

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, July 6, 2021, commencing at 4:00 PM.

Present:

Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor
Krista Balsom, Councillor
Bruce Inglis, Councillor
Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
Phil Meagher, Councillor
Verna Murphy, Councillor
Jeff Peddle, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Claris Voyageur, Councillor

Absent:

Keith McGrath, Councillor

Administration:

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Christopher Booth, Acting Director, Planning and Development
Kari Donnelly-Westhaver, Director, Human Resources
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION

THAT Council close item 2.1 to the public pursuant to section 27(1) of the Freedom of Information and *Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

2.1. Privileged Information – Integrity Commissioner Discussion

(in camera pursuant to section 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Don Lidstone	External Legal Counsel

Entrance

Councillor K. Balsom entered the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:31 p.m. at which time Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 4:00 p.m. in public at which time Councillor S. Lalonde joined the meeting.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

Councillor M. Allen served the following notice of motion and requested waiving notice of it to the public, to allow it to be debated this evening:

“THAT the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to Mayor and Council of Lytton, BC, in recognition of the recent wildfire that decimated their community, including an offer of support from the RMWB through the sharing of information based on our experience with the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.”

Mayor D. Scott served the following notice of motion and requested waiving notice of it to the public, to allow it to be debated this evening.

“THAT Administration be directed to bring forward a report for Council’s consideration during the July 13, 2021 Council meeting outlining the request relating to the payment of municipal tax by the Family Christian Centre (Wheaton Family Childcare Centre), as well as consideration to refund municipal taxes paid since 2016; and

THAT Administration bring forward relevant bylaw(s) to establish and clarify that childcare facilities with charitable status are exempt from payment of municipal property taxes.”

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

THAT Administration take all necessary steps to install by August 2021 a crosswalk with flashing lights on Hospital Street extending between Willow Square Continuing Care Centre and the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre at a location identified by Administration in consultation with stakeholders and community partners including, but not limited to, any organizations representing seniors within our community and the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre; and that \$170,000.00 be allocated from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve for this project.

Vacating of Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 4:08 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor P. Meagher assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended to add items 8.3. Tax Exemption – Family Christian Centre and 8.4. Letter of Support – Lytton, BC;

THAT Council waive any requirements to serve notice relative to the proposed additions; and

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

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

Disconnect and Reconnect

Councillor J. Stroud disconnected from the meeting at 4:10 p.m. due to technical difficulties and reconnected at 4:12 p.m.

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 4:14 p.m.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. Council Meeting - June 22, 2021

THAT the Minutes of the regular Council meeting held on June 22, 2021 be approved as presented.

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

5. Presentations

5.1. Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management re: Economic Recovery

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, provided an overview of the efforts undertaken to date with respect to economic recovery and outlined some next steps involving community partners to deliver business recovery and stabilization programs.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. **Bylaw No. 21/012 - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Combative Sports Commission Bylaw**

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, Roger Ashfield, Chairperson and Sandy Bowman, Deputy Chairperson, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Combative Sports Commission, presented an overview of Bylaw No. 21/012, which proposes changes to the current practices relative to, but not limited to contestant safety, logistical updates and fees structure updates, noting that many of these are to ensure compliance with governing legislation.

Written submission

Administration acknowledged a written submission from The Fort Martial Arts, in support of the proposed bylaw.

Councillor J. Peddle put forward the following recommendation for consideration:

“THAT Bylaw No. 21/012 being the Combative Sports Commission Bylaw, be read a second time.”

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/012 be amended by deleting section 3(k) and replacing it with: 3(k) “Council” means the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and by deleting subsection 28(d) and replacing it with the following 28 (d) “the Officials to be present or required to oversee an Event”.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/012, being the Combative Sports Commission Bylaw, be read a second time, as amended.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/012 be read a third and final time.

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

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

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, provided an overview of Bylaw No. 21/006, which will increase the number of hens allowed in the rural hamlets.

MOTION:

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

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/014 be read a third and final time.

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

6.3. Active Flood Mitigation – Potential Ice-Destabilization

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering, provided an overview of information on flood mitigation, noting that Administration is recommending continuing the feasibility study of options to lessen the risk of ice jam floods.

MOTION:

THAT Administration continue to investigate the feasibility of options to lessen the risk of ice-jam floods as outlined in this report.

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

6.4. Social Procurement (Supply Chain Management)

Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management, provided a presentation on social procurement in the Region, noting that implementing a program reinforcing social procurement is a valuable tool for building healthy communities and that further engagement with stakeholders should occur to ensure the program meets the overall objectives.

Registered Delegates:

Michelle Toner, Executive Director, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, encouraged Council to reconsider passing the recommendations brought forward by Councillor J. Stroud on June 8, in addition to the recommendations presented tonight.

Dianna de Sousa, Executive Director, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of moving forward with the recommendation as quickly as possible.

Written Submission:

Administration read into the record a submission from Keith Plowman, President, Fort McMurray Construction Association, raising concern with the proposed timelines identified in the recommendations.

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

“THAT Administration continue to engage locally, including but not limited to, the Fort McMurray Construction Association, the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, to assist in the development of a social procurement program, including the processes and policies, questionnaire, and other related criteria, in advance of any policy amendments being provided to Council for consideration;

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward a Council Procurement Policy inclusive of Social Procurement no later than Q1 2022; and

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward for Council’s consideration an Indigenous Procurement Policy and consult with Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association and Indigenous businesses for this purpose with a target date to be brought before Council no later than Q1 2022.”

Mayor D. Scott proposed a friendly amendment to change the dates in recommendations 2 and 3 from “Q1 2022” to “with a target date of September 1, 2021”. Councillor M. Allen accepted the friendly amendment with the understanding that an extension would be granted should it be required.

MOTION:

THAT Administration continue to engage locally, including but not limited to, the Fort McMurray Construction Association, the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, to assist in the development of a social procurement program, including the processes and policies, questionnaire, and other related criteria, in advance of any policy amendments being provided to Council for consideration;

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward a Council Procurement Policy inclusive of Social Procurement with a target date of September 1, 2021; and

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward for Council’s consideration an Indigenous Procurement Policy and consult with Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association and Indigenous businesses for this purpose with a target date to be brought before Council by September 1, 2021.

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

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to support local and local Indigenous vendors, where possible, for procurements covered under the Supply Chain Management (Fin-190) valued at less than \$10,000 effective September 1, 2021; and

THAT Administration be directed, to obtain three (3) required quotes from local vendors, including local Indigenous vendors, where possible, for procurement covered under the Supply Chain Management Administrative Procedure FIN-190 for goods and services valued from \$10,000 to less than \$75,000 and for construction valued from \$10,000 to less than 200,000 effective September 1, 2021.

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

Recess and Exit

A recess occurred from 6:38 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at which time Councillor B. Inglis disconnected and exited the meeting.

7. New Business**7.1. 344 Beacon Hill Drive Tax Refund Request**

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, and Keivan Navidi, Manager, Assessment, provided an overview of the tax refund request, noting that Administration recommends denying the request.

Registered Delegate:

Angela Maag, resident and daughter of the property owner, spoke in opposition to the recommendation and requested that at minimum the accrued penalties be refunded.

Councillor C. Voyageur presented the following motion for consideration:

"THAT the request by the former Owner for a refund of the post 2016 wildfire cleanup costs and penalties in the amount of \$35,588.77, for the property located at 344 Beacon Hill Drive be denied."

Councillor M. Allen presented the following motion for consideration:

"THAT all penalties and taxes be expended for 344 Beacon Hill Drive until such time that the former property owner is able to discuss this matter with their insurance company."

With consensus of Council, Councillor M. Allen withdrew his motion, following which Councillor C. Voyageur also withdrew the motion originally presented.

Vacating of Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 7:32 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor P. Meagher assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT a refund be issued to the former Property Owner in the amount of \$12,777.52 for the property located at 344 Beacon Hill Drive.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 7:39 p.m.

7.2. Investment Policy Change - Provincial Exemption

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, and Ray Cayen, Manager, Financial Planning, provided an overview of the proposed exemption request to the Government of Alberta to expand the Municipality's Corporate Bond Issues beyond the one legislated sector.

MOTION:

THAT Administration seek approval from the Government of Alberta to allow the expansion of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo investment policy with respect to the purchase of Corporate Bond Issues.

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

8. Councillors' Motions

8.1. Tax Forgiveness – Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society of Fort McMurray (Councillor V. Murphy)

Councillor V. Murphy spoke to her recommendation regarding a request for tax forgiveness from the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society.

Registered Delegate:

Bhamesh Patel, President, Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society, spoke in support of the recommendation.

MOTION:

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.

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

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 7:54 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor P. Meagher assumed the Chair.

8.2. Damaged and Unsightly Utility Boxes (Mayor D. Scott)

Mayor D. Scott spoke to his motion, noting there are numerous damaged utility boxes throughout the Municipality which should be addressed.

MOTION:

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).

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

8.3. Tax Exemption - Family Christian Centre (Mayor D. Scott)

Mayor D. Scott, spoke to his motion regarding a request for refund of taxes by the Family Christian Centre.

Written Submission

Administration read into the record a written submission from Reverend Edwin Rideout, Chair, Wheaton-Penney Childcare Centre Board of Directors, in support of the recommendation.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward a report for Council's consideration during the July 13, 2021 Council meeting outlining the request relating to the payment of municipal tax by the Family Christian Centre (Wheaton Family Childcare Centre), as well as consideration to refund municipal taxes paid since 2016; and

THAT Administration bring forward relevant bylaw(s) to establish and clarify that childcare facilities with charitable status are exempt from payment of municipal property taxes.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 8:13 p.m.

8.4. Letter of Support - Lytton BC (Councillor M. Allen)

Councillor M. Allen spoke to his motion, requesting a letter of support be sent to Lytton, BC recognizing the recent wildfire disaster affecting their community.

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to Mayor and Council of Lytton, BC, in recognition of the recent wildfire that decimated their community, including an offer of support from the RMWB through the sharing of information based on our experience with the 2016 Horse River Wildfire.

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

9. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

Council members provided updates on various initiatives in the Region.

Exit

Councillor J. Peddle exited the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer