

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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DATE: August 19, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director of Planning & Development Services

SUBJECT: Renaming of O'Grady Road – Process and Considerations

ATTACHMENT(S): - Letter from Chief Dolleen Logan re: Official Request to Change the Name of O'Grady Road
- Exhibit "A" (Map of Properties Located Along O'Grady Road)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Council CONSIDERS the three options set out in the report dated August 19, 2021 from the Acting Director of Planning & Development Services titled "Renaming of O'Grady Road – Process and Considerations", and provides direction to Administration.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the process and options for consideration regarding the request to change the name of O'Grady Road.

BACKGROUND:

Correspondence from Regular Council Meeting – July 12, 2021

At the July 12, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council received a letter from Chief Dolleen Logan of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, a copy of which is attached to this report. The letter is an official request to change the name of O'Grady Road. The letter explains O'Grady Road is named after Bishop O'Grady, and highlights the concern with this name.

Council passed a resolution for Administration to prepare a report to Council describing the process and options for consideration regarding the request to change the name of O'Grady Road.

Road Name History

The previous name of O'Grady Road was College Road. The renaming of the road from College Road to O'Grady Road was approved by Council on April 10, 1989.

DISCUSSION:

Process for Road Name Change

The City of Prince George does not have a formal process for changing the names of existing roads. However, there is a process for naming new roads. New roads are named in accordance with the following:

- Road name is selected from the Pioneer List. The Pioneer List provides names that commemorate local heritage names and have been vetted by Enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) Addressing Committee; or

- Road name is provided by the applicant/developer. The road name(s) proposed must be approved by E911 Addressing Committee.

Applicants/developers have the option of choosing a road name from the Pioneer List or providing their own road names.

If the City of Prince George is naming a new road, the City selects a new road name from the Pioneer List, working from the top down, unless given other direction from Council.

A letter confirming the name of the new road is provided to the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, E911 Addressing Committee, City of Prince George (certain internal Divisions), private utilities (i.e. Telus, Shaw, Fortis BC, and BC Hydro), and Canada Post.

Considerations for Road Name Change

Properties Located Along the Road

Renaming a road should consider the number, and use, of properties along the road that is subject to the name change. Exhibit “A” to this report highlights the properties along O’Grady Road that would be affected by the road name change. The list below is a summary of the uses that have O’Grady Road civic addresses, and includes the quantity of each type:

- Commercial Businesses
 - Five (5) in total: TD Canada Trust Branch & ATM, Southridge Dental Clinic, PG Hearing Centre, Pink Perfect Laser Clinic and Spa Ltd., and Home Depot;
- College Heights Mobile Home Park
 - Approximately 100 mobile homes; and
- Single Family, Duplexes, and Multi-Family housing
 - 41 dwellings

Potential Financial Implications

Renaming a road has impacts on the residents and businesses that are located along the road, namely with respect to updating address information on personal, and business related, documents. The extent of the costs associated with updating address information are not fully known at this time; however, Administration can confirm City of Prince George records would be updated at no cost to the owner/occupant/business, and private utilities (i.e. Telus, Shaw, Fortis BC, and BC Hydro) will update their records with the updated information following receipt of a confirmation letter from the City of Prince George advising of a road name change. Canada Post has also advised that the residents affected by a road name change will receive complementary mail forwarding for one (1) year.

Should Council provide direction to proceed with the next steps of renaming of O’Grady Road, Administration will return a report on next steps, including information on some of the common documentation residents would need to update to reflect the new road name.

OPTIONS:

Administration provides the following options for Council consideration and requests that one (1) of the following recommendations be selected:

1. That Council DIRECTS Administration to proceed with renaming O’Grady Road in consultation with the Lheidli T’enneh, and report back to Council on the road name decision and the next steps regarding implementation of the road name change; or
2. That Council DIRECTS Administration to rename O’Grady Road to either a road name provided in the Pioneer List, or revert to the previous road name, College Road, and report back to Council on the next steps regarding implementation of the road name change; or
3. That Council RESOLVES to maintain the current name of O’Grady Road.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The proposed name change for O'Grady Road is in keeping with the Social Health & Well Being and City Government and Infrastructure pillars of MyPG. More specifically the proposal is consistent with the Council Focus Areas that aim to collaborate with local organizations and partners to enhance quality of life, cultural vitality, local heritage, and inter-cultural understanding and to advance reconciliation and relationship-building with the Lheidli T'enneh.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

This report provides Council with an overview of the process and options for consideration regarding the request to change the name of O'Grady Road. Administration recommends Council choose one (1) of the options provided in the 'Options' section of the report to direct Administration on the next steps for the re-naming of O'Grady Road.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Deanna Wasnik
Acting Director of Planning & Development Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: August 30, 2021