

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, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
T. Ault, Councillor
J. Cardinal, Councillor
S. Germain, Councillor
K. McGrath, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
J. Stroud, Councillor
C. Tatum, Councillor
A. Vinni, Councillor

Absent: L. Bussieres, Councillor
C. Voyageur, Councillor

Administration: M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Bendfeld, Executive Director
R. Billard, Acting Executive Director
B. Couture, Executive Director
E. Hutton, Executive Director
A. Gulamhusein, Legal Counsel
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services
D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 - October 18, 2016

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 18, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

2. Community Identification Committee Recommendation – Rex Terpening Landing

(6:10 p.m. – 6:18 p.m.)

Carol Cleminson, Community Identification Committee Member, provided an overview of the recommendation, including a short biography of Mr. Rex Terpening.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the amenities building at the Snye (Lot 10, McMurray Settlement Plan) be named as “Rex Terpening Landing”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor M. Blake, Councillors K. McGrath and A. Vinni, along with Community Identification Committee Member, Carol Cleminson, presented Mr. Rex Terpening’s son, Dave Terpening, with a sign commemorating the facility naming. Dave Terpening then read a thank you letter from his father.

3. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Regional Mitigation Opportunities

(6:19 p.m. – 7:56 p.m.)

Jeanette Bancarz, Chairperson, Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee, and Marty Giles, Chairperson, Mitigation Sub-Committee, presented an overview of the proposed regional mitigation opportunities, which are intended to reduce the potential of a Wildland / Urban Interface fire and enable the safe movement of residents if another disaster necessitates evacuation.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath:

- THAT Council support the development of a regional-level alternate egress and emergency evacuation route (to be termed “East Clearwater Highway”) as its highest priority mitigation requirement; and
- THAT Administration participate in a pre-design for the proposed East Clearwater Highway with a focus of improving resiliency and public safety for the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (the Municipality); building on previous and ongoing initiatives including any work done by related Committees; and
- THAT Administration budget \$5M in the proposed 2017 Budget as the Municipality’s contribution to the overall pre-design costs for the proposed East Clearwater Highway, subject to a commitment from other partners on the remainder of the pre-design costs; and

- THAT Council solicit the Government of Alberta (GOA) for 2017 funding support for the pre-design which includes cost-sharing opportunities for the proposed East Clearwater Highway, with the intent of improving resiliency and public safety for the residents of the Municipality; and
- THAT the Mayor is hereby authorized and requested to write on behalf of Council to the GOA consisting of three elements:
 - Support for the GOA's comprehensive FireSmart plan for the Municipality that is currently under consideration;
 - A commitment to work collaboratively to determine the best means of protecting the rural hamlets and the western flank of the Urban Service Area from a Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) fire; and
 - A request for GOA funding and support for a collaborative initiative between the GOA and the Municipality with respect to the training and permanent staffing of a WUI Fire Crew similar in concept to that existing in the Lesser Slave Lake region.

Melissa Gallant, resident, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities noting that the proposed East Clearwater Highway is necessary for the safety of all residents.

Wayne Woodhouse, Stony Valley Contracting, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities, including the East Clearwater Highway.

Gilles Huizinga, Urban Development Institute (UDI) Wood Buffalo, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities noting that UDI Wood Buffalo supports the recommendations from a safety and economic perspective.

Lisa Hilsenteger, resident and school administrator, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities noting that a secondary highway out of town is necessary for the safety of residents.

Scott Garner, resident, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities, including the construction of the proposed East Clearwater Highway.

Mohammed Dogar, resident, spoke in support of the mitigation opportunities proposed by the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities, citing the need to expedite development of the proposed East Clearwater Highway.

J. Paul McLeod, resident, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities.

Bryce Kumka, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the proposed mitigation opportunities and specifically to the need for another highway for the region.

Voting then occurred on the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

A brief recess occurred between 7:56 p.m. and 8:08 p.m.

Bylaws

4. Bylaw No. 16/019 - Operating Line of Credit Borrowing Bylaw
(8:08 p.m. – 8:28 p.m.)

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, provided an overview of the proposed Operating Line of Credit Borrowing Bylaw, noting the necessity to have a line of credit to ensure a positive cash flow to meet operating expenditures until all current tax levies are collected and other revenues are received.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 16/019, being a bylaw to authorize borrowing and establish a line of credit for the purpose of financing operating expenditures, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 16/019 be read a second time.

Mohammed Dogar, resident, spoke to matters unrelated to the recommendations before Council at this time.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke to the proposed bylaw expressing concern with the concept of borrowing to ensure a positive cash flow.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 16/019 be considered for third and final reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 16/019 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer