

Introduction of Thursday Thoughts

Thursday Thoughts was created by CAO Roehl in order to help keep the public informed and educated about municipal procedures, the roles of council, where to find information, who to contact if you have a concern, an explanation of what are bylaws and what do they mean, and much more information pertaining to your local municipal government. These posts are posted weekly on the Municipal Facebook or can be picked up at the Municipal Office.

The first topic was about accountability and transparency. Over the past year ratepayers have asked for more accountability and transparency pertaining to the ongoing in the municipality. What was being discussed at council meetings, which councillors were at council meetings, where funds were being allocated, was the municipality staying on budget, were new bylaws being put into place, how were requests/concerns being handled and the list goes on.

In order to aid in all of these questions and be more accountable and transparent, the administrative team has put many procedures and reporting standards into place to ensure not only council but citizens had the information easily available to them.

These things include:

- ◆ Council Meeting Agendas being available for anyone to view on our website the week prior to a Council Meeting. Here you can see what items will be discussed, a copy of the cheque listing, payroll reports, previous meeting minutes, financial reports such as bank reconciliations and budgetary controls, Public Hearing information, and much more! See something interesting on the agenda that you would like to know more about? Come sit in at the Council meeting on Tuesday at 6 to hear the discussions.
- ◆ Council Meeting Minutes being available on our website typically the day following the Council Meeting. In these minutes you will be able to see who was present at the meeting, what discussions happened, what decisions were made, and how long the meeting lasted. These minutes are also printed regularly in The Plainview paper for all to see.
- ◆ Increased Financial Reporting which is available on our website and included in Council Meeting Packages. These reports include monthly bank reconciliations, and budgetary controls and cheque listings at every meeting so anyone can see where money is being spent. Council has also implemented a Finance Committee which meets prior to every Council Meeting to go over every invoice that is being paid in that Cheque Listing. The Payroll process has been updated to ensure at least two people are preparing and reviewing payroll prior to it being submitted. Those payroll reports then get submitted for Council to approve at their meetings.
- ◆ New simplified emails for staff and council have been implemented to help with consistency and for all to understand more easily. All staff and council emails can be found on our website.

.....continued on Page 5

WASTE DISPOSAL GROUND HOURS

WINTER HOURS IN EFFECT AS OF OCTOBER 1

SUMMER HOURS (MAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30)

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am - 7:00 pm
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sunday: Closed

WINTER HOURS (OCTOBER 1 - APRIL 30)

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Sunday: Closed



Garbage and Recycling Pick Up



As summer draws to an end and cooler weather is on the way, we would like to remind all urban residents and businesses to ensure their waste carts are removed off the streets in the winter to allow for easy snow removal. We thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

Garbage Collection with the Town of Gilbert Plains for November and December 2023.

Recycling

November 14
November 28
December 12
December 26

Garbage

November 15
November 29
December 13
December 27

We Want Your Input!

Over the past year, there has been many staffing changes in our Municipality and with change comes learning and adjusting. We are currently looking at our rec programming and would like your input on what you would like to see offered in our community. Please take a few moments to fill out the following survey and return it to the Municipal Office.

How many people in your household? _____

Ages in household (Pick all that apply):

0 – 4 years old

5-9 years old

10-14 years old

15 – 18 years old

18 – 25 years old

26 – 34 years old

35 – 44 years old

45 – 55 years old

55+ years old

Activities You Would Like to See Offered (Pick all that apply):

Book Club

Open Gym Nights

Pickleball

Drama Club

Choir/Jam Night

Photography Club

Pottery

Archery

Local 4H Club

Debate Team

Soccer

Rec Hockey

Crafts

Babysitter Courses

Hunter Safety

Firearms Licensing

Kids Curling

Board Game Nights

Movie Nights

Quiz Nights

Any other suggestions: _____

When Would You Like to See These Activities Happen? (Pick all that apply)

Monday Evening

Tuesday Evening

Wednesday Evening

Thursday Evening

Friday Evening

Saturday Day

Saturday Evening

Sunday Day

Sunday Evening

No School Days

Holidays

Would You Be Willing to Volunteer to Help Make the Program Successful?

No

Yes (If yes, which activities are you willing to help with?)

Contact Information for Volunteering:

Name : _____

Phone Number: _____

Thank you for participating – we look forward to serving you and our community better!

Municipal News

Gilbert Plains Recreation Centre – the ice is in at the Rec Centre! Join us for Public Skating every Friday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Sticks and Pucks from 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm. (Please note if there is hockey tournaments there will be no Public Skating)

Curling starts next week on Tuesday contact Melissa at 204-647-7271 or Todd 204-572-7005 to enter your team! Super League will be held every Thursday.

We are happy to have The Wooden Tray operating our canteen for practices, games, and tournaments.

Municipal Bylaws – Gilbert Plains Municipality has recently passed the following bylaws:

Unightly Property Bylaw 2023-006 – this bylaw allows the municipality to maintain property and to regulate nuisance, derelict, abandoned and unsightly properties with the municipality. Some examples of unsightly properties include piled up garbage, long grass, old/derelict vehicles, etc.

Derelict Building Bylaw 2023-007 – this bylaw is to establish a system to regulate the condition and maintenance of vacant dwellings and non-residential buildings, and to establish a process to take title to vacant and derelict buildings.

Regulate Burning Bylaw 2023-009 – this bylaw is to regulate burning within the municipality and introduces the issuing of Burn Permits. All open air burning (stubble, brush piles, grass, etc.) now require a Burning Permit prior to burning. Permits can be obtained by calling the Municipal Office at 204-548-2326 or coming into the office at 201 Main Street N.

Procedural Bylaw 2023-010 – Council has changed the format, frequency, and time of their Council meetings. Council Meetings are now held every three weeks on Tuesday at 6:00 PM with the next scheduled meeting being November 21, 2023.

The Municipality is working closely with Commissionaires to update other bylaws including the Noise Bylaw and Animal Control Bylaw. If you have questions or would like more information about any municipal bylaw, please stop by the office

Public Works Department - The Public Works Department has been busy tackling numerous projects over the last 6 months. Some of these projects include: Rural Water System – 18 water leaks were found and repaired. Urban Sewer System – 1 sewer main was fixed and all sewer mains flushed and cleaned out. Drainage – We are currently working with IMWD to gain access to LIDAR mapping which will allow us to apply for necessary drainage permits and licenses throughout the municipality. There are currently 28 areas of interest being processed for ditch cleaning and redefining totally more than 60 miles of ditch. Ditch Mowing – The decision to do our own rural roadside mowing was made with Public Works staff being able to mow 760 miles of ditch. Gravelling – 130 miles of road were graveled and our 2024 gravel plan is currently being worked on to ensure we start bringing our roads up to par. Requests for Service – Nearly 100 Requests for Service have been completed. These requests include approach widening, new approaches, road repair requests, and more.

The entire team is very dedicated and passionate in providing the best level of service possible to this wonderful community. Thank you to all for your continued patience and support as we grow together moving forward in a positive direction with open minds. Without the public feedback and support we could not accomplish all these tasks. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns that arise.

Introduction to Thursday Thoughts continued....

- ◆ Request for Service Project Tracking has been put in place for the administrative team to have constant communication with Council pertaining to any Requests for Service that come in through the office or shop. These include things like drainage requests, approach requests, water hook up or disconnections, gravel requests, etc. This is why following the Request for Service Process is important.
- ◆ We have started our Quarterly Municipal Newsletter which will be coming out again very shortly. This newsletter includes things that the Municipality is working on, what we have done, upcoming events, and other information we feel is important to share. This Newsletter gets placed in every mailbox in Gilbert Plains and Ashville and is also available on our Facebook Page and Website and is available in the office.
- ◆ CAO Roehl has recently started putting weekly articles in the Plainview paper pertaining to things happening within the municipality. If there is specific information you feel should be shared, please reach out to her and she can help.

These are just a few of things that have been implemented and we are continuously working on more ways to ensure you all are kept informed. We would highly recommend checking out our website at www.gilbertplains.com to look at some of the agendas, minutes, bylaws, notices, financial information, and more that is available for all to view. We would also encourage you to come to council meetings, stop in at the office, and ask questions if you don't understand a process or procedure. We are here to help and here to serve you.

Our second weeks topic was "The Role of Council" and the third is "The Role of the CAO". If you would like a copy of our weekly post, please visit the Municipal Facebook Page or stop at the office for a copy!



Gilbert Plains Fire Department

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS GALA

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2, 2023

TICKETS: \$40.00 – Contact a Gilbert Plains Fire
Department Member

5:00 Cocktails • 6:00 Supper • Music and Prizes

JOIN US AT THE GILBERT PLAINS COMMUNITY HALL
FOR AN EVENING OF GREAT FOOD, MUSIC, AND
RAINBOW AUCTION PRIZES!



H.O.P.E

Helping Our People Everyday

Santa Parade

Friday, December 8

@ 6:30

Sponsored by HOPE

Christmas Tree lighting,

Cookies and Hot Chocolate by ES Building
at 7:00 (after the parade)

Sponsored by Lions Club



*start at elementary school parking lot, drive by Care Home, Gordon Ave, Main St, Buller Ave, back to elem. school.

To enter float, please contact Dawn @ 204-299-5005 or our HOPE Facebook page.

What's Happening?!?

November 11 – 10:45 am
Remembrance Day Service – Gilbert Plains Legion

November 11 – Gilbert Plains Waste Disposal
Grounds Closed

November 13 – Gilbert Plains Municipal Office
Closed

November 14 – 7:00 PM Gilbert Plains Country
Club Annual Fall Meeting

November 18 and 19 10:00am-3:00pm
Christmas Market – Richardson Pioneer
Community Hall, Gilbert Plains

November 21 – 6:00 PM
Council Meeting – Gilbert Plains Municipal Office

December 8 – 6:30 PM
Santa Parade - regular parade route

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9:00 am – 10:00 am

Winter Walking – Richardson Pioneer Hall

Every Friday
10:00am – 11:00am
Chair Yoga with Buffy – Richardson Pioneer Hall

Youth Council Representative

Gilbert Plains Municipality is very excited to announce that Hailey Tabak is our newest Youth Council Representative. Hailey will be working closely with CAO Roehl to bring feedback on what students would like to see from the municipality and how we can assist them, join in on conversations at council meetings, and assist in developing programs that would be beneficial to students within our area. If you are a student and have some ideas for our community, please reach out to Hailey.

Please visit our website at: www.gilbertplains.com and join our Facebook page- [Gilbert Plains Municipality](#)

for information on events, scheduling and general inquiries