

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communication in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, commencing at 4:30 PM.

Present:

Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor
Krista Balsom, Councillor (via teleconference)
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
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services (via teleconference)
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief (via teleconference)
Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services
Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations (via teleconference)
Matthew Harrison, Acting Director, Communications, Stakeholder, Indigenous and Rural Relations (via teleconference)
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services (via teleconference)
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works (via teleconference)
Dennis Warr, Acting Director, Engineering (via teleconference)
Kari Westhaver, Director, Human Resources (via teleconference)
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order (at 3:15 p.m.)

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

THAT Council close item 2.1 to the public pursuant to sections 24(1) and 27(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, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
ABSENT:	Meagher

2.1. Advice from Officials - Information Briefing and Land Matter

(in camera pursuant to sections 24(1) and 27(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
Scott Davis	Director, Emergency Management
Brad McMurdo	Director, Planning & Development
Chris Davis	Acting Director, Legal Services

Recess and Entrance

A recess occurred between 4:28 p.m. and 4:47 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public and Councillor P. Meagher joined the meeting.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. New Business

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 4:52 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor M. Allen assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT Item No. 3.8 “Flood Recovery - Advocacy and Action” be added to today’s Special Council Meeting; and

THAT public notice for this addition be waived accordingly.

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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 4:54 p.m.

3.1. Boil Water Advisory Public Briefing (Verbal)

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the status of the Boil Water Advisory, which was instituted by Alberta Health Services following the recent flooding, and noted that an assessment on the impact of the flood on the infrastructure is continuing. It was indicated that the timelines provided are conservative and the hope is to have safe drinking water restored in a safe and effective manner in a shorter time frame.

3.2. Flood Response / Recovery Public Briefing (Verbal)

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the status of the flood response and recovery to date, with more than 12,000 residents safely evacuated of which over 7,600 are still in temporary accommodations. It was noted that the Municipality has teamed with industry, community partners and the Canadian Red Cross to develop short- and long-term plans for the safe re-entry of impacted residents and businesses. Residents who have not yet registered with the Canadian Red Cross to access support were encouraged to do so.

3.3. COVID-19 Public Briefing (Verbal)

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the Municipality’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the Municipality continues to take steps to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents even during the recent flooding.

3.4. Bylaw No. 20/009 - Rural Area Water and Wastewater Service Connection Bylaw

Dennis Warr, Acting Director, Engineering, provided an overview of the proposed Rural Area Water and Wastewater Service Connection Bylaw, with second and third readings of the Bylaw planned for the May 12, 2020 Council meeting.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/009, being the Rural Area Water and Wastewater Service Connection Bylaw, be read a first time.

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

3.5. Bylaw No. 20/012 - 2020 Property Tax Rate Bylaw

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2020 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, with second and third readings of the Bylaw planned for the May 12, 2020 Council meeting.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/012, being the 2020 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, be read a first time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [7 TO 4]
MOVER:	Verna Murphy, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle
AGAINST:	Inglis, McGrath, Stroud, Voyageur

Pecuniary Interest

Councillor J. Peddle declared a pecuniary interest in Bylaw No. 20/014 2020 Flood Response Bylaw due to being a resident who was impacted by the 2020 flood and exited the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

3.6. Bylaw No. 20/014 - 2020 Flood Response

Councillor P. Meagher raised the question of why Councillor J. Peddle would have a pecuniary interest in the proposed Flood Response Bylaw, noting that if a majority of Council had been affected by the flood, they would not be required to declare a pecuniary interest.

Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services, indicated that, in his opinion, Councillor J. Peddle did not have to declare a pecuniary interest under section 170 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

Recess

A recess occurred from 6:23 p.m. to 6:27 p.m., at which time Councillor M. Allen was absent.

Return

Councillor M. Allen returned to the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

For the record, Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services, stated that it is up to the individual Councillors to seek independent legal advice to determine if they have a pecuniary interest in a matter before Council, and noted that it was Councillor J. Peddle's decision to declare a pecuniary interest in the 2020 Flood Response Bylaw.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/014, being the 2020 Flood Response Bylaw, be read a first time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST:	Peddle

Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services, provided an overview of the proposed 2020 Flood Response Bylaw and recommended amendments to the Bylaw to provide clarity.

The following motion was moved by Councillor J. Stroud and seconded by Councillor C. Voyageur:

“THAT Bylaw No. 20/014 be read a second time.”

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/014 be amended:

- in section 2.a amendment to the Noise Bylaw No. 83/024, by inserting in section 7A(1) the following words “occurring in the Mandatory Evacuation Areas”, following the words “removal activity”; and
- in section 3 amendment to the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw No. 19/024, by inserting in section 10.02, the following words at the end of the section “or any person making planning or safety codes permit applications:”

RESULT: CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER: Mike Allen, Councillor
SECONDER: Verna Murphy, Councillor
FOR: Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST: Peddle

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/014 be read a second time, as amended.

RESULT: CARRIED AS AMENDED [10 TO 0]
MOVER: Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER: Claris Voyageur, Councillor
FOR: Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST: Peddle

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/014 be considered for third reading.

RESULT: CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER: Claris Voyageur, Councillor
SECONDER: Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR: Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST: Peddle

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/014 be read a third and final time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
SECONDER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY	
INTEREST:	Peddle

Return

Councillor J. Peddle rejoined the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

3.7. Borderlands Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement

Scott Davis, Director of Emergency Management, spoke to the proposed Borderlands Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement, which provides for a collaboration between bordering Alberta municipalities to provide information and resource sharing with each other during an emergency, and outlines the obligations of the requesting and assisting municipalities.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be authorized to enter into the Borderlands Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement (Agreement), Attachment 1 dated April 16, 2020; and

THAT any costs incurred when receiving mutual aid under the Agreement be funded from the Emerging Issues Reserve.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 6:57 p.m. to 7:08 p.m.

Pecuniary Interest

Councillor J. Peddle declared a pecuniary interest in Item 3.8 Flood Recovery - Advocacy and Action due to being a resident who was impacted by the 2020 flood and exited the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

3.8. Flood Recovery - Advocacy and Action

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 7:10 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor M. Allen assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott provided an overview of his proposed motions related to flood recovery and noted that, with consent of Council, Section 2 would be debated and voted on last.

MOTION - SECTION 1

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send the following letters to government officials in response to the 2020 River Break Up Flood:

- a. letter to the Premier of Alberta and the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting that the Disaster Relief Program (DRP) be instated on an urgent basis for the residents and businesses of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) and Fort McMurray who were directly impacted by the 2020 River Break Up Flood;
- b. letter to the Prime Minister of Canada and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada requesting that a robust financial relief program, in addition to any provincial assistance, be instituted by the Federal Government on an urgent basis to assist residents financially who were impacted by the flood; and
- c. letter to Minister of Public Safety Canada and Emergency Preparedness Canada requesting financial assistance to assist with the outstanding flood mitigation program in the RMWB.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST:	Peddle

MOTION - SECTION 3:

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

“THAT Administration be directed to bring forward the following bylaw amendments for Council’s consideration:

- a. Land Use Bylaw amendment(s) required to temporarily relax RV parking restrictions, with the intent to allow residents impacted by the flood the opportunity to park and stay in recreational vehicles/campers on their property until repairs are complete or August 31, 2020, whichever date first occurs;
- b. Land Use Bylaw amendment to require any applicants for business licenses issued for work arising as a result of the State of Local Emergency (SOLE) after or during a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) must have a Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo address for at least 90 days prior to the SOLE being called to be considered a local business if legally permitted to do so for such period as administration determines appropriate;
- c. Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw amendment to reduce water billing fees for homes impacted by the current Alberta Health Services Boil Water Advisory as a result of the 2020 River Break Up Flood, for the duration of the Advisory as it applies to their particular neighbourhood or community.”

Councillor K. Balsom proposed a friendly amendment to add “on an urgent basis” after the words “Council’s consideration, and to change the number of days in Part b from “90” to “180”, which was accepted by Mayor D. Scott and Council.

Councillor V. Murphy requested that Section 3 be severed so each part could be voted on separately.

Voting then occurred on the severed motion as amended.

MOTION - SECTION 3A:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward the following bylaw amendment for Council’s consideration on an urgent basis:

- a. Land Use Bylaw amendment(s) required to temporarily relax RV parking restrictions, with the intent to allow residents impacted by the flood the opportunity to park and stay in recreational vehicles/campers on their property until repairs are complete or August 31, 2020, whichever date first occurs.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY	
INTEREST:	Peddle

MOTION - SECTION 3B:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward the following bylaw amendment for Council's consideration on an urgent basis:

- b. Land Use Bylaw amendment to require any applicants for business licenses issued for work arising as a result of the State of Local Emergency (SOLE) after or during a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) must have a Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo address for at least 180 days prior to the SOLE being called to be considered a local business if legally permitted to do so for such period as administration determines appropriate.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Murphy
PECUNIARY	
INTEREST:	Peddle

Point of Order

Councillor V. Murphy called a Point of Order, noting that the result of the vote for Section 3B was stated by Deputy Mayor M. Allen as 10 for and 1 against; however, the vote should have been declared as 9 for and 1 against. Deputy Mayor M. Allen upheld the Point of Order, confirming that the vote result for Section 3B was 9 for and 1 against.

MOTION - SECTION 3C:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward the following bylaw amendment for Council's consideration on an urgent basis:

- c. Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw amendment to reduce water billing fees for homes impacted by the current Alberta Health Services Boil Water Advisory as a result of the 2020 River Break Up Flood, for the duration of the Advisory as it applies to their particular neighbourhood or community.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 0]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY INTEREST:	Peddle

Pecuniary Interest and Vacating the Chair

Deputy Mayor M. Allen declared a pecuniary interest in Section 2 of the proposed motion due to being a resident who was impacted by the 2020 flood and exited the meeting at 8:10 p.m., at which time Acting Mayor K. Balsom assumed the Chair.

MOTION - SECTION 2:

THAT the Municipality fund the following items with the intent to seek reimbursement through the Alberta Disaster Recovery Program:

- a. resident costs associated with the towing of vehicles as a direct result of the 2020 River Break Up Flood; and
- b. costs associated with reimbursing residents for food and accommodations who were evacuated but did not register at the onset of the evacuation, but have since registered with the Canadian Red Cross, such reimbursement to be the same as the costs covered by the Municipality for those who evacuated and registered, on such terms and conditions as administration determines appropriate.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 0]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
PECUNIARY	
INTEREST:	Allen, Peddle

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 8:14 p.m.

Return

Deputy Mayor M. Allen returned to the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer