

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communications, a combination of video conferencing and teleconference in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Thursday, December 3, 2020, commencing at 9:00 AM.**

**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  
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services  
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief  
Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services  
Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management  
Kari Donnelly-Westhaver, Director, Human Resources  
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations  
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning & Business Initiatives  
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications & Engagement  
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development  
Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer  
Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management  
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services  
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works  
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering  
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor D. Scott reconvened the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

## **2. Public Delegations**

The following written submission was read into the record. It was noted that following conclusion of the meeting the submission would be added to the Agenda package and made available online.

Brandon Howse, Draper resident, wrote in support of continuing infrastructure capital projects such as installation of water and sewer infrastructure and the paving of roads for Draper.

## **3. 2021 Capital Budget Presentations**

### **3.1. Flood Mitigation**

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering, and Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Flood Mitigation.

### **3.2. Rural Water and Sewer Servicing**

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Rural Water and Sewer Servicing.

#### Point of Order

Councillor P. Meagher called a Point of Order on Councillor J. Stroud, noting that her questions were regarding operational matters and were not related to the budget. Mayor D. Scott overruled the Point of Order, noting that it is appropriate to ask questions related to the target completion date of each project.

#### Recess

A recess occurred from 10:45 a.m. to 11:01 a.m.

### **3.3. Community and Protective Services**

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Community and Protective Services including the Capital Grants for Regional Recreation Corporation and Vista Ridge Recreational Society.

Graig Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Recreation Corporation, and Dan Wilson, General Manager, Vista Ridge Recreational Society were available to answer questions of Council.

### **3.4. Public Works**

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Public Works.

The following items were identified for follow up by Administration:

- Provide information on any public engagements held regarding the Tower Road Snow Dump.
- Provide information on funding sources for the proposed Memorial Park.

Councillor B Inglis put forward the following motion for consideration: “That \$270,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the purchase and installation of three 75,000 litre fuel storage tanks for Facilities in Fort Chipewyan specifically the Water Treatment Plant, Sonny Flett Aquatic Centre, and Fort Chipewyan Airport.

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to add “to be completed in 2021”, which was accepted by Councillor B. Inglis.

Voting then occurred on the motion.

**MOTION:**

THAT \$270,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the purchase and installation of three 75,000 litre fuel storage tanks for Facilities in Fort Chipewyan specifically the Water Treatment Plant, Sonny Flett Aquatic Centre, and Fort Chipewyan Airport, to be completed in 2021.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 12:17 p.m. to 1:19 p.m.

**3.5. Engineering**

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Engineering.

The following items were identified for follow up by Administration:

- Provide information on any studies done on slope stability in Draper.
- Provide the capital budget amount for the water and sewer infrastructure on Ross Haven Drive.

- Review safety measures options for Paulson Street and return with the costing for the best option in 2021.

**MOTION:**

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration by March 2021 an accelerated plan for the egress roads in Janvier and Anzac.

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

Councillor S. Lalonde put forward the following motion for consideration: "That the Capital Project No. 21-027, Secondary Egress Road Construction, be deferred until the land and other issues are resolved".

With consent of Council, Councillor S. Lalonde withdrew the motion.

**MOTION:**

THAT the plan years for the Capital Project No. 21-027, Secondary Egress Road Construction, be revised from 2022 to 2023 and through to 2026.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 1:59 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 2:17 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor V. Murphy assumed the Chair.

**MOTION:**

THAT funding in the amount of \$10,000,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget, 2021-05 Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation 2015-2017 Construction, for continuing upgrades to Draper Road which will include drainage, ditching, and bottom lift of asphalt. This will include completing the top lift in 2022.

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

**MOTION:**

THAT funding in the amount \$25,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the installation a crosswalk adjacent to Uncle Bills going to Westwood School.

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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 2:28 p.m.

**3.6. Environmental Services**

Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Environmental Services.

Recess

A recess occurred from 2:49 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT funding in the amount of \$70,350.00 be added to the 2021 Operating Budget to increase the hours of operation by eight hours at the Janvier and Conklin Waste Transfer Stations during bear season.

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

Due to technical issues, and with consent of Council, the Regional Emergency Services and Financial Services Capital Budgets were presented before the Planning and Development Capital Budget.

### 3.8. Regional Emergency Services

Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Regional Emergency Services.

### 3.9. Financial Services

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, and AnnMarie Hintz, Senior Manager, Information Technology, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Financial Services.

The following item was identified for follow up by Administration:

- Provide information regarding Fort Chipewyan internet issues following the recent upgrade.

### 3.7. Planning and Development

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, presented the proposed 2021 Capital Budget for Planning and Development.

#### MOTION:

THAT \$25,000,000.00 be included in the 2021 Flood Mitigation Budget for Draper and Ptarmigan Park until a comprehensive and detailed update for flood mitigation and water/sewer plans are presented to Council on December 15, 2020.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DEFEATED [1 TO 10]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Verna Murphy, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Lalonde
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

Councillor V. Murphy put forward the following motion for consideration: “That Administration research and bring back initiatives that foster community gatherings by

the end of February 2021. Examples could include community fire pits, community gardens, block parties, etc.”.

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to include “festivals”, which was accepted by Councillor V. Murphy.

Voting then occurred on the motion.

**MOTION:**

THAT Administration research and bring back initiatives that foster community gatherings and festivals by the end of February 2021. Examples could include community fire pits, community gardens, block parties, festivals, etc.

<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

Councillor J. Stroud put forward the following motion for consideration: “That funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 be included in the 2021 Operating Budget for the installation of flag poles (to be completed by July 2021), for the purpose of flying the Métis flag, at the Anzac Firehall and at the placemaking area and for the placement of a sign on Highways 881 and 63 recognizing Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory.”.

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to add “and that Administration work with the Provincial Government regarding the land acquisition”, which was accepted by Councillor J. Stroud.

Councillor M. Allen proposed a friendly amendment to change the funding amount from “\$100,000” to “\$30,000”, which was accepted by Councillor J. Stroud.

Voting then occurred on the motion.

**MOTION:**

THAT funding in the amount of \$30,000.00 be included in the 2021 Operating Budget for the installation of flag poles (to be completed by July 2021), for the purpose of flying the Métis flag, at the Anzac Firehall and at the placemaking area; and

THAT Administration work with the Provincial Government regarding the land acquisition for the placement of a sign on Highways 881 and 63 recognizing Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory, and report back to Council by end of March 2021 with the financial costing for consideration.

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

### Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 4:40 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor V. Murphy assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott put forward the following motion for consideration: “That funding in the amount of \$200,000 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the predesign, design and construction of a memorial to remember the impact of Moccasin Flats with a target date of 2021”.

Councillor Krista Balsom proposed a friendly amendment to change the amount from “\$200,000” to “\$500,000”, which was accepted by Mayor D. Scott.

Councillor P. Meagher proposed a friendly amendment to change the amount from “\$500,000” to “200,000” citing the need for fiscal restraint, which was accepted by Mayor D. Scott.

With consent of Council, Mayor D. Scott added “with options being brought forward to Council during Q1 after engagement; and that Administration bring forward an amendment to the Community Identification Committee Policy to include recognizing the history of our Region.”

Voting then occurred on the motion.

### **MOTION:**

THAT funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the predesign, design and construction of a memorial to remember the impact of Moccasin Flats with a target date of 2021 with options being brought forward to Council during Q1 after engagement; and

THAT Administration bring forward an amendment to the Community Identification Committee Policy to include recognizing the history of our Region.



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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 5:15 p.m.

Exit and Return

Councillor P. Meagher exited the meeting at 5:17 p.m. and returned at 5:18 p.m.

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 5:20 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor V. Murphy assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott put forward the following motion for consideration: “That \$3,000,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the design and construction of a park for the land next to the bridge on the way to MacDonald Island”.

Councillor S. Lalonde proposed a friendly amendment to change “park” to “green space”, which was accepted by Mayor D. Scott.

With consent of Council, Mayor D. Scott added “with a target completion date of 2021”.

Voting then occurred on the motion.

**MOTION:**

THAT \$3,000,000.00 be included in the 2021 Capital Budget for the design and construction of greenspace for the land next to the bridge on the way to MacDonald Island with a target completion date of 2021.

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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 5:37 p.m.

Exit

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Recess

A recess occurred from 5:39 p.m. to 6:22 p.m., at which time Councillor K. McGrath returned to the meeting.

**4. Budget Approval****4.1. 2021 Budget, 2022 - 2023 Financial Plan**

The following written submission was read into the record. It was noted that following conclusion of the meeting the submission would be added to the Agenda package and made available online.

Surekha Kanzig, Surekha's on the Snye, wrote requesting that Council consider creating a grant funding program to assist small businesses in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2021 Operating Budget, in the amount of \$517,680,636 be approved, \$374,093,986 for Municipal Operations, excluding the Community Investment Program, Communications and Engagement Department, and the Indigenous and Rural Relations Department, and \$143,586,650 as a funding transfer for reserves and capital purposes, be approved as set out in Attachment 1, 2021 Operating Budget, 2022-2023 Financial Plan, dated December 3, 2020.

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

Pecuniary Interest and Exit

Councillor K. Balsom declared a pecuniary interest in the next two motions and exited the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2021 Operating Budget be amended to add \$6,390,086 for the Communications and Engagement Department and \$3,221,925 for the Indigenous and Rural Relations Department.

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

Pecuniary Interest and Exit

Councillor M. Allen declared a pecuniary interest in the next motion and exited the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2021 Operating Budget be amended to add \$40,535,140 for the Community Investment Program.

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

Returns

Councillors M. Allen and K. Balsom returned to the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2022-2023 Financial Plan in the amount of \$562,582,385 and \$559,882,384 respectively, with funding transfers for capital purposes of \$134,556,449 and \$128,066,844 respectively, be used as the basis for the development of the respective subsequent budgets be approved as set out in Attachment 1, 2021 Operating Budget, 2022-2023 Financial Plan, dated December 3, 2020.

<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

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2021 Capital Budget in the amount of \$155,960,019, and \$50,250 Public Art fund transfer totaling \$156,010,269 be approved as set out in Attachment 2, 2021 Capital Budget, dated December 3, 2020. Such funding to come from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve, applicable offsite levies and developer charges and grants.

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Legislative Officer