

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via electronic communications, a combination of video conference and teleconference in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 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  
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 and Business Initiatives  
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and 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  
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

## 2. In-Camera Session

### MOTION:

THAT Council close agenda item 2.1 to the public pursuant to section 21(1), 24(1) and 27(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 Intergovernmental Relations, Advice from Officials and Privileged Information**

(in camera pursuant to sections 21(1), 24(1) and 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Chief Jody Butz	Regional Fire Chief
Chris Davis	Municipal Legal Counsel

### Recess

A recess occurred between 3:53 p.m. and 4:05 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.)**

Councillor K. Balsom served notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the February 23, 2021 Council meeting.

THAT Administration be directed to work with the Fort McMurray Public School District and the Christina Gordon Public School to determine the budget shortfall funding amount for the capital enhancements to the playground for sensory friendly playground structures; and should a funding shortfall amount be identified, that up to \$60,000 from the Emerging Issues Reserve be allocated to the Christina Gordon Public School for completion of their inclusive playground project in 2021.

Councillor J. Stroud served notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the February 23, 2021 Council meeting.

THAT Administration bring forward a report, including financial implications and bylaw amendment(s) to Bylaw No. 20/030 (the Fees, Rates and Charges 2020 Bylaw), necessary to waive business licensing fees for all local businesses in 2021, not later than Council's regularly scheduled meeting of March 23, 2021.

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the February 23, 2021 Council Meeting.

THAT the Municipality continue providing subsidized trucked water delivery service for residential property owners of Draper until such time as a permanent piped water solution for the Draper community is installed and operational.

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the February 23, 2021 Council Meeting.

THAT Administration immediately engage with ATCO Gas regarding the potential installation of permanent gas line(s) for residential properties in Draper and report back to Council by March 23, 2021, such report to include information on how the Municipality can support and facilitate such project.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be amended to add "RMA Resolution - National Flood Insurance Strategy and Community Resiliency Advocacy" as item 8.2.;

THAT Council waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed addition; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Krista Balsom, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, 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 and 4.2 be approved.

##### **4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting - January 26, 2021**

THAT the Minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 26, 2021 be approved as presented.

##### **4.2. Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes**

THAT the Minutes from Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1-15, be accepted as information.

<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. Presentations**

##### **5.1. Chief Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief, re: EMS Dispatch Transition Public Briefing (Verbal)**

Regional Fire Chief Jody Butz, accompanied by Anzac Fire Captain Julie Stewart and Dispatcher Michelle Germain provided an update on the transition of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Dispatch to Alberta Health Services and spoke to the resulting impact this has had on the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

##### Vacating and Assuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair and Deputy Mayor S. Lalonde assumed the Chair at 4:53 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT the Municipality provide notice to Alberta Health Services that the RMWB 911 Emergency Communications Centre will no longer transfer the 911 caller to the AHS Provincial Dispatch Centre.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 5:12 p.m.

### **5.2. Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, re: Flood Preparedness Public Briefing (Verbal)**

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the proposed flood mitigation plans developed in preparation for the upcoming 2021 river breakup season.

Mayor D. Scott raised the need for a more robust river monitoring program and Administration committed to provide an update to Council once further discussions occur on the matter.

Recess

A recess occurred between 6:08 p.m. and 6:31 p.m.

### **5.3. Keith Smith, Public Works, re: Urban Snow and Ice Control Program Update**

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, presented an update on the Urban Snow and Ice Control Program and provided background information on how the program has evolved since 2014. Various winter maintenance challenges faced in operating the program were noted and potential options to address these challenges were identified.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6.1. Identify Funding Source**

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, spoke to the report and explained that a funding source needs to be identified in order for Administration to proceed with Council's direction for this initiative.

**MOTION:**

THAT \$15M be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve for the voluntary buyout payments and raising of homes for Ptarmigan Court.

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

**7. New Business****7.1. Bylaw No. 21/003 - Land Use Bylaw**

Brad McMurdo, Director, and Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the proposed Land Use Bylaw, highlighting that the new Land Use Bylaw is consistent with and directly implements Council's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

**MOTION:**

1. THAT Bylaw No. 21/003, being the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Land Use Bylaw be read a first time.
2. THAT the required public hearing for Bylaw No. 21/003 be scheduled to occur on April 27, 2021.

<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

Exit

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

**8. Councillors' Motions****8.1. Expansion of Waterfront Park Project - Trail (Councillor J. Peddle)**

Councillor J. Peddle provided background information regarding the proposed expansion of the Waterfront Park Project.

Mr. Bill Loutitt, Chief Executive Officer, McMurray Métis, spoke in support of the recommendation.

**MOTION:**

THAT the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee and Administration expand the scope of the Waterfront Park Project to celebrate our rich Indigenous history and cultures by creating connectivity through upgrades, placemaking, and markers from the location of the new Métis Cultural Centre through MacDonal Island Park's TOTAL Aboriginal Interpretative Trails to the Fort McMurray Marine Park for the purposes of tourism development, active transportation, but most importantly, reconciliation and education. This process would include engagement with all regional Indigenous communities.

<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, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>ABSENT:</b>	McGrath

**8.2. RMA Resolution - National Flood Insurance Strategy and Community Resiliency Advocacy**

Councillor K. Balsom put forward the following recommendation for Council's consideration:

THAT Council advocate for all levels of government, including the Government of Alberta, to participate in and contribute to the work of the National Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation:

- with the goal of developing a national high-risk residential flood insurance program and;
- to secure sustainable, long-term funding for provinces, Indigenous communities and municipalities for flood mitigation programs, projects and initiatives that increase overall community resiliency; and

THAT Council work with Administration on a campaign that engages professional lobbyists in Edmonton and Ottawa to bring forward our region's challenges to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada;

THAT, the Mayor, on behalf of Council, be authorized to invite the Task Force to meet with our Municipality, either virtually or in-person, to understand the impacts floods have had on our region and our residents;

THAT Council authorize the submission of the attached resolution to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for consideration at its 2021 Spring Convention; and

THAT Administration be directed to develop resolutions for Council's consideration at a later date in support of related advocacy efforts at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Annual Conference and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors and Annual Conference.

Councillor V. Murphy proposed a friendly amendment to delete the words "in Edmonton and Ottawa", which was accepted by Councillor K. Balsom.

Through discussions of Council related to the funding of lobbying efforts, the Chief Administrative Officer committed that prior to any funds being expended, a report outlining the costs associated with lobbying would be provided to Council.

**MOTION:**

THAT Council advocate for all levels of government, including the Government of Alberta, to participate in and contribute to the work of the National Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation:

- with the goal of developing a national high-risk residential flood insurance program and;
- to secure sustainable, long-term funding for provinces, Indigenous communities and municipalities for flood mitigation programs, projects and initiatives that increase overall community resiliency; and

THAT Council work with Administration on a campaign that engages professional lobbyists to bring forward our region's challenges to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada;

THAT, the Mayor, on behalf of Council, be authorized to invite the Task Force to meet with our Municipality, either virtually or in-person, to understand the impacts floods have had on our region and our residents;

THAT Council authorize the submission of the attached resolution to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for consideration at its 2021 Spring Convention; and

THAT Administration be directed to develop resolutions for Council's consideration at a later date in support of related advocacy efforts at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Annual Conference and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors and Annual Conference.

Exit

Councillor C. Voyageur exited the meeting at 8:35 p.m. due to technology challenges.



<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 2]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Krista Balsom, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Lalonde, Meagher
<b>AWAY:</b>	McGrath, Voyageur

Exit

Due to technical difficulties, Councillor B. Inglis exited the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

**9. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates**

Mayor D. Scott introduced Mark Hancock, newly appointed RCMP Officer in Charge.

Council Members provided updates on various initiatives in the region.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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