

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, March 12, 2013, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
D. Blair, Councillor
C. Burton, Councillor
L. Flett, Councillor
S. Germain, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
J. Stroud, Councillor
C. Tatum, Councillor
R. Thomas, Councillor
A. Vinni, Councillor

Absent: D. Kirschner, Councillor

Administration: G. Laubenstein, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer
R. Kendall, Legislative Coordinator

Call To Order

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Opening Prayer

Mayor Blake invited those so inclined to join her in Prayer.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that that agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of February 26, 2013

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that the minutes from the February 26, 2013 Council meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

2. Wade Coombs, PWTransit Canada Ltd. re Wood Buffalo Transit System Request for Proposal

Wade Coombs gave an overview of the company's commitment to the success of transportation challenges that the Municipality may encounter in the future.

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that the presentation made by Wade Coombs regarding Wood Buffalo Transit System Request for Proposal be accepted as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Hearings and Related Reports

3. Vehicle for Hire Bylaw - Bylaw No. 13/001

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the Public Hearing be opened for Bylaw No. 13/001.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rene Wells, Director, RCMP Support/Bylaw Services Department, provided an overview of the new legislation being proposed.

The following came forward representing Sun Taxi:

Penny Skinner spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw, but agreed that revisions to the current bylaw are required subject to additional consultation.

Abdulkadir Husien spoke in opposition to the increase in permits and fees.

Mohamed Salim, mechanic, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw, and noted there are strict guidelines to be followed when taxi vehicle inspections are conducted.

Ronald MacNeill, owner, spoke in opposition to the impact that increased expenses will have on his company.

Chris MacNeill spoke in opposition and echoed similar comments of Ronald MacNeill.

The following came forward representing Teamsters Local Union 987 of Alberta:

Jim Haryett spoke in opposition, and suggested a controlled entry system in relation to the number of taxi cabs allowed to operate in the Municipality be explored.

Akram Ali Shamie spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw, and noted there was no impartial study conducted when the bylaw was put forth.

Dahir Jama spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw and noted that the main concern for taxi drivers is the economic factor and hours needed to provide financially for their families.

S. Zahid Ali, representing Wood Buffalo CO-OP Taxi Inc., spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw, but expressed support for safety education training for drivers.

Frank Creasey, representing Fort McMurray Tourism, spoke in favour of the proposed bylaw from a hosting perspective. The proposed bylaw should bring a higher level of customer service, consistency with fares and safety.

Bill Wearney, representing Fort McMurray Airport Authority, spoke in favour of the proposed bylaw and echoed similar comments as Mr. Creasey.

Jean-Marc Guillamot, representing Fort McMurray hotels, spoke in favour of the bylaw and urged all parties involved to cooperate in implementing this bylaw.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in opposition.

The following came forward representing City Cabs:

Abdirham Qule, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw and the possible safety issues associated with a six month vehicle inspection.

Susan Power, spoke in opposition to the subjectivity in the bylaw, but spoke in favour of improved customer service, language proficiency, as well as creating and maintaining good conditions to do business.

Abdubal Humal, representing United Taxi, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw and the expense associated with licenses and permits.

Elie Katch, taxi driver, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw, as well as the lack of safety for drivers.

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 13/001 be closed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 13/001 was held from 6:20 p.m. to 8:42 p.m.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 13/001, being the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw be read a second time.

Councillor S. Germain expressed some concern specifically regarding the proposed cost of permits and licensing.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, D. Blair, C. Burton, L. Flett, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, R. Thomas, A. Vinni

Opposed: S. Germain

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that Bylaw No. 13/001 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, D. Blair, C. Burton, L. Flett, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, R. Thomas, A. Vinni

Opposed: S. Germain

Bylaws**4. Election Bylaw - Bylaw No. 13/010**

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 13/010, being a bylaw to establish the rules to follow in conducting regional elections, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Establishment of Residential Sub-Classes - Bylaw No. 13/012

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that Bylaw No. 13/012, being a bylaw to establish sub-classes for Residential Property, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Laneway Closure and Authorization to Sell - Bylaw No. 13/013

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher:

That Bylaw No. 13/013, being a Bylaw to close a laneway, be read a first time; and

That subject to the laneway closure, and in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Summary Land Sale – Terms and Conditions dated January 7, 2013, Administration be authorized to proceed with sale of the laneway to the purchaser for the purpose of a land consolidation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports**7. Transit Service**

Moved by Councillor R. Thomas that Administration be authorized to enter into a contract with Tokmakjian Inc. for the provision of a Full Service Bus Transit System for a term of fifteen (15) years with an option to extend for a further five (5) years upon mutual agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recognition

On behalf of the Honourable Don Scott, MLA, Fort McMurray-Conklin, Mayor Blake presented a plaque to Councillor Flett as recipient of the Indspire Award. ("The Indspire Awards, formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, recognizes Indigenous professionals and youth who demonstrate outstanding career achievement.")

Reporting - Boards and Committees

- MacDonald Island Park Corporation Board Meeting (Councillor S. Germain)

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor D. Blair that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer