

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communications in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, commencing at 4:00 PM.

Present:

Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor (via teleconference)
Krista Balsom, Councillor
Bruce Inglis, Councillor (via teleconference)
Sheila Lalonde, Councillor (via teleconference)
Keith McGrath, Councillor (via teleconference)
Phil Meagher, Councillor (via teleconference)
Verna Murphy, Councillor (via teleconference)
Jeff Peddle, Councillor (via teleconference)
Jane Stroud, Councillor (via teleconference)
Claris Voyageur, Councillor (via teleconference)

Administration:

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Matthew Harrison, Acting Director, Communications, Stakeholder, Indigenous and Rural Relations (via teleconference)
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services (via teleconference)
Chris Davis, Senior Municipal Legal Counsel
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development (via teleconference)
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services (via teleconference)
Heather Fredeen, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order (at 2:30 p.m.)

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

That Council close agenda items 2.1 and 2.2 to the public pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

2.1 Advice from Officials – Operations Briefing

(in camera pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Chris Davis	Acting Director, Legal Services
Linda Ollivier (via teleconference)	Director, Financial Services
Matthew Harrison (via teleconference)	Acting Director, Communications, Stakeholder, Indigenous and Rural Relations

2.2 Advice from Officials – Information Briefing

(in camera pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Matthew Harrison (via teleconference)	Acting Director, Communications, Stakeholder, Indigenous and Rural Relations

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:50 p.m. and 4:05 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

Notices of Motion

Councillor K. McGrath served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting, whether it be a Special meeting called pursuant to section 194 of the *Municipal Government Act* or the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, being April 28, 2020:

THAT 2020 property tax payments for Designated Industrial Properties be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020.

Councillor K. McGrath served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting, whether it be a Special meeting called pursuant to section 194 of the *Municipal Government Act* or the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, being April 28, 2020:

THAT the Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation (WBEDC) and Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) Administration be directed to bring forward within 30 days a Relocation Pilot Program for Council's consideration that encourages transient workers in the RMWB, to consider moving to the RMWB; and

THAT the Relocation Pilot Program include incentives, such as financial assistance matching that of their employers, for up to \$5,000.00 for a minimum (3) year term.

Councillor K. Balsom served notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, being April 28, 2020:

WHEREAS the social well-being of residents in our region is at risk, and recovery of our community following the Coved-19 pandemic is a priority;

Be it resolved:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo administration work with the Social Sustainability Plan Committee to establish a multi-sector social recovery task force to develop programming to support the short and long-term well-being of all residents of our region; and

THAT the Social Recovery Task force produce recommendations for Council consideration, including a budget recommendation sufficient to support this initiative.

Councillor K. Balsom served notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting, being April 28, 2020:

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments are funding programs supporting homelessness and food security in our region;

Be it resolved:

THAT Mayor Scott be authorized to send a letter to the provincial and federal governments asking for funding for mental health programs and agencies in our region for both urban and rural residents.

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended to add item 7.2 Priority Government of Alberta Project – Rehabilitation of Highway 63; and

THAT the notice provisions relative to this addition be waived.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended to add item 7.3 Letter to Government of Alberta re: Updating Covid-19 Reporting; and

THAT the notice provisions relative to this addition be waived.

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

MOTION:

That the Agenda be adopted as amended.

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

4. **Consent Agenda**

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained in items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 be approved

4.1. Minutes - Special In-Camera Council Meeting - March 22, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Special In-Camera Council Meeting held on March 22, 2020 be approved as presented.

4.2. Minutes - Council Meeting - March 24, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 24, 2020 be approved as presented.

4.3. Minutes - Special Council Meeting - March 27, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on March 27, 2020 be approved as presented.

4.4. Minutes - Special In-Camera Council Meeting - March 30, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Special In-Camera Council Meeting held on March 30, 2020 be approved as presented.

4.5. Council Appointed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - February - March 2020

THAT the Minutes from Council Appointed Advisory Committee meetings, held in February and March 2020, as outlined in Attachments 1-13, be accepted as information.

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

5. **Presentations**

5.1. Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer re: COVID-19 Public Briefing (Verbal)

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a verbal presentation and update briefing on the Municipality's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic noting that that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo remains under a State of Local Emergency.

Exit and Return

Councillor M. Allen disconnected from the meeting at 4:29 p.m. and reconnected at 4:31 p.m.

5.2. Luana Bussieres, Executive Director, St. Aidan's Society re: Update on the Region's Older Adult Population

Luana Bussieres, Executive Director, St. Aidan's Society provided a verbal presentation regarding the relocation of seniors residing in the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre to other facilities outside of the region, due to the COVID-19 pandemic noting that there are additional costs being charged to the patients.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 4:50 p.m. and returned at 4:52 p.m.

Councillor V. Murphy disconnected from the meeting at 4:56 p.m. and reconnected at 4:58 p.m.

Action Item

Administration committed to following up with Alberta Health Services regarding additional costs incurred by seniors and their families as a result of the relocations outside of the region.

5.3. Kevin Weidlich, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation, re: Task Force Update

Kevin Weidlich, Chief Executive Officer, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation (WBEDC), provided an update on the undertaken by the WBEDC Post Emergency Business Task force indicating that several sub-committees will be formed to investigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the various business sectors and what steps the Municipality, the WBEDC as well as other levels of government, can take to assist with the overall economic recovery.

6. New Business

6.1. Transit CUPE 1505 Collective Bargaining Ratification 2020

Kari Westhaver, Director, Human Resources provided an overview of the bargaining process and the proposed Collective Agreement with Transit CUPE Local 1505.

Action Item

Administration committed to providing benchmarking research on transit worker contracts in other municipalities.

MOTION:

THAT the Collective agreement with Transit CUPE Local 1505 for a five (5) year term from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2023 be ratified.

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

6.2. Reaching Home - COVID 19 Funding 2020 - 2021

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2020-2021 Community Plan on Homelessness Grant allocations to assist with programs that address the COVID-19 pandemic affecting individuals experiencing homelessness.

MOTION:

THAT \$744,997 be allocated to the 2020-2021 Community Plan on Homelessness programs as follows:

Organization	Program	2020 - 2021
Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada	Shelter and Isolation Centre Diversion	\$ 118,254
Wood Buffalo Wellness Society	Outreach Program	\$130,252
Wood Buffalo Wellness Society	Pandemic Supports	\$ 16,940
Wood Buffalo Wellness Society	Rapid Re-Housing Program	\$ 459,298
YMCA of Northern Alberta	Pandemic Supports	\$ 20,254
	Total	\$ 744,997

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

6.3. Bylaw No. 20/010 Fort Chipewyan Social Distancing Enforcement

Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services, provided an overview of the proposed Fort Chipewyan Social Distancing Enforcement Bylaw.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/010, being the Fort Chipewyan Social Distancing Enforcement Bylaw, be read a first time.

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

The following motion was moved by Councillor J. Peddle and seconded by Councillor V Murphy:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/010 be read a second time.

Jay Telegdi, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, spoke in opposition of the proposed Social Distancing Bylaw No, 20/010 and requested that amendments be made to include a curfew for all Fort Chipewyan residents between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 6:13 p.m. and returned at 6:15 p.m.

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 6:16 p.m. and returned at 6:19 p.m.

Councillor C. Voyageur disconnected from the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Recess and Return

A recess occurred from 6:27 p.m. to 6:42 p.m. at which time Councillor C. Voyageur reconnected to the meeting.

Blue Eyes Simpson, Director, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125, requested that proposed Bylaw No. 20/010 be amended to include a curfew.

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 7:23 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor K. Balsom assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott put forward the following motion for consideration:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/010 be amended by:

1. Inserting as 2(a): "Curfew" means the period of time commencing at 10:00 p.m. and continuing to the following 6:00 a.m.", and re-lettering sections 2(a) to 2(c) accordingly.
2. Deleting section 2 (d) "Minimum Distance".
3. Amending Section 3 by deleting the words "be within a Minimum Distance of another person" and inserting after the word "shall" the words "be in a Public Place during the Curfew Period."
4. Adding as 5 d): "is made while accessing essential services, or for the purpose of traditional hunting or fishing, or to carry out employment."

Recess

A recess occurred from 7:26 p.m. to 7:33 p.m.

Councillor M. Allen proposed the following friendly amendment, which was accepted by Mayor D. Scott and Council:

1. THAT section 2(d) "Minimum Distance" not be deleted;
2. THAT section 3 not be amended; and
3. THAT the following be inserted as section 5: "No Person in the Fort Chipewyan community shall be in a public place during a Curfew." and to renumber the remaining sections accordingly.

The proposed amendment now reads:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/010 be amended by:

1. Inserting as 2(a): "Curfew" means the period of time commencing at 10:00 p.m. and continuing to the following 6:00 a.m.", and re-lettering sections 2(a) to 2(g) as 2(b) to 2(h) accordingly.
2. Adding as section 5: "No person in the Fort Chipewyan community shall be in a Public Place during a Curfew." and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly.
3. Adding as 5 d): "is made while accessing essential services, or for the purpose of traditional hunting or fishing, or to carry out employment."

MOTION:

THAT second reading of Bylaw No. 20/010 and the proposed amendment be deferred to a Special Council Meeting with Fort Chipewyan Leadership to be scheduled within 72 hours or on or before Monday April 20, 2020.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
FOR:	Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Scott

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 8:06 p.m.

6.4. Consideration of Property Tax Deferment

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services provided an overview of a proposed deferral of property tax payments.

MOTION:

THAT 2020 property tax payments for rural residential and farm properties, be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020;

THAT 2020 property tax payments for rural non-residential properties, be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020 with the exception of Designated Industrial Properties;

THAT 2020 property tax payments for rural small business properties, be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020;

THAT 2020 property tax payments for urban residential and farm properties, be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020;

THAT 2020 property tax payments, including requisitions for urban non-residential, be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020 with exception of Designated Industrial Properties;

THAT 2020 property tax payments for urban other-residential properties be deferred from June 30 to September 30, 2020; and

THAT penalties as per Bylaw No. 95/041 S. 4 be deferred from July 1 to October 1, 2020. And that further penalties be waived for the remainder of the year.

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

6.5. Request for Letter of Support - Canadian Airports Council

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, provided an overview of the item noting that a request had been received from the Fort McMurray Airport and Canadian Airports Council (CAC) requesting advocacy support as they lobby for financial relief from the provincial and federal governments to assist Canadian airports during the COVID-19 crisis and subsequent recovery.

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Alberta, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Transportation supporting the request for financial relief for the Fort McMurray Airport and Canadian Airports.

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

6.6. Appointment of Councillors to the Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation's Post Emergency Business Task Force

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, provided an overview of the report to ratify the appointments of Councillor J. Stroud and Councillor V. Murphy to the Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporations' Post Emergency Business Task Force.

MOTION:

THAT Councillor V. Murphy and Councillor J. Stroud be appointed, on behalf of Council, to Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation Post Emergency Business Recovery Task Force.

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

7. Councillors' Motions

7.1. Tax Incentives for Businesses in the Rural Service Area

Councillor J. Stroud introduced the motion noting that the local businesses in the rural areas are within the same tax classification as industry and as a Municipality believes that we should be reviewing what incentives could be applied to rural businesses to support them throughout the ongoing pandemic and economic downturn.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 8:27 p.m. and returned at 8:28 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to explore tax incentives to support new and existing businesses in the Rural Service Area and report back to Council by May 30, 2020.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Allen

7.2. Priority Government of Alberta Project – Rehabilitation of Highway 63

Councillor K. Balsom introduced the motion noting that there are many parts of Highway 63 that require rehabilitation and indicated that the Government of Alberta is seeking shovel ready projects that the Province can move forward with.

MOTION:

THAT Mayor Scott be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Transportation, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Premier of Alberta requesting that work be undertaken to rehabilitate Highway 63; and

THAT Administration work with the Government of Alberta to substantiate and prioritize this work.

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

7.3. Letter to Government of Alberta re: Updating COVID-19 Reporting

Councillor J. Stroud introduced the motion noting that the ongoing reporting by the Government of Alberta within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is vague and doesn't identify confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the various indigenous and rural communities in the Region.

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor be authorized on behalf of Council to send a letter to the Minister of Health and Alberta Health Services requesting that the provincial reporting, including the geospatial information online, on COVID-19 be expanded to identify geographical areas inside the RMWB including the rural and indigenous communities.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Lalonde

8. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

Council Members provided updates on various initiatives in the region by residents and businesses that have contributed to the well-being of others during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer