

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Present:

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Ken Ball, Councillor
Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Lance Bussieres, Councillor
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
Allan Grandison, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Loretta Waquan, Councillor
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Absent:

Keith McGrath, Councillor

Administration:

Brad McMurdo, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Councillor S. Wigle served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the first meeting in November, 2022:

"WHEREAS the Municipality's Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Program is open for residents in some rural communities to connect and some residents have now connected to the Municipality's piped water and sewer services;

AND WHEREAS some residents have seen an increase in their water and wastewater utility billing since the time of connection;

AND WHEREAS water and wastewater utility billing rates should be reviewed for all rural areas to ensure fairness and consistency;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration conduct an analysis of water and wastewater utility billings in the rural areas and bring forward this information during the discussion on the User, Fees, Rates and Charges for 2023.”

Councillor K. Ball served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council’s consideration at the first meeting in November, 2022:

“THAT Administration review and bring forward recommendations to amend the Fiscal Responsibility Policy FIN-160 to ensure that appropriate capital budget amendments are brought forward for Council approval.”

Councillor K. Cardinal served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council’s consideration at the first meeting in November, 2022:

“THAT Administration be directed to undertake a third-party review of the Elected Officials Compensation, Travel and Expense Policy LEG-050 and bring forward proposed changes to the Policy as well as remuneration recommendations for the 2025 Council in Q3 of 2023.”

Exit

Councillor S. Wigle exited the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan
ABSENT:	McGrath, Wigle

3. Consent Agenda

Return

Councillor S. Wigle returned to the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained in items 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 be approved.

3.1. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting - October 11, 2022

THAT the Minutes of the regular Council meeting held on October 11, 2022 be approved as presented.

3.2. Minutes of Special In Camera Council Meeting - October 18, 2022

THAT the minutes of the Special In Camera Council Meeting held on October 18, 2022 be approved as presented.

3.3. Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

THAT the Minutes from Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1-4, be accepted as information.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
ABSENT:	McGrath

4. New and Unfinished Business**4.1. 2022 External Audit Service Plan – Deloitte LLP**

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, accompanied by Andrew Geary and David Hodges, Deloitte LLP, presented the 2022 External Audit Service Plan and provided clarification on the Service Plan process.

MOTION:

THAT the 2022 External Audit Service Plan, as provided by the external Auditors Deloitte LLP, be approved.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
ABSENT:	McGrath

4.2. Tax Relief Request - Plan: 1222967 Block: 1 Lot: 1

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer and Keivan Navidi, Manager, Assessment, presented the tax refund request related to Plan 1222967, Block 1, Lot 1, noting that the request is related to an error of the assessed values from the 2019 tax year and that Council had the authority to approve the refund.

MOTION:

THAT the request for a tax refund, in the amount of \$109,343.57, comprising of property taxes and penalties, for the property located at Plan: 1222967 Block: 1 Lot: 1, be approved.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Stu Wigle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
ABSENT:	McGrath

4.3. Review of Water and Sanitary Utility Rate Differentials

Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services, Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer and Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services, presented the Review of Water and Sanitary Utility Rates Differentials in response to Council's direction to determine if there are inequities in the current fee structure. It was noted that the recommendation from Administration is based on current engineering standard requirements, benchmarking, administrative feasibility, timeliness and cost impact.

Point of Order

During questions of Council Councillor A. Grandison called a Point of Order with respect to the questions posed by Councillor K. Cardinal noting that they are not relevant to the matter. The Point of Order was upheld by Mayor S. Bowman.

Councillor A. Grandison put forward the following for Council's consideration "That billing of multi-dwelling buildings or communities having a Fire Protectus® meter sized 4" and above, be charged based on the smaller sized meter, effective April 1, 2023."

Councillor K. Ball proposed a friendly amendment to strike the words “effective April 1, 2023” and replace them with “effective January 1, 2023”. There was no opposition from Council to the friendly amendment.

MOTION:

THAT billing of multi-dwelling buildings or communities having a Fire Protectus® meter sized 4" and above, be charged based on the smaller sized meter, effective January 1, 2023.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
ABSENT:	McGrath

5. Councillors' Motions

5.1. Creation of Alberta Provincial Police Service - Councillor K. McGrath

Due to Councillor K. McGrath's absence, by consensus of Council, it was agreed to defer the item to the next regular Council meeting.

5.2. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Councillor K. Cardinal

Councillor K. Cardinal spoke to his motion, noting that declaring September 30 as a general holiday for municipal employees would be one way to acknowledge the number of children having been murdered and taken away from their families and provide an opportunity for employees to recognize those events as part of the Truth and Reconciliation efforts.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to research and bring forward a report for Council's consideration of recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, as a general holiday for municipal employees beginning in 2023, such report to include any implications, operational, financial, or otherwise.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
SECONDER:	Loretta Waquan, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Grandison
ABSENT:	McGrath

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer