

**Minutes of a 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 Tuesday, June 23, 2020, commencing at 4:00 PM.**

**Present:**

Don Scott, Mayor  
Mike Allen, Councillor  
Krista Balsom, Councillor  
Bruce Inglis, Councillor  
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  
Claris Voyageur, Councillor

**Administration:**

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer  
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services  
Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management  
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations  
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development  
Matthew Harrison, Acting Director, Communications and Stakeholder Relations  
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services  
Nasir Qureshi, Acting Director, Engineering Services  
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services  
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works  
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**2. In-Camera Session**

**MOTION:**

That Council close items 2.1 and 2.2 to the public pursuant to sections 17(1) and 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

## 2.1 Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy - Committee Appointment -

(in camera pursuant to section 17(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
Sonia Soutter	Legislative Advice
Nicole Bourque-Bouchier (via teleconference)	Co-Chair, 2020 Arctic Winter Games Host Society

## 2.2 Advice from Officials - Information Briefings

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

### Information Briefing #1

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk

### Information Briefing #2

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Scott Davis (via teleconference)	Director, Emergency Management

### Recess

A recess occurred between 3:58 p.m. and 4:04 p.m., at which time the meeting reconvened in public.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

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

### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

#### 4.1. Council Meeting - June 9, 2020

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 9, 2020 be approved as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

### 5. Recognition

#### 5.1. Proclamation - Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Mayor D. Scott recognized June 27, 2020 as Canadian Multiculturalism Day.

## **6. Presentations**

### **6.1. Kevin Weidlich, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation re: Business Recovery Task Force Report**

Kevin Weidlich, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation provided an overview of the Business Recovery Task Force Report.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **7.1. Tax Incentives for Rural Service Area**

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, presented the Tax Incentives for Rural Service Area report, noting that offering tax incentives beyond the current 25% of the tax rate would require a change to provincial legislation.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 4:52 p.m. and returned at 4:55 p.m.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Administration be directed to request that the Government of Alberta amend Section 3 (2) (c) of AR202/2017, *Matters Relating to Assessment Sub-Classes Regulation* to read “must not be less than 50% of the tax rate for property referred to in section 2(1)(c)”; this is a decrease from the current limit of 75%.

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

### **7.2. Flood Mitigation Program Update**

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the Flood Mitigation Program. It was noted that the program was developed based on the results of a study conducted to confirm the performance of structural barriers in ice jam flood situations, in alignment with the Government of Alberta’s 2016 minimum flood elevation standard of 250 metres. It was indicated that the 2020 flood event presents an opportunity to broaden the discussion on options for flood mitigation efforts.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor M. Allen exited the meeting at 5:32 p.m. and returned at 5:33 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT the Flood Mitigation Program update be accepted as information.

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

**8. New Business****8.1. Tax Relief Request - 252 Stony Mountain Road**

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, provided background information on the tax relief request for 252 Stony Mountain Road.

Mr. Bob Jones, property owner, spoke in opposition to the recommendation to deny the request for tax relief.

Councillor V. Murphy put forward the following motion for consideration which was seconded by Councillor J. Peddle:

THAT the request for cancellation of cleanup costs and penalties in the amount of \$25,120.27 for the property located at 252 Stony Mountain Road be denied.

**Exit and Return**

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 6:02 p.m. and returned at 6:01 p.m.

Councillor M. Allen put forward the following amending motion:

**MOTION:**

THAT the motion be amended to read:

THAT the request for cancellation of cleanup costs and penalties in the amount of \$25,120.27 for the property located at 252 Stony Mountain Road be reduced by writing off the penalties in the amount of \$7,312.76;

THAT the request for cancellation of the cleanup costs in the amount of \$17,807.51 be denied; and

THAT the original motion be approved as amended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [6 TO 5]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, McGrath, Stroud
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Voyageur

#### Pecuniary Interest

Councillor M. Allen declared a potential pecuniary interest in Item 8.2 Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Policy and exited the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

### **8.2. Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Policy FIN-320**

Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Policy.

Kevin Weidlich, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation, spoke in support of the Policy.

#### Exits and Returns

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 6:19 p.m. and returned at 6:21 p.m.

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 6:27 p.m. and returned at 6:28 p.m.

#### Exit and Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott exited the meeting and vacated the Chair at 6:30 p.m. at which time Acting Mayor K. Balsom assumed the Chair.

#### Return and Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair at 6:31 p.m.

#### Exit

Councillor B. Inglis exited the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Lisa Vargo, resident, spoke in support of the program, but noted concerns with various criteria elements contained within the policy.

#### Return

Councillor B. Inglis returned to the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Scott Mundy, resident, spoke in support of the program.

Nick Sanders, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the program.

Surekha Kanzig, business owner within the incentive area, spoke in support of the policy noting concerns with the program and design requirements.

Written submissions received from the following were read aloud for the record:

- Northern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association - in support
- Fort McMurray Construction Association - in support
- Vargo Investments Ltd. - in support
- Kirschner & Associates - in support
- LIAM - in support

#### Recess

A recess occurred from 6:59 p.m. to 7:12 p.m.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Policy – FIN-320 be approved; and

THAT \$5,000,000 be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to fund the Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Policy – FIN-320.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>PECUNIARY INTEREST:</b>	Allen

#### Return

Councillor M. Allen returned to the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

### **8.3. Bylaw No. 20/018 - Municipal Property Tax Exemption Program for New Commercial Development in Downtown Fort McMurray**

Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the Municipal Property Tax Exemption Program for New Commercial Development in Downtown Fort McMurray Bylaw, which proposes to grant municipal property tax exemptions for new commercial development or additions within Downtown Fort McMurray. The exemption will apply for up to 5 years, starting from construction completion and issuance of Occupancy Permit.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/018, being the Municipal Property Tax Exemption Program for New Commercial Development in Downtown Fort McMurray be read a first time.

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

Kevin Weidlich, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation, spoke in support of Bylaw No. 20/018.

Nick Sanders, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, noted support for Bylaw No. 20/18 in a written submission which was read aloud for the record.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 7:54 p.m. and returned at 7:55 p.m.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/018 be read a second time

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/018 be considered for third reading.

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

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/018 be read a third and final time.



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

## **9. Councillors' Motions**

### **9.1. Capital Projects in Lower Townsite**

Councillor J. Peddle read out the original motion from the May 26, 2020 Council meeting, which reads as follows:

THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of shovel ready projects and flood mitigation, be placed on hold until such time as the flood mitigation project is complete; and

THAT the work associated with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee be placed on hold until the flood mitigation project is complete.

With consent of Council, Councillor M. Allen withdrew his amending motion which was brought forward at the May 26, 2020 Council meeting, which read as follows:

THAT the original motion be amended to read as follows:

THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of Shovel Ready and Flood Mitigation Projects already tendered, be itemized and reviewed by Council to ensure they are appropriate with completion of Flood Mitigation efforts;

THAT Administration work with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee to ensure that the work being completed by the Committees is in alignment with the Flood Mitigation efforts; and

THAT the original motion as amended be approved.

Councillor J. Peddle then put forward the following amending motion:

**MOTION:**

THAT the motion be amended to read:

THAT all municipal capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of shovel ready projects and flood mitigation, be placed on hold unless flood mitigation and flood risk is taken into account and forms part of the project plan; and

THAT the work associated with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee take into account the flood mitigation project and flood risk as part of any proposed plan; and

THAT the motion be approved as amended.

Disconnect and Return

Councillor P. Meagher disconnected from the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and reconnected at 8:02 p.m.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [9 TO 2]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Lalonde, Murphy

**9.2. Anti-Racism and Inclusivity**

Councillor K. Balsom put forward the following motion for consideration, which was seconded by Councillor B. Inglis as follows:

THAT Administration be directed to:

1. Work with the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality to bring forward recommendations and advice to Council on anti-racism and the Black Lives Matter movement by the end of September 2020;
2. Bring forward a report to Council on the progress of the various actions included in the 2017-2022 Diversity and Inclusion Community Plan and Workbook by the end of September including an action plan on how to complete any outstanding matters;
3. Build an administrative framework to support the following initiatives on anti-racism and equality within the RMWB and report back to Council on their progress of the following initiatives no later than the end of December 2020:

- a. encourage staff to expand their knowledge on anti-racism and inclusivity from a policy and procedure development perspective by attending training on GBA+ (gender-based analysis+) and applying the training when reviewing and drafting policies, directives and procedures;
- b. conduct an employee census with a breakdown of demographic information of staff to better understand our current state of diversity and inclusion;
- c. create mandatory anti-racism training for all Council members and staff to be completed by the end of 2020, such training to be required as mandatory training for all new employees within the organization within six months of their official start date; and
- d. conduct an anonymous corporate climate survey amongst staff related to anti-racism and inclusivity.

Kg Banjoko, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Surekha Kanzig, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Jason Beck, Chair, Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality expressed support for the recommendation in a written submission which was read aloud for the record.

Councillor P. Meagher proposed a friendly amendment to remove the word mandatory from section 3(c) of the recommendation. The friendly amendment was not accepted by Councillor K. Balsom.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the motion be amended by deleting both instances of the word "mandatory" in section 3.c.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Phil Meagher, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Balsom, McGrath, Stroud

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Administration be directed to:

1. Work with the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equality to bring forward recommendations and advice to Council on anti-racism and the Black Lives Matter movement by the end of September 2020;

2. Bring forward a report to Council on the progress of the various actions included in the 2017-2022 Diversity and Inclusion Community Plan and Workbook by the end of September including an action plan on how to complete any outstanding matters;
3. Build an administrative framework to support the following initiatives on anti-racism and equality within the RMWB and report back to Council on their progress of the following initiatives no later than the end of December 2020:
  - a. encourage staff to expand their knowledge on anti-racism and inclusivity from a policy and procedure development perspective by attending training on GBA+ (gender-based analysis+) and applying the training when reviewing and drafting policies, directives and procedures;
  - b. conduct an employee census with a breakdown of demographic information of staff to better understand our current state of diversity and inclusion;
  - c. create anti-racism training for all Council members and staff to be completed by the end of 2020, such training to be required as training for all new employees within the organization within six months of their official start date; and
  - d. conduct an anonymous corporate climate survey amongst staff related to anti-racism and inclusivity.

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

#### **10. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates**

Councillor K. McGrath congratulated all 2020 graduates.

Councillor V. Murphy congratulated all 2020 graduates and reminded residents to stay vigilant relative to COVID19.

Councillor J. Peddle congratulated the businesses opening as part of Phase 2, but reminded everyone to stay safe and stay well.

Councillor J. Stroud congratulated the 2020 graduates in Anzac and Conklin.

Mayor D. Scott encouraged youth within the Municipality to apply for a seat on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer