

To: Mayor Creasey  
Cc: Council  
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO  
Date: August 27, 2019

**Reference: 11/154/2019-205**

## RE: Downtown Business Concerns

Thank you for expressing your concerns as communicated by **FOIP 17(1)**. I have summarized responses below. As always, please don't hesitate to have residents or businesses contact administration directly if there are any additional concerns or questions.

### **1) Process for re-implementing lotto machines? Who / how?**

Regarding revisiting the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals within the City of Lacombe, a brief history might be useful. As you may be aware, gambling is a provincial jurisdiction, regulated through Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC), a provincial corporation. Reportedly, Bar owners receive 15 percent of net sales from VLTs. After Rocky Mountain House voted VLTs out in 1997, another plebiscite held there in 2009 cost the town \$10,000, with an overwhelming majority (76 percent) of residents voting in favour of keeping VLTs out of Rocky Mountain House.

The City of Lacombe received a petition (later deemed sufficient) on July 7, 1997 signed by 1128 electors representing 14 percent of the town's population. It requested Council pass a bylaw requesting the Minister responsible for the AGLC to remove existing Video Lottery Terminals from the Town, and that the Town remain free of VLTs henceforward.

In the late 90s, the Province then only considered requests for the removal of VLT's from a community if first supported by a local plebiscite. Before a VLT is removed – a council had to agree to hold a vote (plebiscite), the results of the vote indicate the will of the community (50% plus 1), then council must decide to forward the results to the AGLC and the AGLC must decide to act on its right to terminate their agreement with the retailer. After these steps occur, the government acts to remove the machines.

Two plebiscites were held – one on October 20, 1997, and another held on October 19, 1998 during the Municipal Elections, with the question on the ballot, *"Are you in favour of Council adopting Bylaw 244 which would require Council to ask the Minister responsible for the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission to remove the existing Video Lottery Terminals from the Town of Lacombe and remain free of Video Lottery Terminals thereafter."*

In both plebiscites the majority voted to remove the machines, and vote recounts did not change that result. During the 1998 election, following 34 percent voter turnout, a final vote by 1147 to remove video lottery terminals, versus 1132 to retain the machines, was followed by Council passing Bylaw 244 on October 26, 1998 whereby the Town of Lacombe requested that the Minister of the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission remove the 30 machines, and that the Municipality remain free of Video Lottery Terminals henceforward.

Should a resident or business desire to revisit this issue, a request in writing should be sent to Mayor and Council. Should Council entertain the request to reintroduce VLTs, they could hold another plebiscite, rescind Bylaw 244, and request the appropriate Ministry officials reintroduce VLTs. This



request would be accompanied by a copy of the Motion approving the reintroduction of VLTs to the City of Lacombe. I wouldn't presume to predict Council's decision in this (historically) contentious matter.

**2) Concrete walkway at alley south end of Letos BLDG - Is it scheduled for a redo? Concrete is broken up and continues to be problematic in winter.**

The projects selected for 2019 include the north half of 54th Street, 47th Street (as much as budget allows) and select replacements along 52nd Ave. The Roads Department completed a high level re-inspection of 15 sidewalks with the lowest rating and recommended 6 for consideration in this year's sidewalk program. Priority was given to sidewalks outside the downtown core (49, 50 and 51 Street and 49B, 49C, 50 and 51 Avenue), as one of the items for Council's consideration as part of the 2020 Budget will be implementation of Downtown Area Redevelopment Program (DARP) projects.

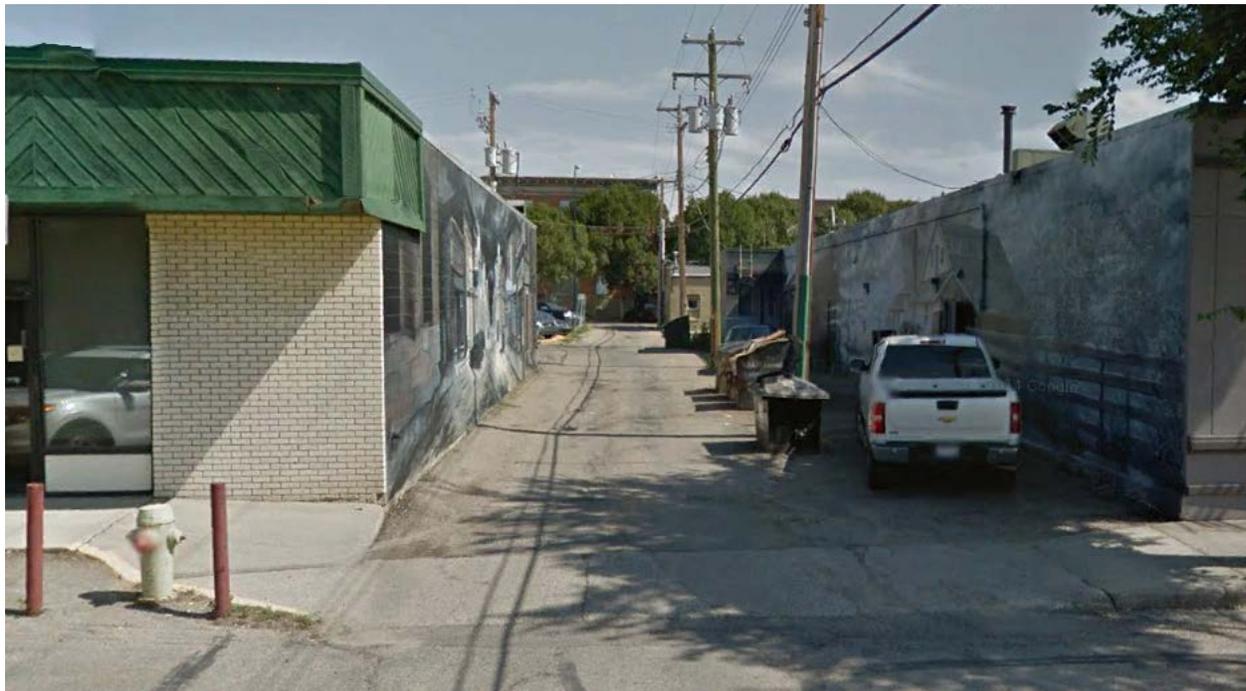
As DARP projects may impact sidewalks in the downtown core, they were excluded from this year's scope to prevent potential rework.



In 2018 Council elected to replace only the north portion of the sidewalk on 50th Street which was in the worst condition and presented safety concerns. Since then, Council requested Administration review options to complete improvements in the DARP area which will be brought forward for Council review this fall. As a result, the remaining budget of \$53,097 was carried forward to 2019, and is available to complete additional sidewalk work at council's discretion.

**3) Clean up at alley / still not done as left from Hometown Hockey. Gravel piles.**

Regarding gravel piles in the alley, the Roads Supervisor completed a site visit and could not find the cause of concern, so **FOIP 17(1)** was contacted directly on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss further. **FOIP 17(1)** identified the area as a small section of asphalt millings that was left near the fire hydrant at the south end of the alley, on 49B Ave. The Roads Dept removed the millings on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 11:30am. I am assuming this was from when the contractor hooked up temporary water services during the Lacombe Main Street Program project, and not related to the Hometown Hockey event.



We trust this letter satisfies your concerns at this time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Goudy, P.Eng  
Chief Administrative Officer