

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, February 21, 2017, 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 (via teleconference)

Administration:

- A. Antoniak, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
- A. Rogers, Chief Legislative Officer
- E. Hutton, Chief Financial Officer
- R. Billard, Director
- C. Bouchard, Director
- J. Doyle, Director
- D. George, Director
- A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Notice of Motion

Councillor S. Germain served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for consideration at the February 28, 2017:

“WHEREAS the Council considers it equitable to

- (a) cancel the municipal portion of property taxes that will become due and payable upon enactment of the 2017 Property Tax Bylaw in respect of residential properties that were destroyed or irreparably damaged by the wildfire of May 2016 and that remained uninhabitable as of January 1, 2017, and
- (b) take other steps as set out in this resolution to further support affected residential property taxpayers in a fair and equitable manner and to seek financial support from the Government of Alberta for the loss of municipal revenue resulting from providing relief to such taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council, in the exercise of its discretion and authority under Section 347 of the Municipal Government Act, hereby approves cancellation of the municipal portion of property tax on residential properties in accordance with the following, to become effective immediately after enactment of the 2017 Property Tax Bylaw:

For every residential property that continues to be uninhabitable as of January 1, 2017 because it was destroyed or irreparably damaged by the wildfire, cancellation of the amount representing the pro-rated daily amount of the whole municipal portion of 2017 property tax , including land and building, multiplied by the number of days in 2017 until the first to occur of:

- (a) Completion of reconstruction of the residence on the property as determined through the issuance of a final occupancy permit;
- (b) Sale of the property to a new owner, or;
- (c) The end of the calendar year 2017;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Administration is directed to implement the aforesaid tax cancellations when they take effect, in a manner that exempts from tax cancellation those property owners whose insurance policies cover some or all of their property tax liability or who wish to voluntarily pay the full amount of their 2017 property taxes, to the extent that the software, systems and procedures of the Taxation and Assessment Department will so allow;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council ask the Mayor to make a request to the Government of Alberta on Council's behalf to waive that portion of the provincial education requisition for 2017 that would ordinarily be payable by property owners for whom the municipal portion of property tax is to be cancelled in accordance with this resolution;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Administration be directed to make application to the Government of Alberta for funding support to the Regional Municipality in an amount equal to the municipal portion of property taxes to be cancelled in accordance with this resolution;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Administration be directed to prepare for Council's consideration a bylaw to over-ride the provisions of the Tax Penalty Bylaw in order to effect cancellations or refunds of penalties that were applied on January 1, 2017 and would otherwise be applied at later times in 2017 to residential property taxes in arrears, to the extent that such penalties arise from the portion of tax arrears that relates to the 2016 provincial education requisition, such over-riding bylaw to be drafted to be effective if and when and to the extent that the Government of Alberta pays a refund to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) for all or a portion of the amount paid by the RMWB to the Government of Alberta on account of the 2016 provincial education requisition."

Voting then occurred on Councillor J. Stroud's motion:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Regular Council Meeting - February 7, 2017

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 7, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recognition

2. Community Identification Committee Recognition: Chow Street (6:08 p.m. – 6:11 p.m.)

Mr. Wayne Chow, long-time resident and businessman in the community, was recognized and presented with a sign commemorating the Community Identification Committee's naming of Chow Street in his honour.

Presentations

3. Jamie Doyle, Planning and Development, Dale Bendfeld, Bylaw Services and Erin O'Neill, Recovery Task Force re: Spring Rebuild Plan (6:12 p.m. – 6:36 p.m.)

Erin O'Neill, Recovery Task Force, addressed the Rebuild Objectives; **Dale Bendfeld, Bylaw Services**, spoke to the Compliance & Regulatory Process, and **Jamie Doyle, Planning and Development**, spoke to the Permitting Process.

Reports

4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission (6:36 p.m. – 6:59 p.m.)

Elena Gould, Manager, Indigenous Relations, spoke to the report before Council.

Jim Rogers, resident, came forward but did not speak to the matter before Council.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that Administration continue engagement with Indigenous partners to complete the review of the recommended Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action Report, as approved by the below council motion on November 8, 2016:

"That Administration review the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action Report and identify where the Municipality has the jurisdiction and ability to implement Calls to Action, and report back to Council no later than February 28, 2017 with recommendations based on engagement with the Indigenous peoples within the region."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Council Meetings Schedule (7:00 p.m. – 7:21 p.m.)

Audrey Rogers, Chief Legislative Officer, spoke to the report before Council for consideration.

Mohammed Dogar, resident, spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that, effective March 1, 2017, regular Council meetings be held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the Jubilee Centre Council Chamber, with the exception of any statutory holiday and scheduled recess periods.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, J. Cardinal, S. Germain,
P. Meagher, J. Stroud, A. Vinni

Opposed: T. Ault, L. Bussieres, K.
McGrath, C. Tatum, C.
Voyageur

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer