

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, July 10, 2018, commencing at 3:00 PM.

Present: Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor
Krista Balsom, Councillor
Bruce Inglis, Councillor
Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Phil Meagher, Councillor
Verna Murphy, Councillor
Jeff Peddle, Councillor
Claris Voyageur, Councillor

Absent: Jane Stroud, Councillor

Administration: Annette Antoniak, Chief Administrative Officer
Audrey Rogers, Chief Legislative Officer
Elsie Hutton, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew Hough, Director, Engineering
Lynda McLean, Director, Communications & Stakeholder Relations
Brad McMurdo, A/Director, Planning and Development
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call to Order

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

New Business

2.1. Moccasin Flats

Susan Trylinski, Municipal Legal Counsel, presented an overview of Moccasin Flats, a Métis settlement in Fort McMurray that was demolished between the late 1970's and the early 1980's. It was noted that the presentation is only an outline of the events that took place and is based on information currently in the Municipality's possession, which was from various sources that cannot be verified at this stage.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and returned at 3:25 p.m.

The following motion was presented by Councillor K. Balsom: “THAT the Municipality support and collaborate with the Indigenous community of Wood Buffalo to reconcile Moccasin Flats in a manner that is meaningful to all that have been impacted by the events which took place; and THAT the Municipality call upon the Provincial Government to undertake a public inquiry into Moccasin Flats.”

Bill Loutit, Chief Executive Officer, McMurray Métis, spoke about Moccasin Flats and the study that has been commissioned by the McMurray Métis to examine the cultural history and significance of Moccasin Flats. Mr. Loutit committed to sharing the information from the study to ensure all parties get the truth about what happened, as this would have a significant role in Truth and Reconciliation. It was noted that, although the McMurray Métis do not support a public inquiry into Moccasin Flats due to the process and time involved, they do support an independent review being conducted in tandem with any public inquiry.

Tara Joly, PhD, and Hereward Longley, PhD candidate, research consultants for McMurray Métis, provided an overview of the ongoing study into Moccasin Flats, which is expected to be complete in September, 2018. To date, the study has revealed that Moccasin Flats is an important Indigenous place for the Métis, who were evicted for a number of reasons, which had significant impact on them including homelessness and financial insecurity.

Jay Telegdi, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, spoke in support of the motion and an inquiry.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 4:14 p.m. and returned at 4:23 p.m.

John Malcolm, Interim Chief, Original Fort McMurray First Nation, which was formerly Wood Buffalo First Nation, spoke to the history of Moccasin Flats and the River People, as well as his concerns surrounding the evictions and subsequent events. He indicated he was not interested in a public inquiry.

Recess

A recess occurred between 4:31 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.

MOTION:

That the agenda be amended by deleting Items 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Meagher, Councillor
SECONDER:	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Voyageur
ABSENT:	Stroud

Karla Buffalo, Athabasca Tribal Council, and Rita Marten, Elder, spoke to the history of Moccasin Flats, requesting that the local First Nations be consulted through the process and be part of any review or inquiry that may occur.

Marilyn Buffalo, resident, spoke to the history and impact of the evictions that occurred over the years. She noted that the scope of any review or public inquiry, which should be a federal inquiry, needs to be broadened to include more than Moccasin Flats and to include all First Nations in the region.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke to matters unrelated to the item.

Exit and Return

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 5:15 p.m. and returned at 5:18 p.m.

Lou Callan, resident, spoke to the history and the residents who were evicted and relocated due to the development in the area of Moccasin Flats. Mr. Callan noted that his mother, Greta Callan, was a spokesperson for the evicted residents during that time and would be open to participating in any review or inquiry.

Recess

The Moccasin Flats item was recessed at 5:25 p.m. and it was noted that this item would continue at the regular Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer