



COUNCIL NOTICE OF MOTION

Date of Meeting: February 28, 2017
To: Council
From: Councillor Jackie McCuaig
Re: **NOTICE OF MOTION – Off-Highway Vehicle Fees**

Take notice that at a Regular Meeting of Council on February 28, 2017, Councillor Jackie McCuaig will MOVE:

“THAT administration be directed to prepare a resolution that will be brought forward to the Pembina Zone meeting on April 10, 2017, advocating for the provincial government to implement an annual off-highway vehicle (OHV) permitting process. The fund will be used to establish dedicated OHV parks and trail networks as well as directing funds for maintenance and enforcement. The resolution will identify non-recreational OHVs that would be exempt from the fee.”

Information Supporting the Notice of Motion

With Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use increasing in Alberta there are growing pressures and challenges. There has been a growing recognition that OHV use must be addressed. Questions arise where OHV use is appropriate and how best to manage OHV activity. As there are few OHV designated areas in the province, conflicts arise between OHV enthusiasts and individuals pursuing other recreational activities as well as concerns regarding the impacts OHV activity from an environmental and social perspective.

From an environmental standpoint, OHV use can result in:

1. Erosion, causing introduction of sediment into rivers, streams, and lakes adversely impacting fish habitat;
2. Disruption and displacement of wildlife breeding and nesting habitats;
3. Fires on public or private lands from modified or improperly operated vehicles;
4. Soil compaction thereby impacting flora and its regeneration resulting in the potential loss of a critical wildlife food source.
5. Damage to provincial and municipal lands including municipal reserves and environmental sensitive areas.

OHVs also have a detrimental impact from cultural and social perspective. Damage to areas of cultural significance – locations of archaeological or historical significance are at risk. OHVs can, if not managed properly put the general public at risk particularly on multi-use trail networks. OHV use has also resulted in conflict between users and private land owners, most notably, agricultural producers.

As the province's population continues to grow, so will OHV use and the issues and challenges that accompany it. A viable solution that gives consideration to, and balances, the interests of OHV enthusiasts, the general public and our ecosystem is required and must be developed by the Government of Alberta.

The creation of a policy framework that will enable the responsible use of OHVs while protecting public and private lands will require legislative change, initiatives that have been successfully implemented in most American jurisdictions as well as the Province of Nova Scotia.

To address the multitude of issues surround OHV use in the province, administration supports a resolution be brought forward to the AAMDC Pembina Zone for its consideration.



Mayor Rod Shaigec

Feb 17, 2017

Date