



# WHEATLAND COUNTY

## Reeve Monthly Report

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Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: June 2020

Report Date: June 29, 2020

### **June 2 Council Meeting**

A public hearing was held and subsequent readings to pass a land redesignation bylaw were approved. First reading and scheduling of public hearings for 4 land redesignations and one borrowing bylaw (transfers). Council and department reports. 2020 library funding was approved with direction to review model for next budget cycle. 2020 Community Enhancement Regional Board (CERB) funding approved as recommended by the Board. Reviewed South and East Transportation Study from the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board.

### **June 3 MP Martin Shields visiting Wheatland**

MP Shields and I visited The Mercantile at Muirfield, owners Pam and Shane shared the story of how they have faced a string of challenges and setbacks, but undaunted have persevered. They exemplify the innovation, work ethic, and resilience I'm seeing in businesses throughout the County, that is resulting in their business not only surviving, but thriving during a global pandemic combined with a downturn in our local economy due to the oil and gas industry crisis. They are constantly looking for new ways to serve their community, from Libations, the liquor store, to providing space for other local businesses to consign their products (like Rustic Roots), to Take and Bake gourmet meals, to preparing meals for our ag producers who are hard at work in the field, to their upcoming Nashville East event. Visit them soon, you will not be disappointed.

### **June 4 Planning and Priorities**

Procurement Policy, Playground Equipment Funding Policy, Community clean up event, secondary suites, MDP next steps, update on enforcement issue, Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan and servicing in area.

### **June 4 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting**

Annual Performance Report (included as addendum to my report) and found online here:

<http://wildrose.albertacf.com/performance-reports-3>

Financial variance report and discussed marketing plan and how to pivot with impacts of COVID, loan report with arrears, Regional Relief and Recovery Fund loan update, audit, Business Retention and Expansion Survey results, introduction of new Business Analyst, Three Hills office update, and Chestermere update.

The Regional Relief and Recovery Fund is a business support that can help fill in gaps other federal programs have left. Contact [Community Futures Wild Rose](#) for more information or to apply! When 75% of the loan is repaid the remainder is forgiven.

Details here:

<http://wildrose.albertacf.com/rrrf-wild-rose>

<https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/20059.asp>

The following link takes you to the federal government website that lists all the personal and business programs available.

<https://www.canada.ca/.../departm.../economic-response-plan.html>

### **June 5 Teleconference with MP Martin Shields, MLAs, Mayors, and Reeves in Bow River Riding**

Supply chains, beef, small abattoirs, feedlots, and large processing plants, calls from seniors, promises for Old Age Security increased funding did not come in May, anticipate in July, planning for potential fall or spring election. Canadian Emergency Response Benefit funding extension and implications for businesses staffing. Canada is only G7 government running as a committee and not parliament.

### **June 8 Southern Alberta Broadband Meeting**

Lethbridge County has retained new legal counsel and a new consultant. Discussion around risks (liability, other technology), municipal will to become telco, procurement, and MD of Taber's rural broadband strategy (they are willing to share as a template for use after complete). Will reconvene next week to review Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) and firm up commitments to project.

### **June 9 Municipal Planning Commission**

The Commission approved 2 Development Permits (including the Carseland Fire Station) and 3 Subdivisions.

### **June 11 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Workshop**

Reviewed scenario development process, draft scenarios (business as usual, compact, and transit-oriented development), preliminary analysis, initial impression, question and answer period facilitated.

### **June 11 WC Infinite Possibilities Business Collaboration Teleconference**

WC Infinite Possibilities weekly collaboration meeting had Todd Hirsch, the renowned author, engaging speaker, and Vice President and Chief Economist for ATB Financial speak. Mr. Hirsch shared his forecasts for the economy, indicating we have to go back to the 1930s to see a similar contraction to what we're currently experiencing, however government response now differs from the austerity of that day, which likely extended the Great Depression. Also pointed out central bank response, which has ensured liquidity (not seeing the run on banks that happened then). Discussed job market (where economy becomes real for most people), effective rate is without doubt significantly higher than official rate, estimates >30% in reality. Shared analogy of pandemic future with 4 animals:

Koala – possibly the cutest animal, mostly harmless and defenseless, equivalent of responding to COVID with no fear or concern, relaunch economy quickly, however second wave fails to materialize, he estimates slim chance of this scenario, extremely unlikely.

Tarantula – terrifying looking, but essentially harmless to humans, approach with caution, monitor health measures, gradual open, but wrong predictions, no second wave, unlikely, assumes high probability of second wave.

Hippopotamus – adorable, but highly dangerous, don't approach relaunch with enough caution, drop safeguards, second wave with a vengeance, increased illness and death, worse impact to economy, more probable in his estimation.

Grizzly bear – we have trained responses to this known danger, decreases risk of death, increases odds of survival because we know what to do in attack, some risk, won't come out unscathed, but appropriate response mitigates risk, likeliest scenario in Mr. Hirsch's estimation.

Anticipating modest economic growth and recovery in 2021.

#### **June 11 Wheatland Housing Management Board Meeting**

COVID-19 financial impacts, financial reports for Social Housing and the Lodge, maintenance report, social housing report, ASCHA meeting info, contract with TSI, resident manager, CAO, and Chair report.

#### **June 15 Southern Alberta Broadband Group**

Consultant introduced, procurement discussion, project manager discussion, no RFEI presented. Group decided to pause project.

#### **June 16 Council Meeting**

Acknowledge loss of former Siksika leader, Roy Little Chief.

Staff Introductions - Manager of Fire & Emergency Services, Deputy Fire Chief.

Bylaw readings for a Land use Bylaw amendment regarding Speargrass (second and third reading), and first reading for a land redesignation, and another Land Use Bylaw amendment.

Wheatland Regional Corporation discussion.

Orica Limited (Carseland Manufacturing Plant) donation, Playground Equipment Funding Policy, regional Business Vitality Survey and analysis, Community Overview draft, appointment of Director and Deputy Director of Emergency Management, project progress report on Carseland Fire Hall, and review draft Wheatland County Fire Master Plan.

#### **June 18 WC Infinite Possibilities Business Collaboration Teleconference**

Brief call with updates on supports and initiatives.

#### **June 18 Wheatland Housing Management Board Special Meeting**

Needs Assessment Survey Committee, roles and responsibilities of committee, terms of reference, reviewed draft and possible timeline.

#### **June 19 Video for Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce project**

Represented Council in a video project showcasing how Wheatland region businesses are working to safely relaunch. A huge thank you to Patrick, our Economic Development Officer and Hayley Poirier, Chair of the Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce for the passion they bring and their commitment to our business community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAVGgxZvpHE>

#### **June 24 Wheatland Family and Community Support Services Board Meeting**

Updates on Strathmore Overnight Shelter and its use by Wheatland County residents, which is reportedly low though no statistics available, initial quotes on Review Engagement, Policy Handbook review, website issues, financial reports, and CAO report (Compass training, Indirect programs, and service relaunch anticipated July 6).

**June 25 Municipal Partners Teleconference**

Roundtable discussion regarding relaunch and municipal considerations.

**June 26 Teleconference with MP, Martin Shields**

Update from federal perspective and round table discussion regarding issues. I sympathize with MP Shields and his frustration at our Parliament not being able to govern, reducing the Opposition's ability to hold the government to account.

**June 26 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting**

Growth and servicing plan update with discourse on recent workshop and scenarios. Approval of request for an extension to Municipal Affairs (requesting 4 month extension to April 30, 2021), discussion regarding concerns surrounding engagement and impacts of public health measures due to pandemic and the fact that it's being conducted during the summer and mainly online. Approval of South and East Transportation Study as well as Integration of North and South and East Transportation Studies and approval to send to Alberta Transportation, along with a request for prioritized list of projects to be considered for stimulus funding. Transit background report. Approach to Development of Policy for Flood Prone Areas approved. Draft Recreation Policy approved (non-binding). Direction to have Governance Committee review policy for non-member municipality participation, asked to ensure our Indigenous neighbours are consulted appropriately, assured consultants are engaging. COVID round table.

I have heard from several Gleichen residents who are concerned about safety since the recent murder. My heart goes out to the family and friends of the victim as well as those exposed to the trauma of the situation. It is reassuring for immediate public safety that an arrest has been made and a suspect remanded. My sincerest gratitude to Gleichen RCMP and the Major Crimes Unit for their work on the investigation. However, I recognize there has been long standing issues and concerns about safety in the hamlet of Gleichen. I have been working with Siksika leadership, Gleichen RCMP, AGLC, Wheatland County administration, Peace Officers, and Family and Community Support Services, along with our local MLA Joseph Schow and MP Martin Shields, and at times local businesses, to look for strategies to help mitigate concerns. This work has been ongoing since I started on Council, though it has escalated recently due to additional concerns during the pandemic, which prompted me to also reach out to AHS. This is one of my top priorities and I am open to any ideas from community members. This is a complex situation, but together we will make things better.