

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 Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, June 22, 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
Kari Donnelly-Westhaver, Director, Human Resources
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development
Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer
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 2:35 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

THAT Council close items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 to the public pursuant to sections 17(1), 24(1) and 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

2.1. Advice from Officials/Privileged Information

(in camera pursuant to sections 24(1) and 27(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
Kurt Stilwell	Municipal Legal Counsel
Linda Ollivier	Chief Financial Officer

2.2. Advice from Officials - Land Matter

(in camera pursuant to section 24(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
Brad McMurdo	Director, Planning and Development
Dennis Fraser	Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Michael Ircandia	Manager, Land Administration

2.3. Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy - Council Excellence Awards

(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
Deanne Bergey	Director, Community and Protective Services

2.4. Advice from Officials - Chief Administrative Officer Operational Briefing
(in camera pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Briefing Items 1 and 2

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

Briefing Item 3

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

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:58 p.m. and 4:04 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

Councillor V. Murphy served notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the July 6, 2021 Council Meeting:

"THAT Administration be directed to bring forward for Council's consideration on July 13 a report outlining the request from Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray for tax forgiveness for the past two years and any outstanding penalties."

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next Council Meeting:

“THAT the Mayor be authorized to send a letter on behalf of Council to all companies that own utilities within the Municipality’s rights-of-way requesting that they prioritize the replacement of any damaged or unsightly utility boxes; and

THAT Administration be directed to engage with these companies to discuss having the companies voluntarily replace any damaged or unsightly utility boxes; and

THAT Administration be further directed to investigate options to force replacement of utility boxes through a bylaw amendment or enforcement of any legislated or contractual legal rights that may already exist (i.e., agreements).”

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted 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

Councillor S. Lalonde requested that Item No. 4.7. - Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor D. Scott requested that Item No. 4.5. - Bylaw No. 21/015 - Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 Amendment - Change of Use Exemption for Permitted Uses; and Item No. 4.6. - Bylaw No. 21/016 - Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 Amendment: Special Events, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained in Items 4.1., 4.2., 4.3. and 4.4. be approved.

4.1. Council Meeting – June 8, 2021

THAT the Minute of the regular Council meeting held on June 8, 2021 be approved as presented.

4.2. Committee Appointments - 2022 Arctic Winter Games Host Society

THAT the Committee appointments as shown on Attachment 1 be approved, effective immediately.

4.3. 2021 Council's Excellence Awards - Recipient Approval

THAT the recommended recipients of the Council's Excellence Awards outlined on Attachment 1 (confidential) be approved and kept confidential until the award winners are announced by FuseSocial in July 2021.

4.4. Bylaw No. 21/014 - Amendment to the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006

THAT Bylaw No. 21/014, being an amendment to the Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006, be read a first time.

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

With the consent of Council, it was noted that Items 4.5., 4.6. and 4.7. removed from the Consent Agenda, would be dealt with following Item 6.4.

5. Presentations

5.1. Jim Peacock, Q.C., re: Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner - April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Jim Peacock, Q.C., Integrity Commissioner for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, presented an overview of annual report which contained a summary of the Integrity Commissioner's activities for the period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

5.2. Bill Loutitt, Chief Executive Officer, and Corey Hobbs, Director of Communications and Government Relations, McMurray Métis, re: Funding Support for Métis Cultural Centre

Bill Loutitt, Chief Executive Officer and Corey Hobbs, Director of Communications and Government Relations, McMurray Métis, presented a funding request for \$13.1M towards the capital costs of the Métis Cultural Centre, and responded to questions of Council.

Mayor D. Scott reminded Council of its process under Council's Presentation Request Policy which states that action requests presented to Council are to be referred to Administration for review and subsequent recommendation to Council.

Councillor C. Voyageur put forward the following for consideration:

"THAT the McMurray Métis presentation re: Funding Support for Fort McMurray Métis Cultural Centre be accepted as information; and

THAT Administration be directed to review the request and bring forward a report for Council’s consideration at the July 13, 2021 Council meeting.”

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to add the words “and recommendations” after the word “report”, which was accepted by Councillor C. Voyageur.

MOTION:

THAT the McMurray Métis presentation re: Funding Support for Fort McMurray Métis Cultural Centre be accepted as information; and

THAT Administration be directed to review the request and bring forward a report and recommendations for Council’s consideration at the July 13, 2021 Council meeting.

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

5.3. Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, re: COVID-19 Public Briefing

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer and Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, provided an update on COVID19 in the Municipality. An overview of the vaccination data specific to both urban and rural areas was also provided.

Pecuniary Interest and Exit

Councillor K. Balsom declared a pecuniary interest with respect to employment relations relating to items 5.4. and 6.1. due to business interests with the organizations involved and disconnected from the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

5.4. Scott Wenger, Director, Government Relations, Suncor Energy and Dr. Jia Hu, Co-Chair and Founder, 19 to Zero, re: Vaccination Uptake Campaign

Scott Wenger, Director, Government Relations, Suncor Energy and Dr. Jia Hu, Co-Chair and Founder, 19 to Zero, provided an overview of the 19 to Zero's vaccination uptake campaign, noting the need to close the current vaccination gap in the region and responded to questions of Council.

Business Arising - Industry and 19 to Zero Vaccination Uptake Campaign

Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement, presented options available to Council in response to the presentation regarding a vaccination uptake campaign and answered questions of Council.

MOTION:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo provide \$75,000 in funding from Operating Budget surplus, and approximately \$25,000 in-kind advertising on municipal assets to support the 19 to Zero vaccination uptake campaign. Should Operating Budget surplus not materialize, funds will be taken from the Emerging Issues Reserve.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Lalonde
PECUNIARY INTEREST:	Balsom

Recess

A recess occurred from 6:13 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

6. New Business

6.1. 2021 Sustaining Grant Allocation

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, provided an overview of the application for sustaining grant funding received from the Fort McMurray Airport Authority.

Verbal Presentations

RJ Steenstra, Chief Executive Officer, and Denean Robinson, Chief Financial Officer, Fort McMurray Airport Authority, spoke in support of the grant allocation, noting this funding is necessary for the Fort McMurray Airport Authority to continue its recovery process.

Kevin Weidlich, Chief Executive Officer, and Dan Fouts, Vice Chair, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism, spoke in support of the grant allocation, noting that the Fort McMurray Airport Authority is a vital economic driver for the Region.

Dianna de Sousa, Executive Director, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the grant allocation, noting how much the Fort McMurray Airport Authority supports local businesses.

Stu Wigle, Regional Director, Earls Fort McMurray, spoke in support of the grant allocation, attesting to the efforts made by the Fort McMurray Airport Authority in supporting local businesses.

MOTION:

THAT a \$15,000,000 Sustaining Grant be allocated to the Fort McMurray Airport Authority for 2021, to be funded through the Emerging Issues Reserve.

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

Pecuniary Interest, Exit and Enter

Councillor J. Peddle indicated that due to an employment issue and potential pecuniary interest he is recusing from Item 6.2 and disconnected from the meeting at 7:44 p.m., at which time Councillor K. Balsom rejoined the meeting.

6.2. Portion of Lot 4, Block 2, Plan 1323561 Abrahms Land

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, introduced the item and provided Council with an overview of the various legislative requirements related to disposal of land for nominal value, noting that the Administrative recommendation is to deny the request.

Verbal Presentations

Sultan Zamman, Sultan Management Group, provided a presentation to Council in support of the request for land, speaking to how the proposed development would benefit the community and possibly attract further development opportunities.

Kevin Weidlich, Chief Executive Officer, and Dan Fouts, Vice Chair, Fort McMurray Economic Development and Tourism, indicated neither support nor opposition to the request, but spoke to the positive and negative impacts of the proposed project, noting that there is a need to have pre-established decision criteria publicly available to review requests of this nature.

Pradeep Mehta, resident, spoke in opposition to the request to dispose of municipal land for nominal value.

Sandeep Khokhar, Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray, spoke in opposition to the request to dispose of land for nominal value, indicating that land in the area has been purchased at market value.

Stephen Arogundade, Daystar Chapel Fort McMurray, spoke in opposition to the disposal of land for nominal value noting that to date, groups in the area have paid market value.

Written Submissions:

Written submission from Riley Muise in opposition to the request by Sultan Management Group was acknowledged for the record.

Written submission from Vicki Kozmak-LeFense, resident, in support of the proposed development, was read into the record and will become part of the published agenda package following conclusion of the meeting.

Vacating of Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 10:11 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor Stroud assumed the Chair.

Motion Recess

A motion recess occurred from 10:12 p.m. to 10:23 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to work with the Requester for a Sale at Fair Market Value with Vendor Conditions for land as identified by the Municipality and suitable for such a development; and

THAT Administration be directed to consider whether an opportunity exists for tax incentives for this proposal and for all potential developers that would promote economic development in our Region in accordance with enacted provincial legislation, and

THAT Administration bring forward a report, outlining these potential incentives as well as identifying locations that would be suitable for such developments, in 2022.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 10:35 p.m.

Return

Councillor J. Peddle returned to the meeting at 10:36 p.m.

6.3. Proposed Sale of Portion of River Lots 41 & 42 in Fort Chipewyan

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, introduced the matter, outlining the options available to Council for consideration.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to advertise this matter in accordance with section 70 and 606 of the *Municipal Government Act* prior to bringing this report before Council for consideration of the land sale at an equitable value.

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

Reordering of items

With the consent of Council, Items 4.5. and 4.6., removed from the Consent Agenda, were dealt with next.

Exit

Councillor K. McGrath left the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

4.5. Bylaw No. 21/015 - Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 Amendment - Change of Use Exemptions for Permitted Uses

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, provided an overview of the proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendment.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/015, being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 to exempt Permitted Uses in prescribed commercial districts, be read a first time; and

THAT a public hearing be scheduled to occur on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

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

4.6. Bylaw No. 21/016 - Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 Amendment: Special Events

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, provided an overview of the proposed Land Use Bylaw amendment.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/016, being an amendment to Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 specific to Special Events, be read a first time, and

THAT the required public hearing for Bylaw No. 21/016 be scheduled to occur on July 13, 2021.

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

6.4. Bylaw No. 21/017 - Repeal of Face Covering Bylaw No. 20/024

Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services, provided an overview of the repealing bylaw before Council.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/017, being a Bylaw to repeal the Face Covering Bylaw No. 20/024, be read a first time.

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

Written Submissions:

The following written submissions were read into the record and will become part of the published agenda package following conclusion of the meeting.

- Alvin Kazmierczak - in support of repealing the Bylaw
- Richard Haack - in support of repealing the Bylaw.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/017 be read a second time.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/017 be considered for third and final reading.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/017 be read a third and final time.

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

4.7. Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, presented the item before Council, noting that the Council appointed Advisory Board and Committee minutes are provided as information only.

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes from Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1-8, be accepted as information.

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

7. Councillors' Motions

7.1. Funding for Youth Graduation Gifts and Seniors' Activities (Councillor J. Stroud)

Councillor J. Stroud presented her motion requesting that Administration prepare an amendment to the Elected Officials Compensation, Travel and Expense Policy.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward at the next regular Council meeting an amendment to the Elected Officials Compensation, Travel and Expense Policy - LEG 050 to insert the wording "with the exception of any expenses related to Youth Graduation Gifts and any activities honouring Seniors" at the end of section 3.5.19.2.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Lalonde
ABSENT:	McGrath

Exit

Councillor P. Meagher left the meeting at 11:32 p.m.

8. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

Council members provided updates on various initiatives in the Region.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer