



As feared, the rainy weather, although quite welcome, did cause delays with the installation of the new liner at the **pool**. Work was completed before the end of May but problems with the liner and infrastructure have developed. Staff are working hard to diagnose and solve the problems and as I write this no date for opening is available, yet. The procedures to get ready and open the **splash park** will not take place until the pool challenges are sorted out. I can assure everyone that every effort is being made to get these facilities open as quickly as possible. The weather has also held up the sidewalk contractor on previous jobs, but unfortunately a number of the sites to be replaced have already had the old cement removed. Hopefully work will begin soon. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

A few months ago I gave a rundown of the projects planned in the capital budget for this year and stated that between grants, fundraising and reserves the Town would likely not be doing any new borrowing this year, however that has changed. One budget item included \$100,000 for planning and engineering for a new **Public Works shop**. The current building was constructed in the '70s when the Town was much smaller and so was our line of equipment and the number of staff. Several years ago the building was damaged in a severe windstorm and although repairs were made, its condition borders on being unsafe. With Council's approval our staff worked up a plan, and prepared a request for proposal, in consultation with engineers, that went out to a number of qualified builders in southern Alberta. The initial goal was to get a good idea of what costs would be and although there was quite a range of quotes, we did find some were to be affordable, so the decision has been made to proceed now and award the job to the lowest bidder, Jayco Builders of Bow Island. This will require an amendment to the budget. The funding plan includes utilizing Provincial infrastructure grants, selling the former recycling building and borrowing a portion of the required funds. To that end, Council has given first reading to a bylaw that authorizes the borrowing of \$600,000 with a 10 year term from the Alberta Government. This is well within our debt and debt servicing limits. The bylaw won't receive second reading until June 24th to allow time for public questions and comments. With all of the other projects going on this year there are quite a few expenditures and many of the Provincial grants don't pay out until the money is spent or the project is completed, so there are some concerns by Administration about cash flow. To avoid being in a pinch Council has given first reading to a bylaw authorizing setting up a temporary line of credit with one of the local banks, in the amount of \$1,000,000. This will also not receive second reading until the 24th to allow time for comments and questions. More information is available from CAO Matz.

Council has also given first reading to the updated **Land Use Bylaw**. This bylaw is intended to manage orderly development in Town and is the guiding document for the Planning Commission, Council, staff and the public with regard to development. This will replace the current bylaw that was last amended in 2007. The intention is to provide more clarity, and include appropriate development guidelines for the foreseeable future. There will be an **open house** to provide information on Tuesday the 11th at 6:30pm at the Library and a **public hearing** at 6:00 pm on Monday June 24th, in the Hyland Room (Council Chamber) prior to second reading at which time submissions on the bylaw can be made. On the first page of the Town website there is a "Notice of Public Hearing" that takes you to a link for the bylaw as well as an overview of the changes. This link takes you to that overview: [Overview of the Land Use Bylaw Changes](#).

The **Water Conservation Bylaw** was given third and final reading on May 27th. This bylaw gives Council the authority to implement appropriate water restrictions in the event of supply issues such as problems at the water plant, a line break or problems with supply from the SMRID. Council has also adopted a 4-stage drought management plan that comes into effect depending on the severity of the shortage. *At the current time restrictions are not in effect*, mostly due to the recent rainfall however the Province is asking us to try and reduce consumption by 5-10% as there are still some concerns, so far, about supply across the south. If we move into hot, dry weather, further action may be required, but in the meantime take a look at our [Drought Management Plan](#) for some tips on how to get the most out your yard watering dollars right now.

Council has adopted terms of reference for a new **Safe Streets and Public Protection Committee** and are looking for 3-5 members of the public to be part of this committee. The purpose is to collaboratively address crime prevention and enhance safety measures within our community, ensuring the well-being and security of all residents. Leave a message for Peace Officer Shreiber at the office for more information if you are interested.

11 applications were received for **Urban Hen licenses**, so a draw was held to award 5 licenses which are now being processed. Thank you to the nearly 100 people who responded to our survey about a name for the new subdivision. 50% favored **Parkview and Parkview Crescent!** During **Seniors Week**, Council appreciated the turnout on Monday for coffee and muffins at the Golden Age Centre and at the Park for the Wednesday walk. Thanks for coming out! Someone reminded me today that visitors are always welcome at Pleasant View Lodge and the long-term care wing at the hospital. Take some time and stop in for a visit and make someone's day.

Mayor Gordon Reynolds