

Mayor's Report

There are no training manuals for elected officials and government on how to operate your municipality during a pandemic. When the pandemic was first declared in March it was a very fluid situation with many uncertainties. Everyday the province was closing down more services and municipalities were following suit. All in an effort to slow the curve. As we begin to slowly and cautiously open up our town again we have to remind ourselves that this virus is still very much present and not to be taken for granted. We all have a responsibility to keep our town safe and continue to respect the recommendations put forth from AHS.

Did you know we have a virtual Q & A with council and managers the first Thursday of every month from 10-12? You simply go to nanton.ca and you will find the link under Coffee with Council. We know that people would prefer a social media livestream and administration will continue looking into more accessible possibilities as platforms develop.

Is the pool opening? Not just yet. Council will however reevaluate the feasibility of opening the pool at the July 13th council meeting.

Is Nanton days still happening? Yes it is! So far we know the parade is still planned, the duck race, the fireworks, a virtual dance party with Nanton based business EuroProductions DJ services, sidewalk chalk art contest and a scavenger hunt put on by the Chamber. I'm certain more events will emerge and more details to come closer to the weekend. With the uncertainties still around COVID-19 though there may be last minute modifications to some events.

Is there a new urban bee and urban chicken bylaw coming to town? Council will be reviewing the draft by-laws they requested on this possibility in July and will take their final decision with respect to proceeding or not at that time. Some parameters may include no roosters, a limit of 3 hens and a requirement to take a training course.

Did you know Council has been working on a memorial tree program which will include a metal monument for plaques at the Westview pond? You can now buy a tree for your loved one and have a personalized plaque on the monument.

Our new signage program is launching throughout this summer which will include entrance signs on the east and west sides of Nanton, additional lamp post banners, feature boards and directional signs to our many attractions.

We also have a new bylaw in place which will enable us to have different property tax rates for our commercial buildings. This bylaw will allow Council to apply a higher non-residential rate if you meet the definition of a vacant property. It will also allow us to lower tax rates in the commercial core and industrial areas to incentivize small businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

Stay safe. Shop local, Take care of your neighbours.

Jen Handley
Mayor of Nanton

Projects that you'll shortly be seeing going forward:

- Paving second lift in Westview;
- Various paving and sidewalk renewals throughout town;
- Replacement fountains at the Westview Pond.

Council recently passed a non-residential sub class bylaw. This empowers Council to set tax rates up to 25% less than the regular non-residential rate for small business properties with 10 or fewer employees and to set substantially higher rates for longer term vacant non-commercial properties that meet some fairly stringent criteria. More details will be forthcoming to the business community in the months ahead.

As Alberta enters Stage 2 of relaunch, more businesses can re-open and events and gatherings can be larger. While the province is allowing these situations, we must remember that Covid19 is still with us and there are still public health measures in place and standards of social distancing and hygiene/cleaning to maintain. The Town of Nanton is closely following the relaunch and carefully relaxing measures put in place during the height of the pandemic. The health and safety of our employees and the public are our biggest concerns as Nanton slowly re-opens its facilities. Your patience and continued understanding is very much appreciated while we navigate the safe re-opening.



July 2020

NANTON Notified

2020 Project Update from the CAO — While we've all been sequestered away from our usual public interactions, our departments have been extremely busy in executing as much of the 2020 operational and strategic plans. Here are a few examples of what's been happening:



The Spring Line groundwater tie-in project at the Water Treatment Plant is complete. The Dog Park project by the Leos will follow at some juncture in the same location pictured.

The municipal lot sales policy has been amended to open the door to strategic consolidated 0.3 acre opportunities in some parts of Westview Phase 3. A modest rebate incentive program was also introduced for those who can start building with 24 months of sale.



Our Wayfinding signage project is under way. We have tried to implement the spirit of the 2017 report without it costing a great deal of money. Hopefully it will represent an improvement for the community.



LED light replacement is completed at the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre as was some painting. The THRC washrooms have been renovated and the swimming pool boiler replaced. Next up, we will be installing a solar panel on a portion of the roof to drastically reduce electrical power costs going forward.

We don't know yet if the pool will have an opening window for this summer due to COVID-19 regulations, but the door has not yet been closed and we'll be reviewing that again in mid-July.



Taxes—For those that were unable to pay taxes by the June 30th deadline, Bylaw #1337/20 has temporarily amended the tax penalty date and no penalty will be applied until October 1, this is for the 2020 tax year only. Don't forget the tax installment payment plan (TIPP) is available at anytime throughout the year, please contact the office for further details.

Utilities—Bylaw #1336/20 was passed earlier this spring which suspended any penalties that may have been applicable for the first two billing periods of 2020 and any that may apply for the current, third billing. This means that the May/June billing that just came out will be the last billing in which penalties do not apply if payments are not made. Utility penalties will be applied again starting September.

Town Office Hours—The Town office will continue to be open in a limited fashion—Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always staff are available by phone or email on days the office is closed to the public. At some point regular office hours will be resumed and plenty of notification will be given.