



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 14, 2023

The Town of Didsbury Council held a Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, in Council Chambers, 1606 – 14 Street.

- Mr. Earl Dreeshen, Member of Parliament (MP) for Red Deer-Mountain View was invited to attend the Council Meeting to share dialog and information on current issues affecting the municipality.
- The Didsbury Neighborhood Place ramp and entrance is too small and does not provide barrier free access for wheelchair or other mobility users. Council approved the Didsbury Neighborhood Place Ramp and Entrance Improvement Project for a total of \$26,924, with \$22,437 to be funded through the *Enabling Accessibility Fund* grant, and \$4,487 to be funded from Operations.
- Council approved a 2023 Capital Budget amendment to add the Leak Detector Equipment purchase for a total of \$6,450, to be funded from Operations. This piece of acoustical equipment has been successful in other communities and is engineered to reduce traffic noise and other impedances such as footsteps, power distribution hum and physical vibrations. Removing background noise is critical to hearing what is happening on the water distribution system.
- Council passed Bylaw 2023-05 Recreation Rates, updating the Parks and Sportsfields.
- Council passed Bylaw 2023-06 Corporate Services Rates and Fees, which added a surcharge of 2.75% for taxes paid using credit cards.
- Council approved a transfer of \$52,486 from the Wastewater department to the Water department to reduce the wastewater 2022 surplus to \$0, and to fund the remaining water department 2022 deficit of \$33,863 from the Water Reserve Fund. Additionally, Council asked Administration to track the unmetered water usage by the Fire Department, including hydrant flushing, and return a report ahead of the 2024 budgeting process.
- Council approved the allocations of the 2022 year end surplus totalling \$197,954 (not cash funded) to seven reserve accounts.
- Council approved a motion to bring back information to the March 23 budget meeting on qualification criteria for uses of the MSI operating grant, so they are better able to consider projects that may be potentially funded by the 2023 provincial government top-up of \$176,000.
- Council directed the Strategic Planning Committee to review proposed rates for rental of the 5-0 Club and bring back recommendations to Council.
- There is interest from the public to have the opportunity engage with Council members on a variety of issues important to them. Council approved the implementation of Council Engagement sessions to be held before regularly scheduled Council meetings, and that these sessions be hosted from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. in Council Chambers. The sessions will begin on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.
- Council approved a sponsorship of \$500, through the Community Grant Program, to the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce for their Women in Agri-Business Conference.