



## Mayor's Monthly Message

February, 2019

Council was pleased to hear from the Stirling Soccer Association this month. The Association is exploring infrastructure upgrades like additional seating at all fields, improved field conditions and on-site washroom facilities. Like a number of neighbouring communities in our region, Stirling is beginning a transition to join the Alberta Soccer Association which will bring new compliance requirements to ensure our teams are still able to play a broad range of teams. This will also mean more opportunities for competition and player development for many of our athletes who seek a more competitive experience. There is a lot of work ahead as the Association prepares for the future. For more information, parents can visit the Stirling Soccer Facebook page, or email the Association at [stirlingsoccer@hotmail.com](mailto:stirlingsoccer@hotmail.com).

Another active group in our community is the Stirling Silver Saddle Club. The SSSC recently held their annual Valentine's Dinner and Dance fundraiser. The Silver Saddle Club operates the arena near the fish pond on land leased from the Village. The land lease is up for renewal and Council expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the SSSC to invest in and improve the facilities and program options available to riders. Council has provided Administration with direction to draft a lease renewal and work with the Club's executive to discuss any changes required.

The Village acquired a vacant home and land on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street at the end of last year which can be subdivided into four new lots. These new lots will allow for better in-fill, increased tax revenues and new updated housing options. Administration is currently conducting due diligence and assessing the risks of demolishing the existing home or offering the dwelling as is for salvage. Council hopes to move forward with subdivision and development of the new lots later this year. In addition, the Village acquired another lot and partial structure in the 200 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street through a tax sale. This lot will be remediated and eventually offered for sale as well.

In my Mayor's Monthly Message from August last year, I wrote about our efforts to become a net zero community and leverage provincial incentives to hedge against future electrical rate inflation. I noted that part of our project included "a 456 panel ground mounted system will be constructed on municipal reserve adjacent to the sewer lift station on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue." It has been brought to Council's attention recently that the notice of hearing mailed to residents in the area of the project was not clearly understood. Application DA2018-13 was heard by the Municipal Planning Commission on July 11, 2018. There were no written submissions or other verbal presentations provided about the proposed project. Council will explore options to improve the visual appeal of the project without interfering with the operation of the units in the near future.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed business, dog and livestock licences already. Annual renewals ensure our records are up-to-date and help us to protect your pets and your property.

Trevor Lewington