

Message from Your Ward Councilors

June 2005

It has been almost six months since the municipal election and numerous initiatives and issues are being addressed by City Council. Serving as a City Councilor provides an array of issues and initiatives for discussion. We would like to provide an overview of our work and initiative undertaken on your behalf in recent months.

Telecommunication Towers and Oil Wells

The City's policies regarding telecommunication towers and oil and gas wells were developed many years ago when such structures operated predominately outside of the City limits. Recent requests have been made to drill an oil well within City limits and construct an additional telecommunications tower within Ward 1. This resulted in a request being made to City Administration that we reconsider our policy and determine how we may help citizens dealing with such developments. While the setting of telecommunications towers is under federal jurisdiction, Administration is currently reviewing how the city policy might identify areas where such towers would not receive City Support.

Provincial and Federal Infrastructure Funding

The provincial government recently announced that the City of Edmonton would receive approx \$678 million over the next five years for capital infrastructure investment. The federal government has also confirmed that \$111 million will be provided through the federal gas tax rebate. Council will meet on May 1 to determine how both provincial and federal money will be allocated.

Ambulance Services

The Provincial government recently announced that they would not be pursuing ambulance consolidation into the regional health authorities until further investigation and two pilot projects have been completed. The province has agreed to fund the deliver of services for this calendar year. This means that the City of Edmonton will continue to provide EMS services as we traditionally have until further notice is received from the Alberta Government.

West End High Speed Transit Study

The West End High Speed Transit study is underway. You may access information via the City website at www.edmonton.ca Go to Transit and then click on the West High Speed Transit. A number of community consultations have been held in Ward 1 which is open to the public to attend. Any input you have on the alignment or timing of this project would be beneficial to us as Ward Councilors (see our contact numbers later in this article).

Police Services and the Police Commission

Council recently interviewed applicants to fill the vacancy left by Chair Ignasiuk's resignation. The City Auditor has recently presented his report on the Commission governance and administration and further work will be done in the coming months to respond to his recommendations. An external firm has been hired to oversee the recruitment of a new Police Chief. Given the nature of the position, it is anticipated that a new Chief of Police will probably assume his/her responsibilities in early fall of 2005.

Stony Plain Road Business Revitalization Zone (BRZ)

We have begun an initiative to gain business support of the formation of a Business Revitalization zone on Stony Plain Road. We are hopeful that this, if successful, will begin the revitalization of Stony Plain Road.

2004 Flood

A significant amount of investigation has occurred regarding the flood and what more needs to be done to restore the neighborhoods that were hardest hit. Meetings have been recently held in Elmwood, Lynnwood, Rio Terrace, Quesnell and Laurier Heights to review the outcome of the investigation. The infrastructure needs of other severely impacted neighborhoods will be completed in the next phase including Aldergrove, Thorncliff, Summerlea, Belmead, LaPerle, West Meadowlark, Meadowlark Park, Sherwood, Jasper Park, Parkview, Patricia Heights, Lyrnburn, Callingwood North and South, Westridge and Oleskiw. The Department is determining budget availability and schedules to initiate the studies as soon as possible.

Other Initiatives

We have also been involved in other corporate initiatives including seniors and affordable housing at the Mayor's request. During the spring months we are endeavoring to attend as many Community Leagues Annual Meetings as we can.

Other Questions

In the event that you have other questions or concerns don't hesitate to call us. We may be reached at City Hall by calling 496-8122 (Linda Sloan) or 496-8120 (Karen Leibovici).

Sincerely,

Karen Leibovici and Linda Sloan
Ward 1 Councilors
City of Edmonton