

Minutes of a Special 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 Monday, June 20, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

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

Administration:

- M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
- K. Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- B. Couture, Executive Director
- E. Hutton, Executive Director
- M. Johnstone, Executive Director
- D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
- J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services
- S. Harper, Legislative Officer
- D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

New and Unfinished Business

1. Review of Approved Capital Budget
(6:07 p.m. – 8:57 p.m.)

Mark Johnstone, Executive Director of Infrastructure and Engineering; and Elsie Hutton, Executive Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief overview of the preliminary review undertaken by administration of the 2016 Approved Capital Budget.

Delegations:

Keith Plowman, Fort McMurray Construction Association, spoke to the affects felt by business owners in the wake of the wildfire and requested that Council proceed with all capital projects.

Lemont Edwards, resident of Gregoire Lake Estates, spoke to the need for fire hydrants in Gregoire Lake Estates and spoke in favour of moving ahead with the rural water and sewer servicing capital project.

Ron Quintal, President of the Fort MacKay Métis, spoke in favour of moving forward with all capital projects, advocating in particular for the Fort McKay Fire Hall capital project.

Arrival:

Councillor K. McGrath entered the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Darryl Woytkiw, Willow Lake Community Association, expressed his concern that any project suspensions could mean further delays in rural areas acquiring essential services such as water and sewer.

June Catton, resident of Anzac, spoke in favour of proceeding with capital projects in Anzac, citing that development in the area will be vitally important for continued growth.

Wade Chouinard, Willow Lake Community Association, spoke in favour of installing fire hydrants in Gregoire Lake Estates.

Chelsey Vanee, resident of Anzac, spoke to the need for basic services such as water and sewer in rural areas citing the impact it will have on growth, and read a letter to Council from a young Anzac community member who expressed similar concerns.

Exit and Return:

Councillor S. Germain exited the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and reentered at 7:03 p.m.

Travis Cramer and Sean Steil, members, Anzac Fire Department, thanked Council for proceeding with the Anzac Fire Hall Construction capital project, and spoke in favour of installing rural fire hydrants and moving ahead with piped water and sewer capital projects.

Stacey Kanarek, resident of Gregoire Lake Estates, expressed her thanks to first responders and her ward Councillor for their support during the wildfire and evacuation process, and spoke in favour of installing fire hydrants and piped water to rural communities to reduce safety concerns.

Stacey Atkinson, Director of the Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee and Metis Local, expressed her thanks and gratitude for residents who came together in the region to help fight the wildfire, and spoke in favour of proceeding with all capital projects in Conklin.

Verna Quintal Janvier, resident of Conklin, spoke in favour of proceeding with essential services capital projects in Conklin.

Gwen Letendre, resident of Conklin, spoke in favour of proceeding with capital projects to bring basic essential services to the residents of Conklin.

Margaret Quintal, member of the Conklin Community Association and Metis Association, requested that Council give full consideration to all pertinent information prior to making any decisions relative to capital projects.

Jim Rogers, resident of Fort McMurray, proposed that consideration be given to dividing the regional municipality differently as a way of better providing services to rural areas.

Nicole Gardner, resident of Anzac, spoke to the need for water and sewer in Anzac and called for greater emphasis on safety in rural communities.

Bob Galbraith, resident of Conklin, spoke to the need to prioritize capital projects appropriately, citing the need for water and sewer, as well as fire hydrants in the community of Conklin.

Exit:

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Kevin Woytkiw, resident of Anzac, shared his personal experience as a first responder fighting the wildfire in Anzac to illustrate the need for piped water and fire hydrants in the community.

Return:

Councillor K. McGrath reentered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Peter Fortna, resident of Fort McMurray, addressed several concerns relative to the proposed capital project scheduling readjustments and the rationale for doing so, and requested that Council move forward with all capital projects.

Exit:

Councillor C. Tatum was disconnected from the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Jeffrey O'Donnell, resident of Fort McMurray, spoke in favour of proceeding with the Conklin Multiplex capital project, noting the valuable resource it would have provided in the wildfire evacuation process.

Return:

Councillor C. Tatum reconnected to the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Manny Makia, resident of Fort McMurray, requested that Council pursue leadership decisions relative to capital projects in the wake of the wildfire in the spirit of community and neighbourliness.

Recess:

A recess occurred from 8:15 p.m. to 8:34 p.m.

Councillor A. Vinni put forward the following motion for consideration:

1. "That Administration resume capital projects identified in Attachment 1 dated June 14, 2016.
2. That Administration suspend capital projects identified in Attachment 2 dated June 14, 2016, until a further detailed review is completed of:
 - Contractual obligations
 - Feasibility of modified scheduling and
 - Cash flow implications
3. That Administration complete a further detailed review by July 19, 2016."

Kevin Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided clarification on the information presented to Council, indicating that the intent of the preliminary review was to focus on optimizing scheduling and that a more detailed in depth review would be brought back to Council in July.

Councillor T. Ault then put forward the following amendment:

That Rural Water/Sewer Servicing Pre-design and Design be moved from Attachment 2 (Suspended) to Attachment 1 (To Resume).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voting then occurred on the main motion as amended:

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni:

1. That Administration resume capital projects identified in Attachment 1 dated June 14, 2016.
2. That Administration suspend capital projects identified in Attachment 2 dated June 14, 2016, until a further detailed review is completed of:
 - Contractual obligations
 - Feasibility of modified scheduling and
 - Cash flow implications
3. That Administration complete a further detailed review by July 19, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer