

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communications, a combination of video conferencing and teleconferencing, in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, commencing at 4:00 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  
Jane Stroud, Councillor  
Claris Voyageur, Councillor

**Administration:**

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services  
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief  
Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services  
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations  
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications & Stakeholder Relations  
Kelly Hansen, Strategic Planning & Business Initiatives  
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning & Development  
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services  
Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management  
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works  
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering  
Heather Fredeen, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**2. In-Camera Session (at 1:30 p.m.)**

**MOTION:**

THAT Council close items 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 to the public pursuant to sections 19(1), 21(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 Advice from Officials – Information Briefing**

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

Briefing #1 Land Matter

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Jody Butz	Regional Fire Chief
Matthew Harrison	Communications and Stakeholder Relations
Brad McMurdo	Director, Planning and Development
Dennis Warr	Director, Engineering

Briefing #2 Operational Briefing

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Linda Ollivier	Director, Financial Services

**2.2. Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations**

(in camera pursuant to section 21(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Briefing #1

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Tany Yao	MLA, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Briefing #2

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Dennis Fraser	Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Janine Kruse	Manager, Indigenous and Rural Relations

**2.3. Advice from Officials – Confidential Evaluations**

(In camera pursuant to sections 24(1) and 19(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Due to time constraints item 2.3 did not proceed.

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber.

**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 (Public Session at 4:00 p.m.)****MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be amended by adding “EMS Dispatch” as Agenda Item 7.4.; and  
THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	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 and 4.4 be approved.

##### **4.1 Minutes of Council Meeting - October 27, 2020**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on October 27, 2020, be accepted as presented.

##### **4.2 Minutes of Council Organizational Meeting - October 27, 2020**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Organizational Meeting held on October 27, 2020, be accepted as presented

##### **4.3 Scheduling of 2021 Budget Meetings**

THAT a Special Council Meeting be scheduled to take place virtually commencing at 9:00 a.m. each day from December 1 to December 4, 2020 to consider the 2021 Proposed Budgets and Financial Plants

##### **4.4 Cancellation of Keyano College Grant**

THAT \$16,850,000 be de-committed from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve, that was committed on November 29, 2019 to fund the Keyano College Theatre and Arts Centre; and

THAT this report satisfy the outstanding November 29, 2019 resolution of Council on this matter.

<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. Proclamations National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims Louis Riel Day**

Mayor D. Scott proclaimed November 18, 2020 as National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims and November 16, 2020 as Louis Riel Day.

Mayor D. Scott provided remarks in recognition of Remembrance Day.

## **6. Presentations**

### **6.1. Gregg Saretsky and Kevin Weidlich, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism (FMWBEDT) re: FMWBEDT 2020 Update**

Gregg Saretsky, Chair, and Kevin Weidlich, Chief Executive Officer, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism, provided an annual update on the FMWBEDT's business recovery efforts and current initiatives related to the four pillars of the organization. It was noted that their recent name change from the "Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation" to "Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism" is reflective of place brand marketing strategies.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 4:31 p.m. and returned at 4:38 p.m.

### **6.2. Diana Noble, Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee re: Annual Progress Report and Recommendations**

Diana Noble, Chair, Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee (WBDAC), provided a presentation on the WBDAC's priorities for 2020 and the Committee's recommendations to Council for 2021 to support the Planning and Developments Department's request for a third party consultant to review their departmental processes and expeditious enhancements for facilitating change-of-use requests.

### **6.3. Liana Wheeldon, Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee re: Annual Progress Report**

Liana Wheeldon, Chair, Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee (WBWAC), provided a presentation on the WBWAC's priorities for 2020 and the Committee's recommendation to Council for 2021 to support the creation of a wayfinding plan to enhance waterfront development.

### **6.4. Roy Williams and Jean Marc Guillamot, Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee re: Annual Progress Report and 2021 Recommendations**

Roy Williams, Chair, and Jean Marc Guillamot, Vice-Chair, Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee (WBDRAC), provided a presentation and highlighted the Committee's 2020 achievements as well as the Committee's priorities and recommended actions for 2021 including beautification, neighborhood safety and pedestrian friendliness in the downtown core.

## **Business Arising - Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and Monica Lance, Project Manager, Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, spoke in support of the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee's priorities and recommended infrastructure and enhancement actions and requested that the required funding and funding source for implementation be approved.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee 2021 Priorities and Recommended Infrastructure and Enhancement Actions be accepted; and

THAT Administration be directed to implement the actions and priorities as recommended by the Committee with any funding required for implementation to come from the approved unallocated Downtown Revitalization Capital Project budget.

<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. New Business**

### **7.1. 2020 Request for Property Tax and Accounts Receivable Arrears Write-Off**

Linda Ollivier, Director, and Maureen Deverdenne, Manager, Financial Services, provided an overview of the report and noted that although property tax arrears are written off; external collection efforts are still ongoing.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the recommended Property Tax and Accounts Receivable Arrears Write-Off of \$628,370.85 dated November 10, 2020, as outlined in Attachment 1, be approved.

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

## 7.2. 2020 Reserve Bids and Sale Conditions for Tax Sale Properties

Linda Ollivier, Director, and Maureen Deverdenne, Manager, Financial Services, provided an overview of the report noting that efforts to reach agreements with property owners who are in property tax arrears, will continue until the date of the public auction.

### MOTION:

THAT the reserve bids and sale conditions be established as listed in Attachment 1, 2020 Reserve Bids and Sale Conditions for Tax Sale Properties, dated November 10, 2020.

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

## 7.3. Strategic Plan Progress Report, 2nd and 3rd Quarters: April 1 - September 30, 2020

Kari Westhaver, Director, Human Resources, and Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning & Business Initiatives, provided a presentation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Strategic Plan Progress Report.

### Actions:

Administration committed to provide Council with the following:

- Draper geotechnical report related to slope stability (4c Delivery of Water and Sewer Servicing).
- Truth and Reconciliation Newsletters (4a Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action).
- Update on the East Clearwater Highway (ECH) draft cost benefit study report led by the province (4h Transportation Strategy).

### MOTION:

THAT the Strategic Plan Progress Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters, 2020 be accepted as information.

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

#### 7.4. EMS Dispatch

Councillor M. Allen introduced the motion and highlighted the importance of keeping the delivery of EMS Dispatch within the Municipality.

#### MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to allocate funding in the proposed 2021 budget for the delivery of EMS Dispatch in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

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

### 8. Councillors' Motions

#### 8.1. Backyard Hens Pilot Project (Cr. V. Murphy)

Councillor V. Murphy introduced the item recommending that a backyard hens pilot project be enacted.

KC Hutchins, resident, spoke in support of the motion indicating that a backyard hens pilot project would be a sustainable food source for the region.

Theresa Wells, resident, wrote in opposition of the motion due factors such as predation, nuisances (i.e. noise, odour, waste management) and nonalignment with Council's strategic plan.

Paulina Clarke, resident, wrote in support of the motion as it would promote a healthier, more diverse, and sustainable region.

Jolanta and Wes Hubert, residents, wrote in support of the motion indicating it would provide a natural resource for eggs.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor S. Lalonde exited the meeting at 6:47 p.m. and returned at 6:50 p.m.

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 6:59 p.m. and returned at 7:11 p.m.



**MOTION:**

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

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

### 8.2. Advocacy and Lobbying Effort - Online and Telephone Voting (Cr. V. Murphy)

Councillor V. Murphy introduced the item and encouraged Council to advocate to the Provincial Government to amend the *Local Authorities Election Act* to allow for Internet and telephone voting.

Councillor V. Murphy moved the following motion:

“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.”

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to add the words “safe and secure” prior to the words “on-line voting and telephone voting” and the words “only if election integrity can be maintained” following “telephone voting”, which was accepted by Councillor V. Murphy.

Council then voted on the motion with the friendly amendment included:

**MOTION:**

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 safe and secure on-line voting and safe and secure telephone voting, only if election integrity can be maintained.

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

**9. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates**

Council Members provided updates on various initiatives and events in the region.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer