

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, April 25, 2017, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: J. Stroud, Councillor
J. Cardinal, Councillor
C. Voyageur, Councillor

Administration: A. Antoniak, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
A. Rogers, Chief Legislative Officer
L. Ollivier, A/Chief Financial Officer
R. Billard, Director
C. Bouchard, Director
J. Doyle, Director
D. George, Director
D. Leflar, Regional Legal Counsel
R. Marshall, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Council Meeting – April 11, 2017

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 11, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recognition

**2. Community Identification Committee Recognition – Lietz Street
(6:03 p.m. – 6:09 p.m.)**

Karl and Adrienne Lietz, long-time residents, were presented with a sign commemorating the name of Lietz Street.

Delegations

- 3. Amrita Toor and Devin Oliver, Citizen Poets re: Mayor's Poetry City Challenge**
(6:10 p.m. – 6:13 p.m.)

Amrita Toor and Devin Oliver, youth in the community, presented their poems 'Shadow' and 'Orange Light'.

Public Hearing and Related Reports

- 4. Bylaw 17/006 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Part 11 Wildfire Recovery Overlay**
(6:14 p.m. – 6:21 p.m.)

Mayor M. Blake declared the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 17/006 opened at 6:14 p.m.

Jamie Doyle, Director, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed bylaw amendment.

Mayor M. Blake declared the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 17/006 closed at 6:19 p.m.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 17/006, being a Land Use Bylaw Amendment, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 17/006, be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 5. Bylaw 17/007 – Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation – Repeal of Bylaw No. 16/015 – Noise Bylaw Amendment**
(6:21 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.)

Erin O'Neill, Operations Manager, Recovery Task Force, provided an overview of the proposed bylaw amendment noting that the majority of demolition, cleanup and debris removal is complete, and the justification for the previous amendment no longer exists.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 17/007, being a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 16/015, being an amendment to Noise Bylaw No. 83/24, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 17/007, be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Bylaw 17/009 – Tax Penalty Bylaw Amendment
(6:25 p.m. – 6:32 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 17/009, being an amendment to the Tax Penalty Bylaw, be read a first time.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Philip Schofield, Regional Assessor, provided an overview of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 17/009 be read a second time.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 17/009 be considered for third reading.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 17/009 be read a third and final time.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Bylaw No. 17/005 - Land Planning and Transportation Committee Recommendation – Undeveloped Government Road Allowance Closure within the Parsons Creek Aggregates Project Area
(6:32 p.m. – 6:33 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that Bylaw No. 17/005, being a bylaw to close an undeveloped government road allowance within the Parsons Creek Aggregates project area be read a first time; and that the public hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Bylaw No. 17/010 - 2017 Property Tax Rate Bylaw
(6:34 p.m. – 6:36 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 17/010, being the Property Tax Rate Bylaw, be read a first time.

Philip Schofield, Regional Assessor, provided an overview of the proposed bylaw.

Clarification was provided that this item would come back for 2nd and 3rd readings during the Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports**9. Fourth Quarter 2016 Financial Performance Update**

(6:36 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.)

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, spoke to the 2016 fourth quarter financial performance which resulted in a deficit.

Moved by Councillor T. Ault:

- that the 2016 deficit of \$7,249,601 be funded from:
 - any 2017 Operating Budget surplus; or
 - the Emerging Issues Reserve, in that order; and
- that in the event the uncommitted balance in the Emerging Issues Reserve is below the \$50M minimum set out in Fiscal Responsibility Policy FIN-160, the amount required will be incorporated into the 2018 Operating Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Community Identification Committee Recommendation – Clearwater Drive and Prairie Loop Bay

(6:50 p.m. – 7:06 p.m.)

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the Chamber at 6:50 p.m. and returned at 6:52 p.m.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni:

- That the stretch of road along the Clearwater River starting from Hardin Street up to the King Street overpass, currently named as Prairie Loop Boulevard and Gordon Avenue be re-named as Clearwater Drive” (to be extended to Morrison Street when constructed); and
- That the stretch of road providing access to Marine Park be named as “Prairie Loop Bay”.

Carol Cleminson, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Oversight Committee Recommendation – Proposed Regional Recreation Corporation Bylaw Amendments

(7:06 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor C. Tatum that Administration advise the Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo (the “RRC”) that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, in its capacity as sole member of the RRC, has no objection to revisions to the RRC corporate bylaw as shown on the Attachment to the Oversight Committee Report of April 11, 2017.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke to an unrelated matter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

A brief recess occurred between 7:16 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

12. 2016 Tax Relief Request, Assessment Number 8401782340 – Long Lake, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

(7:30 p.m. – 7:58 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the request from the assessed owner of roll number 8401782340, located at Long Lake, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, for cancellation of municipal property tax for 2016 of \$19,586,477.71 be denied.

Philip Schofield, Regional Assessor, spoke to the request for cancellation of municipal property taxes for 2016.

Scott Chalker, General Manager, Nexen Energy, spoke in opposition to the recommendation, and reiterated the request for cancellation of municipal property taxes for 2016 for the Long Lake facility.

Dogar Mohammad, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillors' Motions**13. FireSmart Program**
(7:59 p.m. – 8:03 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Administration work with the Recovery Task Force and other relevant internal and external stakeholders to investigate and explore policy options for Council's consideration on FireSmart building materials and property safety for residential and non-residential property owners in the Municipality.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Property Assessments
(8:04 p.m. – 8:31 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that:

WHEREAS a number of properties in the Regional Municipality that were severely damaged or destroyed by the wildfire of May 2016 have been assessed for taxation in 2017 at values that in the opinion of the property owners do not accurately reflect the diminished market values of their properties resulting from the fire damage;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Assessor is a designated officer having statutory duties under the Municipal Government Act and regulations with respect to the property assessment process, that cannot be affected by a resolution of the Council;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be directed to take appropriate steps, including but not limited to posting a notice on the municipal website and using the media, to inform residents that:

- (a) the Regional Assessor has the independent authority to issue a revised Notice of Assessment where it appears to the Regional Assessor that the original Notice of Assessment does not accurately reflect the market value of a property; and
- (b) residents who believe their 2017 Notice of Assessment does not accurately reflect diminished market value as a result of destruction of or damage to the structures on their properties caused by the wildfire, may contact the office of the Regional Assessor to present the facts of their situation and seek issuance of a Revised Notice of Assessment.

Philip Schofield, Regional Assessor, provided clarity as to the process that would be required to assess properties that have been damaged.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Assuming of the Chair

Deputy Mayor L. Bussieres assumed the Chair at 8:33 p.m. to allow Mayor M. Blake to put forward the following motion for consideration.

15. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Cessation
(8:32 p.m. – 10:05 p.m.)

Moved by Mayor M. Blake:

WHEREAS Bylaw No. 16/013 created a new Council Committee to be called the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee effective June 14, 2016;

AND WHEREAS Council approved the Selection Committee recommendations for six public members to the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee on July 12, 2016;

AND WHEREAS Council approved the appointment of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Team Lead, who has effectively established and led the Wood Buffalo Recovery Task Force in collaboration with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;

AND WHEREAS Council approved the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Budgets for 2016, and for 2017;

AND WHEREAS the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee has fulfilled the requirements of Bylaw No. 16/013, Sections 5 and 6 (Mandate and Responsibilities) with substantial advancement on matters affected by the 2016 Wildfire and regional recovery;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be directed to bring forward a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 16/013, effective June 11, 2017;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council provide public recognition to past and present Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee members for their extraordinary service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee develop a plan for any outstanding Committee work to be transitioned to Council;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Recovery Team Lead, under the guidance and direction of the Interim Chief Administrative Officer, maintain the required Recovery Task Force members to transition recovery work back to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in a feasible time frame.

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

Najwa Karamujic, resident, spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Margo Firman, resident, spoke on behalf of herself and former resident, Monica Thompson, indicating their opposition to the recommendation.

Exit and Return

Councillor T. Ault exited the Chamber at 9:08 p.m. and returned at 9:09 p.m.

Paul McLeod, resident, spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Point of Order

Councillor P. Meagher called a Point of Order, noting that Mayor M. Blake was engaging in debate with the presenter. The Point of Order was upheld by the Chair.

Arianna Johnson, resident, spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke to an unrelated matter.

Exit and Return

Councillor C. Tatum exited the Chamber at 9:23 p.m. and returned at 9:24 p.m.

CARRIED

For: T. Ault, M. Blake, L. Bussieres, K. McGrath, C. Tatum, A. Vinni

Opposed: S. Germain, P. Meagher

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Deputy Mayor L. Bussieres declared the meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer