



## UPDATE #6

**EFFECTIVE TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020 @ 9:00pm**

For the latest updates on COVID-19, please refer to [www.alberta.ca/covid](http://www.alberta.ca/covid)

There is still much uncertainty regarding COVID-19 and the health and economic havoc it is having on society. Although, there have been no confirmed cases within our community, we know that many residents have lost their jobs as a direct result of provincial directives and by the indirect impact of social distancing and people staying at home. Federal and Provincial governments have begun to offer economic support programs to help Canadians get through this crisis, but no one knows how long this pandemic will last and how soon the economic recovery will occur.

As a Council, we want you to know that we are here for you and that we are working to find ways to support you through this crisis. Which is why at tonight's Council Committee meeting, we directed Administration to bring a motion to our next Council meeting on April 7, 2020 to have the following motions made:

1. Effective March 25, 2020 – Penalties will be waived on every property tax, utility bill (water/sewer/garbage) and other bill that is owed to the Town until December 31, 2020.

What does this mean:

- People have the freedom to choose to pay all or some of their tax, utility or other payments, such as business licenses and dog tags etc. to the Town between March 25-December 31, 2020 interest free.
  - The amount you owe, **DOES NOT GO AWAY**, but it does provide you with flexibility, if you need it to manage your finances, however you feel best.
  - You will still get a utility bill each month and property taxes will still be due on July 15, 2020.
  - If you are on the Pre-Authorized Payment Plan and want to adjust your payment schedule, please contact the office at 403-752-3322 starting April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - **IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO PAY ALL OR SOME OF YOUR BILL PLEASE DO AS:**
    1. It may be difficult to come up with the money needed to pay off a larger bill towards the end of the year; and
    2. The Town needs cashflow monthly so we can continue to provide you with the services you need, such as providing water, sewer and garbage utilities, infrastructure maintenance, development services etc.
2. Council has established some “drop dead” dates for when decisions will be made on whether to open certain facilities or to host certain events in 2020. Council wants to provide families and other local organizations with time to plan/adjust their schedules with a much notice as possible, while carefully considering current government updates and directives, as well as local needs. They are as follows:
    - Southern Alberta Summer Games – Raymond was set to host the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Southern Alberta Summer Games this July 8-11. A decision as to whether or not to host the games this year will be made on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
    - Raymond Aquatic Centre – The pool was originally scheduled to open on June 11. A decision as to whether or not to open the pool in 2020 will be made on May 5<sup>th</sup>.



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- Heritage Days – Our annual Canada Day celebrations was set to occur on June 30, July 1 and July 4, 2020. A decision as to whether or not to hold our annual celebrations will be made on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. Council has set the following timeline to pass their 2020 Operating Budget:
- Re-visit the 2020 Operating Budget during the April 28, 2020 Council Committee meeting.
  - Pass a motion approving the 2020 Operating Budget during the May 5, 2020 Council meeting.
  - Pass 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Bylaw #1086-20 during the May 19, 2020 Council meeting.

As your Council, we would like to especially thank our local health care providers, school teachers and business owners, along with our Town employees who continue to serve and find ways to both adhere to government directives and still maintain our community's values. We will get through this together as we remain calm and look after one another.

Please feel free to contact one of us or our Chief Administrative Officer, Kurtis Pratt ([kurtispratt@raymond.ca](mailto:kurtispratt@raymond.ca) or 403-752-3322 ext. 1002) if you have any questions regarding this or any other local matter.

Sincerely,

Raymond Town Council

Mayor Jim Depew  
Deputy Mayor Stewart Foss  
Councillor Bryce Coppieters  
Councillor Ron Fromm  
Councillor Joan Harker  
Councillor Ken Heggie  
Councillor Ralph Price