

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, July 05, 2016, commencing at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

- M. Blake, Mayor
- T. Ault, Councillor
- L. Bussieres, Councillor
- J. Cardinal, Councillor
- S. Germain, Councillor
- K. McGrath, Councillor
- P. Meagher, Councillor
- J. Stroud, Councillor
- C. Tatum, Councillor (via teleconference)
- A. Vinni, Councillor
- C. Voyageur, Councillor

Administration:

- M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
- K. Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- E. Hutton, Executive Director
- D. Bendfeld, Acting Executive Director
- D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
- A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
- S. Harper, Legislative Officer
- D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting - June 28, 2016

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 28, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentations

2. 2016-2018 Fiscal Management Strategy Update and 2016 Property Tax Rate Bylaw No. 16/007
(5:08 p.m. – 6:08 p.m.)

Elsie Hutton, Chief Financial Officer; and Philip Schofield, Director of Assessment and Taxation, provided an update on the 2016-2018 Fiscal Management Strategy and presented on the 2016 Property Tax Rate Bylaw.

Exit and Return:

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 5:24 p.m. and reentered at 5:25 p.m.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher:

- That the 2016 – 2018 Fiscal Management Strategy, dated April 19, 2016, be approved as a guide for 2017 budget development;
- That the 2015-2017 Fiscal Management Strategy, dated April 28, 2015, be rescinded; and
- That Administration be authorized to incorporate into the 2016-2018 Fiscal Management Strategy any changes that may be required following passage of the 2016 Property Tax Rate Bylaw No. 16/007.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

David Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer, informed Council that Bill 21, passed by the Government of Alberta, will fix the ratio between the municipality's highest commercial tax rate and the lowest residential tax rate at 18.3 to 18.1.

Councillor J. Stroud put the following motion forward for consideration: "That Bylaw No. 16/007, being the 2016 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, be read a second time."

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Bylaw No. 16/007 be amended by setting municipal tax rates for all classes to 2% below the rates set out in Bylaw No. 15/010.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Clarification was provided that the 2% rate reduction would apply to municipal tax rates only, as the provincial education tax requisition amounts are fixed by the Government of Alberta.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Bylaw No. 16/007 be amended by revising the education tax rates to reflect the amounts set out in the Government of Alberta's amended Education Tax Requisition, as set out in Attachment 2 (Proposed Amendments to Provincial Education Tax Rates and Amounts, dated May 3, 2016).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voting then occurred on second reading of the bylaw, as amended.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that Bylaw No. 16/007, being the 2016 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, as amended, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion Recess and Exit:

A motion recess occurred from 6:03 p.m. to 6:05 p.m., during which time Councillor S. Germain exited the Chamber and returned.

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that Bylaw No. 16/007 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher:

- That the 2016 Operating Budget be increased from \$720,000,000 to \$766,506,548; and
- That the additional net revenue of \$46,506,548 be transferred to the Emerging Issues Reserve and committed for costs associated with assessment complaints.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaws

3. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Noise Bylaw Amendment - Bylaw No. 16/015

(6:09 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Bylaw 16/015, being a bylaw to amend Noise Bylaw No. 83/024, be read a second time.

Karoline Power, resident, expressed concerns over the proposed amendments to the noise bylaw citing mental health considerations for those that could be affected by lack of sleep due to construction related noise. She requested that Council consider an amendment to the proposed bylaw to allow work on 'critical infrastructure' construction projects only.

Kunal Nagpal, Alberta resident, expressed his concerns over the proposed amendments citing the potential problem of bottlenecks at the landfill that 24-hour work would create.

Exit and Return:

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 6:23 p.m. and reentered at 6:25 p.m.

Paul McLeod, resident, spoke in support of the proposed amendments, and provided suggestions on how the construction industry can help minimize the impact of noise.

Exit and Return:

Mayor M. Blake exited the meeting at 6:39 p.m. and reentered at 6:42 p.m., during which time Councillor S. Germain assumed the Chair.

Voting then occurred on second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Bylaw 16/015, be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Utility Rates Bylaw Amendment - Bylaw No. 16/016 - Differential Landfill Fees for non-residents

(6:46 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Councillor A. Vinni put forward the following motion for consideration: “That Bylaw 16/016, being a bylaw to amend Utility Rates Bylaw No. 10/001, be read a second time.”

Mathew Farrell, lawyer, came forward, but spoke to a matter unrelated to the item.

Paul McLeod, resident, spoke in support of a local first concept, and requested that Council look at all options available for efficient disposal of waste at the landfill including the use of end dumps.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw 16/016 be amended by changing the rates currently showing as five times the local cost to two times the local cost.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, T. Ault, J. Cardinal, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, C. Voyageur

Opposed: L. Bussieres, S. Germain, K. McGrath, A. Vinni

Voting then occurred on second reading of the bylaw, as amended.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, T. Ault, J. Cardinal, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, C. Voyageur

Opposed: L. Bussieres, S. Germain, K. McGrath, A. Vinni

Moved by Councillor P Meagher that Bylaw 16/016, be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, T. Ault, J. Cardinal, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, C. Voyageur

Opposed: L. Bussieres, S. Germain, K. McGrath, A. Vinni

Recess:

A recess occurred between 7:30 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.

5. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Bylaw No. 16/017 - Differential Fees for Demolition Permits arising from Wildfire Damage

(7:51 p.m. – 9:05 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that Bylaw No. 16/017, being a Land Use Bylaw amendment specific to demolition permit fees, be read a second time.

Kunal Nagpal, Alberta resident, spoke in support of the bylaw amendment and the proposed higher fees for non-residents and non-resident businesses.

Barry Dahlseide, Alberta resident, spoke in opposition to the bylaw amendments requesting that Council not penalize non-resident businesses with higher permit fees.

Réal Chartrand, resident, spoke in support of the proposed bylaw amendment citing the need to support local contractors.

Exit and Return:

Councillor K. McGrath exited the Chamber at 8:22 p.m. and reentered at 8:23 p.m.

Paul McLeod, resident, spoke in support of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Justin Ellis, resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw amendment noting that it will ultimately cost local residents more and cause delays in rebuilding homes.

Exit:

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Betty Anne Eldridge, resident, spoke in support of the proposed bylaw amendment requesting that Council endorse an approach that supports local businesses first.

Minard Presley, resident, spoke in support of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Council waive the time restriction identified in Section 32.1 of the Procedure Bylaw to continue the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voting then occurred on second reading of Bylaw No. 16/017.

DEFEATED

For: A. Vinni

Opposed: M. Blake, T. Ault, L. Bussieres,
J. Cardinal, S. Germain, P.
Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, C.
Voyageur

Reports

6. Birchwood Trails Wildfire Hazard Reduction

(9:06 p.m. – 9:26 p.m.)

Darby Allen, Regional Fire Chief, provided a presentation on the Birchwood Trails Wildfire Hazard Reduction plan.

Exit and Return:

Councillor S. Germain exited the meeting at 9:15 p.m. and reentered at 9:16 p.m.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud:

- That the Phase 2A Fuels Reduction Prescription for Birchwood Trails Wildfire Hazard Reduction funding request for \$1,500,000 be approved;
- That the Phase 2A Fuels Reduction Prescription for Birchwood Trails Wildfire Hazard Reduction be funded from:
 - The 2016 Regional Emergency Services Operating Budget surplus,
 - The 2016 Community and Protective Services Division Operating Budget surplus
 - The 2016 Emerging Issues Reservein that order; and
- That grant applications be made for funding support from:
 - Alberta Forestry and Agriculture (AAF), and
 - Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA), and
 - FireSmart.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer