

**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 11, 2016, commencing at 6:00 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  
A. Vinni, Councillor  
C. Voyageur, Councillor

**Administration:**  
D. Bendfeld, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
B. Couture, Executive Director  
E. Hutton, Executive Director  
D. Leflar, Regional Legal Counsel  
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer  
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer  
S. Soutter, 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

**1. Minutes from Council Meeting – October 4, 2016**

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 4, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Delegations**

**2. Sandy Bowman, Chair and Christine Burton, Deputy Chair, Combative Sports Commission Annual Report  
(6:10 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.)**

**Christine Burton, Deputy Chair, and Renee Wells, Member, Combative Sports Commission** provided the Commission's annual report.

## **Reports**

### **3. Community Identification Committee Recommendations – “Atkinson Lane”** (6:22 p.m. – 6:24 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the existing road named as “Atkinson Lane” in the Abasand Development be recognized as a road named after Norma Jean Atkinson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **4. Comprehensive Fire Break Program** (6:25 p.m. – 6:51 p.m.)

**Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Leader, and Bob Couture, Executive Director,** presented background information on the Comprehensive Fire Break Program.

#### **Exit and Return**

Councillor T. Ault exited the Chamber at 6:30 p.m. and returned at 6:35 p.m.

**Bill Ladouceur, local contractor,** spoke in support of the program.

- Moved by Councillor K. McGrath: That the Recovery Task Force and Administration encourage Firebreak Property owners to submit a claim to their residential insurance; and
- That if the Firebreak Property owner is uninsured or underinsured that they submit a claim to the Municipality’s Insurance Services Department, to be submitted by the Insurance Services Department to the Municipal Insurer; and
- That the Recovery Task Force and Administration seek an opinion from the Municipal Insurer addressing its position on compensating owners for the damage sustained to Firebreak Property; and
- That the Recovery Task Force continue working with the Disaster Recovery Program (“DRP”) to develop a possible financial assistance program to support Firebreak Property owners if needed and to obtain written clarification from the DRP about the exact nature of the costs it will reimburse the Municipality.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **5. Strategic Plan Update** (6:51 p.m. – 7:37 p.m.)

**Terry Hartley, Director of Human Resources,** provided a progress report on the Strategic Plan and identified a number of changes made to reflect the shift in Council priorities that has occurred since the May wildfire.

#### **Exit and Return**

Councillor K. McGrath exited the Chamber at 6:53 p.m. and returned at 6:57 p.m.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the matter of the Strategic Plan be deferred until Council holds a workshop on the matter, targeted to be scheduled before the end of 2016.

CARRIED

For: L. Bussieres, J. Cardinal, S. Germain,  
K. McGrath, P. Meagher, A. Vinni, C.  
Voyageur

Opposed: T. Ault, M. Blake, J. Stroud, C.  
Tatum

### **Councillors' Motions**

#### **6. Gypsum Tariff** (7:37 p.m. – 7:54 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath :

WHEREAS the Canadian Border Service Agency has recently exercised its statutory authority to impose a tariff on all gypsum imported from the United States into Western Canada, as a punitive measure resulting from a finding that certain United States based firms have been importing gypsum into Western Canada in contravention of international trade agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality suffered a massive wildfire in May 2016 that destroyed over 2500 homes which will require significant quantities of gypsum to rebuild;

AND WHEREAS the recently imposed tariff on gypsum, justifiable on a national level as a Canadian response to foreign violations of international trade agreements, will nevertheless significantly increase the cost of rebuilding a home and will therefore have a particularly negative impact on property owners seeking to rebuild homes destroyed by the wildfire in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;

AND WHEREAS there has been national support for the recovery efforts of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo which includes support for rebuilding homes damaged and destroyed by the wildfire;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOVED THAT:

1. Council hereby calls upon the Government of Canada, as the level of government responsible for negotiating and implementing the international trade agreements that have led to the recent gypsum tariff, to develop and fund a grant program to compensate property owners in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo who are rebuilding or will be rebuilding the homes they lost in the May 2016 Wildfire, for the increased costs of rebuilding their homes as a result of the gypsum tariff; and
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and requested to write on behalf of Council to the Government of Canada advising of the above resolution and requesting federal grant assistance for affected homeowners.

**J. Paul McLeod, resident**, spoke in support of the recommendation.

**Bill Ladouceur, local contractor**, spoke in support of the recommendation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Adjournment**

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Legislative Officer