remuneration Policy for exceptional meetings for attending the Assessment Review Board Refresher Course.
7. **Letter of Support.** Council has instructed administration to write a letter of support to the Town of High River in their efforts to have changes made to the Disaster Recovery Program.
8. **Shrine Toll Gate.** Permission was granted to allow the Northern Lights Shrine Club to hold their annual Shrine Toll Gate in Edson on Saturday, June 18th, 2016. The donation locations will be set up at Centennial Park on 2nd and 4th Avenues.

Next meetings - A Committee of the Whole Meeting is planned for May 10th, 2016 at 10:00am in the Council Chambers of the Edson Civic Building. The next Council Meeting will be May 17th, 2016 at 7:30pm.

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