

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 Tuesday, June 20, 2017, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: T. Ault, Councillor

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
D. Leflar, Director
D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. With the consent of Council, the order of the agenda items was changed to allow for first reading of Bylaw No. 17/016 – Utility Rates Bylaw Amendment – Cost Recovery prior to the update on the Rural Water, Sewer and Road Rehabilitation Program.

New and Unfinished Business

- 1. Bylaw No. 17/016 - Utility Rates Bylaw Amendment - Cost Recovery**
(6:02 p.m. – 6:23 p.m.)

Dawny George, Director, Engineering and Environmental Services, Travis Kendel, Manager, Water Treatment Services, and Leslie Burke, Manager, Sustainability, presented an overview of the proposed amendment to the Utility Rates Bylaw and the status of the Municipal Utility Corporation. The proposed utility rate changes are the first step in moving towards direct cost recovery within 5 years and full cost recovery in subsequent years, which will ensure the sustainability of the environmental services utilities provided to residents. Implementation of the Municipal Utility Corporation would be re-evaluated after direct cost recovery is achieved.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that Bylaw No. 17/016, being an amendment to the Utility Rates Bylaw No. 10/001, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Update to Rural Water, Sewer and Road Rehabilitation Program - Anzac, Conklin, Draper, Gregoire Lake Estates, Janvier and Sapræe Creek Estates
(6:24 p.m. – 9:23 p.m.)

Dawny George, Director, Engineering and Environmental Services, and Kashif Khan, Program Manager, Rural Servicing, presented an update on the rural water, sewer and road rehabilitation program, with an overview of the current and proposed servicing systems in each community. The proposed amendment does not reduce the overall program budget of \$301 million, but allocates more of the capital budget to road rehabilitation as the majority of piping work would be within rights of way. It was also noted that due to the configuration of some properties, it would not be possible to install piped sewer services without constructing additional lift station, which would increase the project cost by approximately \$56 Million.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. McGrath exited the chamber at 6:25 p.m. and returned at 6:32 p.m.
Councillor S. Germain exited the chamber at 6:45 p.m. and returned at 6:47 p.m.

Tracey Galloway, Anzac resident, spoke in support of the program moving forward with no more delays.

Chelsey Van Ee, Anzac resident, expressed support for the program, noting that a reliable water and sewer system is particularly important to businesses within those communities.

Sean Steil and Travis Cramer, Anzac Fire Department, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Marlee L'Hirondelle, Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee, and Ernie Desjarlais, Conklin resident, spoke in relation to the potential for future growth and economic development within the communities and support the continuation of the program.

Ron Quintal, Rural Coalition member and Fort McKay resident, spoke in support of the proposed rural water and sewer servicing program as a first step to standardizing of all services to enhance the quality of life for rural residents and to promote economic development.

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Germain exited the chamber at 7:26 p.m. and returned at 7:27 p.m.

Jeffrey O'Donnell and Stacey Atkinson, Conklin Resource Development Advisory Committee, and Nicole Gardner, Willow Lake Community Association, spoke in support of continuing the rural water and sewer program without further delays.

Marcel Winterburn, Conklin resident, expressed support for the recommendation for current and future residents of the rural communities.

Roni-Sue Moran, Fort McMurray No. 468 First Nation, supports the project, and requested an opportunity to discuss the provision of water and sewer services to Fort McMurray No. 468 First Nation and the economic benefits that would be derived from this arrangement.

Exit

Councillors Cardinal and Voyageur disconnected from the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and were unable to reconnect at that time.

Jim Rogers, Fort McMurray resident, spoke to a matter unrelated to the proposed recommendation.

Robert Denis, Fort McMurray resident, expressed support for the provision of water and sewer services, but raised concern about the high cost of the program and noted that the Municipality should look for other more cost-effective solutions which would provide a similar level of service.

Tyson Adby, Conklin resident, spoke in support of continuation of the rural water and sewer program, noting the many benefits it provides to the residents.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the chamber at 8:07 p.m. and returned at 8:09 p.m.

Brayden Quintal, Soneca Quintal and Shashawne Tremblay, Conklin residents and students, all spoke in support of the recommendation.

Jules Nokohoo, Janvier resident, expressed support for continuation of the rural water and sewer servicing program.

Renie Lavallee, Metis Local 1935, spoke in support of the water and sewer program continuing.

Paul McLeod, Fort McMurray resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Chelsi Ryan, Anzac resident, expressed support for the program, noting that more homeowners may invest in the rural communities with the availability of better water and sewer services.

Yvette Simon, Anzac resident, spoke in support of the program continuing without further delays.

Peter Fortna, Fort McMurray resident, expressed support for the recommendation.

Recess

A brief recess occurred between 8:27 p.m. and 8:42 p.m.

Following the recess, the teleconferencing system was restarted; however, Councillors Cardinal and Voyageur remained unable to reconnect and were deemed to have left the meeting when originally disconnected at 7:45 p.m.

Voting then occurred on the motion put forward by Councillor P. Meagher:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer