

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held through a combination of in person and virtual attendance, in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, commencing at 4:00 PM.

Present:

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

Administration:

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (via Microsoft Teams)
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services (via Microsoft Teams)
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief (via Microsoft Teams)
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous & Rural Relations (via Microsoft Teams)
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications & Stakeholder Relations (via Microsoft Teams)
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development (via Microsoft Teams)
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services (via Microsoft Teams)
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services (via Microsoft Teams)
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works (via Microsoft Teams)
Kurt Stilwell, Acting Director, Legal Services (via Microsoft Teams)
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering (via Microsoft Teams)
Kari Westhaver, Director, Human Resources (via Microsoft Teams)
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

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

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

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

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

2.1. Advice from Officials – Information Briefings

Briefing No. 1 – Land Matter

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Brad McMurdo	Director, Planning and Development
Michael Ircandia	Manager, Land Administration
Matthew Harrison	Director, Communications & Stakeholder Relations

Briefing No. 2 – Intergovernmental Matter

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

Briefing No. 3 & 4 – Operational Briefing

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Dennis Warr	Director, Engineering

Briefing No. 5 – Council Dialogue

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

Exit and Entrances

Councillor K. McGrath disconnected and exited the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Councillor M. Allen joined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath rejoined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Recess and Disconnect

A recess occurred between 3:30 p.m. and 4:07 p.m. at which time the meeting was reconvened in public.

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. Adoption of Agenda (Public Session at 4:00 p.m.)Notices of Motion

Councillor V. Murphy served the following Notice of Motion, noting that the motion will come before Council on October 27, 2020 for consideration.

THAT Administration develop and bring forward for consideration a pilot project for Backyard Hens including the costs associated with implementing the pilot project.

Councillor V. Murphy served the following Notice of Motion, noting that the motion will come before Council on October 27, 2020 for consideration.

THAT Council conduct an advocacy and lobbying effort to the Provincial Government, including authorizing the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to amend the Local Authorities Election Act to include provisions for on-line voting and telephone voting.

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 4:12 p.m. at which time Deputy Mayor V. Murphy assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott served the following Notice of Motion, noting that the motion will come before Council on October 27, 2020 for consideration.

WHEREAS the energy industry is the primary economic driver for the Wood Buffalo Region, Alberta, and most of Canada; and

WHEREAS the industry employs thousands of residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, local First Nation and Metis communities, and workers from across the country in a variety of sectors; and

WHEREAS the industry procures significant goods and services causing significant investments across Canada; and

WHEREAS the energy sector remains key to Canada's prosperity for decades to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo advocate to the Government of Canada to formally recognize the importance of this significantly challenged industry by:

- Supporting the Wood Buffalo region and it's companies by refraining from increasing regulatory burdens amidst an already challenging environment; and
- Supporting carbon emissions reducing technology.

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 4:13 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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

An error was identified on page 4 of the September 14, 2020 minutes. The error was recognized as a typographical mistake which can be corrected by Administration, not requiring a motion of Council.

MOTION:

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

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

4.1. Minutes of Special Council Meeting - September 14, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on September 14, 2020 be accepted as presented.

4.2. Minutes of Council Meeting - September 15, 2020

THAT the Minutes of the Council meeting held on September 15, 2020 be accepted as presented.

4.3. Bylaw No. 20/026 - Amendment to the Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079

THAT Bylaw No. 20/026, being an amendment to the Roads and Transportation Bylaw, be read a first time.

5. Recognition**5.1. Proclamation - Poverty and Homelessness Awareness Week**

Mayor D. Scott proclaimed October 13 to October 17, 2020 as "Poverty and Homelessness Awareness Week".

6. Presentations**6.1. Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, and Kelly Colbourne, Manager, Roads, re: Urban Snow and Ice Removal Update**

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, and Kelly Colbourne, Manager, Roads, presented an update on the Urban Snow and Ice Removal Program and spoke to the results from the survey conducted in 2020. Changes were highlighted for Council and the public noting that for the upcoming season the removal of windrows higher than 15 cm would occur.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Public Hearing re: Bylaw 20/023 - Land Use Bylaw Text Amendment specific to Lot 5, Block 10, Plan 792 1669 - BI - Business Industrial District

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing open at 4:36 p.m.

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, and Chris Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, introduced the site-specific Land Use Bylaw text amendment request to add Child Care Facility as a discretionary use and indicated administration's support for the amendment.

Sandra Russell, owner, and Suzanne Manning, Legal Counsel, Fort City Play World, spoke to their request for a Land Use Bylaw amendment to allow for an after-school care program within the existing facility operated by Fort City Play World, to help fill the current gap in the community.

It was noted that there were no written or verbal submissions received.

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing closed at 4:53 p.m.

7.2. Bylaw No. 20/023 - Land Use Bylaw Text Amendment specific to Lot 5, Block 10, Plan 792 1669 - BI - Business Industrial District**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/023, being a Land Use Bylaw Text Amendment to add Child Care Facility as a Discretionary Use in the Business Industrial District, specific to Lot 5, Block 10, Plan 792 1669, be read a second time.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/023 be read a third and final time.

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

7.3. Bylaw No. 20/024 - Face Covering Bylaw

Mayor D. Scott noted that this matter was before Council on September 14 and 15, 2020 whereby delegations were heard. It was indicated that Council closed delegations following 2nd reading of the proposed bylaw at that time and noted that there would be no delegations at 3rd reading.

Councillor V. Murphy put forward the following motion for consideration:

“THAT Bylaw No. 20/024, being the Face Covering Bylaw, be read a third and final time.”

Kurt Stilwell, Acting Director, Legal Services, provided an update on recent COVID-19 statistics for the Municipality, indicating that on the Alberta Health Services Relaunch Strategy Map, the Municipality was placed at the Watch status due to an increase in cases, but this has now been lowered to the Open status.

Recess

A recess occurred from 5:41 p.m. to 6:01 p.m.

Councillor M. Allen put forward the following amendment for consideration:

“THAT Bylaw No. 20/024 be amended by adding the following as section 20:

“20(1) The provisions of this bylaw are only in effect if the number of active cases of the COVID-19 infections in the Municipality are reported by Alberta Health Services to be fifty (50) or more.

20(2) If the provisions of this bylaw have been enacted in accordance with Section 20(1) they may only be reverted if sixty (60) days have elapsed since the bylaw provisions came into effect and if the number of active cases of COVID-19 infections in the Municipality are reported by Alberta Health Services to be less than fifty (50).”

Councillor V. Murphy put forward a friendly amendment to amend the timeframe in section 20(2) from “sixty (60) days” to “thirty (30) days”, which was accepted by Councillor M. Allen.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/024 be amended by adding the following as section 20:

20(1) The provisions of this bylaw are only in effect if the number of active cases of the COVID-19 infections in the Municipality are reported by Alberta Health Services to be fifty (50) or more.

20(2) If the provisions of this bylaw have been enacted in accordance with Section 20(1) they may only be reverted if thirty (30) days have elapsed since the bylaw provisions came into effect and if the number of active cases of COVID-19 infections in the Municipality are reported by Alberta Health Services to be less than fifty (50).

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

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 6:56 p.m. at which time Deputy Mayor V. Murphy assumed the Chair.

Recess

A recess occurred from 6:57 p.m. to 7:14 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/024 be amended by including the following as section 20(3):

20(3) Notwithstanding sections 20(1) and 20(2), the provisions of this Bylaw apply and remain in full force and in effect for persons on Public Vehicles with the exception of vehicles for hire as defined in the *Vehicle for Hire Bylaw 13/001*, irrespective of the number of cases of COVID-19 in the Municipality reported by Alberta Health Services from time to time.

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 7:30 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/024, being the Face Covering Bylaw, as amended, be read a third and final time.

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

8. New Business

8.1. 2020 External Audit Service Plan - Deloitte LLP

Ray Cayen, Manager, Financial Planning, and Andrew Geary, Deloitte LLP, presented the 2020 External Audit Service Plan.

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Lalonde exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the 2020 External Audit Service Plan as provided by the external auditors, Deloitte LLP, be approved.

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

8.2. Council Meeting Procedure Guidelines - Hybrid Meeting Format - COVID-19 Pandemic

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, spoke to the proposed Council Meeting Procedure Guidelines to be used during the COVID-19 Pandemic. These guidelines will allow both electronic and physical attendance at Council meetings by both Council members as well as members of the public.

MOTION:

THAT the Council Meeting Procedure Guidelines, as outlined in Attachment 1, be adopted by Council for the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

9. Councillors' Motions

9.1. Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 Amendments

Councillor J. Peddle, introduced the item recommending that Council delegate to administration the authority to approve grant funding to non-profit organizations.

MOTION:

THAT the Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 be updated in advance of the 2021 Budget Council Meeting(s) to:

- delegate Council's approving authority to grant funding to non-profit organizations to Administration; and
- include an appeal process for non-profit organizations to appeal to an administrative appeal panel not comprising of Council members.

Liana Wheeldon, Arts Council, read a statement on behalf of 19 non-profit organizations, that are opposed to the recommendation, noting that the approval process should remain with Council.

Luana Bussieres, Executive Director, St. Aidan's Society, also spoke in opposition to the recommendation, noting that the current grant funding process is transparent, fair and equitable.

Point of Order

Councillor P. Meagher called a Point of Order noting that it appeared as though the delegate and a member of Council was entering into debate rather than asking and answering questions only. Mayor D. Scott requested that the dialogue be kept to questions and answers.

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

10. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

With no objections of Council, Council Reporting/Information Updates was omitted.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer