

So, you want to be a councillor...

The next municipal election will be held October 18, 2021. Sitting on municipal council is a large commitment that requires a considerable time commitment. The MD of Spirit River has four council members with council meetings held twice a month, usually running all day.

In addition to council meetings the MD councillors share responsibilities sitting on approximately 28 boards, commissions, and committees. These include the Agricultural Service Board, the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance, Grande Spirit Foundation, Central Peace Medical Services Corporation Regional Fire Commission, Family and Community Services and the Peace Library Systems. Most of these committees meet monthly, including occasional Saturdays.

Other committees or meetings include the G5, a committee made up of the five central Peace municipal councils, the G3 (the MD, the town, and the village), Municipal Planning Commission, Central Peace Water Commission, and the Regional Fire Commission.

In addition to regular council and committee meetings, Council members attend two conferences with the Rural Municipalities Association of Alberta, usually a three-day commitment each.

On average Councillors spend about five days per month on council business.

Under the MGA, councillors have the duty to:

- consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and, to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality
- participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality
- participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meetings of other bodies they are appointed to by the council
- obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the chief administrative officer
- keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public
- perform any other duty or function imposed on councillors by this or any other enactment or by the council.

If you have an interest in running for council nomination packages can be picked up at our office or on our website.