

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo  
held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta,  
on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, commencing at 6:00 PM.**

**Present:**

Sandy Bowman, Mayor  
Ken Ball, Councillor  
Funky Banjoko, Councillor  
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor  
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor  
Allan Grandison, Councillor (via MS Teams)  
Keith McGrath, Councillor (via MS Teams)  
Jane Stroud, Councillor  
Stu Wigle, Councillor

**Absent:**

Lance Bussieres, Councillor  
Loretta Waquan, Councillor

**Administration:**

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services  
Kari Donnelly, Director, Human Resources  
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  
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services  
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering  
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Vacating and Assuming of Chair**

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 6:01 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor A. Grandison assumed the Chair.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

### **MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be amended by deleting Item 5.2. - 2022 Proposed Sustaining Grant Allocation - WBEDC, to be brought back to the March 22, 2022 Council meeting; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Bowman, Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Dogar, Waquan

### Resuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor S. Bowman offered remarks in solidarity with Ukraine and recognized International Women's Day.

## **3. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

### **3.1. Council Meeting - February 22, 2022**

### **MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 22, 2022, be adopted as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Dogar, Waquan

## **4. Presentations**

### **4.1. Chief Allan Adam, President, Athabasca Tribal Council and Chief of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and Karla Buffalo, Chief Executive Officer, Athabasca Tribal Council re: Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival 2022**

Arrival

Councillor S. Dogar entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Chief Allan Adam, President, and Karla Buffalo, Chief Executive Officer, Athabasca Tribal Council, presented a funding request for \$150,000 to support the 2022 Athabasca Tribal Council Cultural Festival.

Vacating and Assuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 6:33 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor Grandison assumed the Chair.

**MOTION:**

THAT the request from the Athabasca Tribal Council for \$150,000 be referred to Administration to review and bring back a report to Council for consideration.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Bowman, Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Waquan

Resuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 6:35 p.m.

**4.2. Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering re: Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Overview**

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering, presented an overview of the Rural Water and Sewer Servicing Program, including a chronology of events since 1995.

Exits and Return

Councillor K. Cardinal exited the meeting at 6:36 p.m. and returned at 6:41 p.m.

Councillor K. Cardinal exited the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

**5. Unfinished Business****5.1. 2022 Proposed Sustaining Grant Allocation - Keyano College**

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, presented the 2022 Proposed Sustaining Grant Allocation - Keyano College, noting that Keyano College is eligible for sustaining grant funding as it provides programs and services that align with development of the arts community.

Jay Notay, President, Keyano College and Alan Roberts, Director, Keyano Theatre Arts Centre, spoke in support of the recommendation.

#### Return

Councillor K. Cardinal returned to the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Jenny Price, Alberta Drama Festival Association, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Dave Boutilier, and Liana Wheeldon, representing the Arts Council Wood Buffalo and the Multi-Cultural Association of Wood Buffalo, presented a joint statement of support for the recommendation.

Sheri Donovan, General Manager, Suncor Energy Centre for the Performing Arts at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Lee-Anne Kumka, Fort McMurray Aurora Ukrainian Dancers, spoke in support of the recommendation.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT a \$559,615 Sustaining Grant be allocated to Keyano College for 2022, to be funded through the Emerging Issues Reserve.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Ken Ball, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Waquan

#### **5.2. 2022 Proposed Sustaining Grant Allocation - WBEDC**

This item was removed from the Agenda and deferred to the March 22, 2022 Council meeting.

#### **5.3. Public Hearing re: Tarsands Lions Club Lease Renewal**

Mayor S. Bowman declared the Public Hearing open at 7:32 p.m.

#### Exit

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

#### Recess and return

A recess occurred from 7:34 p.m. to 7:36 p.m. at which time Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting.

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, provided background information on the Tarsands Lions Club Lease Renewal request, noting that Administration is recommending entering into a lease agreement with the Club at a nominal fee, therefore Council approval is required for the lease agreement to proceed.

There were no written submissions nor requests to speak submitted for the Public Hearing.

Mayor S. Bowman declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:39 p.m.

#### **5.4. Tarsands Lions Club Lease Renewal**

##### **MOTION:**

THAT Administration be authorized to proceed with the renewal of a lease between the Tarsands Lions Club (the “Club”) and the Municipality, currently in overhold, and encompassing an area within Lot 7R, Block 23, Plan 315TR. Subject lease to be renewed for a further term of five (5) years commencing on January 1, 2022, with the option to renew for three (3) consecutive five (5) year terms thereafter, for a nominal fee of One Dollar (\$1.00).

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ken Ball, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Waquan

#### **6. New Business**

##### **6.1. 2022 Capital Budget Amendments**

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2022 Capital Budget Amendment, noting that this request is specific to an increase in the Christina Gordon School Inclusive Playground project.

##### **MOTION:**

THAT the 2022 Capital Budget Amendment as summarized on Attachment 1 (2022 Capital Budget Amendment – New and Cancelled Projects, dated March 8, 2022) be approved; and

THAT the revised Cash Flow of Capital Projects as summarized on Attachment 2 (2022 Capital Budget Amendment – New and Cancelled Projects – Cash Flow Summary, dated March 8, 2022) be approved.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, Waquan

## 6.2. Wood Buffalo Housing Development and Corporation Debt Repayment

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Wood Buffalo Housing Development and Corporation Debt Repayment report, noting that the Corporation has been experiencing operating and cash flow deficits due to a significant decrease in revenues and increased fixed costs, including debt servicing.

Henry Hunter, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wood Buffalo Housing, spoke in support of the recommendation.

### Exit

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Bryce Kumka, resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

### Vacating and Assuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 8:16 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor A. Grandison assumed the Chair.

### Exit and Return

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 8:23 p.m. and returned at 8:24 p.m.

## **MOTION:**

THAT Council allocate \$5M to Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation from the Emerging Issue Reserve to fund its mortgage debt servicing payment in 2022; and

THAT Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation be requested to provide a fiscal and organizational update to Council no later than November 30, 2022, in advance of the 2023 Budget Process.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Bowman, Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Cardinal
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

### Resuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 8:27 p.m.

### Recess

A recess occurred from 8:27 p.m. to 8:43 p.m.

## **7. Councillors' Motions**

### **7.1. Rescind and Replace Organizational Review Resolution of February 3, 2022 (Cr. S. Wigle)**

Councillor S. Wigle put forward the following recommendation for consideration:

“THAT the resolution of Council dated February 3, 2022 regarding the organizational review and hiring freeze be rescinded and replaced with the following:

THAT the CAO be directed to conduct a full organizational review; and that the Municipality does not exceed its full-time equivalent (FTE) employee count as of February 2, 2022 until such time as the organizational review is finalized and the CAO presents the report to Council.”

Councillor F. Banjoko suggested a friendly amendment to add the words "third-party independent" and Councillor S. Wigle accepted the friendly amendment.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the resolution of Council dated February 3, 2022 regarding the organizational review and hiring freeze be rescinded and replaced with the following:

THAT the CAO be directed to conduct a full third-party independent organizational review; and that the Municipality does not exceed its full-time equivalent (FTE) employee count as of February 2, 2022 until such time as the organizational review is finalized and the CAO presents the report to Council.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [5 TO 3]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Cardinal, Stroud, Wigle
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Ball, Dogar, Grandison
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

## 7.2. Family Medicine - Residency Program (Cr. F. Banjoko)

Councillor F. Banjoko spoke to the recommendation, noting that this program was previously in place and should be re-instated in order to replace the medical practitioners leaving the municipality.

### MOTION:

THAT the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to the Government of Alberta to reinstitute the Family Medicine Residency Program in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

## 7.3. Taxi Services (Cr. F. Banjoko)

Councillor Banjoko presented the following for consideration:

“THAT Administration be directed to conduct a review of taxi rates taking into consideration any changes to the cost of operating taxi services in the rural and urban service areas;

THAT Administration conduct a review of the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw No. 13/001, and host stakeholder engagement sessions that include the Public, the Taxi Industry, Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce, and that feedback be considered for inclusion in any amendments to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw; and

THAT a Taskforce similar to the previous Taxi Committee disbanded in 2018 be established to review and bring forward recommendations to Council on regulating and controlling taxi services within the boundaries of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.”



Councillor Banjoko spoke to the recommendation, noting that a review of taxi services is required in order to address costs of equipment, meter rates, a review of the current bylaw and re-establishment of a committee to address taxi services.

Rene Wells, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Abdifatah Mursal, owner of Driverseat Fort McMurray, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Penny Skinner, Sun Taxi, requested a 20% increase in meter rates.

Phil Walding, Dispatch Manager, Sun Taxi, offered information on the taxi industry.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor K. Cardinal exited the meeting at 10:04 p.m. and returned at 10:06 p.m.

Mayor S. Bowman requested that the motion be severed into two sections.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT Administration be directed to conduct a review of taxi rates taking into consideration any changes to the cost of operating taxi services in the rural and urban service areas; and

THAT Administration conduct a review of the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw No. 13/001, and host stakeholder engagement sessions that include the Public, the Taxi Industry, Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce, and that feedback be considered for inclusion in any amendments to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

Administration committed to come back to Council at the May 10, 2022 Council meeting with proposed changes to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT a Taskforce similar to the previous Taxi Committee disbanded in 2018 be established to review and bring forward recommendations to Council on regulating and controlling taxi services within the boundaries of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

#### **7.4. Property Tax Ratio (Cr. K. McGrath)**

With consent of Council, due to Councillor K. McGrath no longer being in attendance, this item was deferred to the March 22, 2022 Council meeting.

##### Exit

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

##### Vacating and Assuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 10:18 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor A. Grandison assumed the Chair.

#### **7.5. Opposition to Quebec's Bill 21 (Mayor S. Bowman)**

Mayor S. Bowman indicated the intent of the motion is to show Council's opposition to Quebec's Bill 21, noting that this Bill does not allow for government and school employees to wear religious articles.

##### Return

Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to the federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, demonstrating Council's opposition to Quebec's Bill 21 and requesting the Federal Government take any appropriate steps to intervene in support of current legal challenges to Quebec's Bill 21.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sandy Bowman, Mayor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

#### **8. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates**

Council members provided updates on various topics of personal interest and initiatives in the Region.

Recess

A recess occurred to allow the public to vacate the Council Chamber from 10:32 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

**9. In-Camera Session****MOTION:**

THAT Council close items 9.1 and 9.2 to the public pursuant to sections 19, 24(1) and 27 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ken Ball, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

**9.1. Confidential Evaluations/Advice from Officials - Information Briefing and Committees Discussion**

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

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

**9.2. Privileged Information - Legal Matter**

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

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Susan Trylinski	Director, Legal Services
Chris Davis	Senior Manager, Legal Services
Don Lidstone	External Legal Counsel

**MOTION:**

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ken Ball, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Allan Grandison, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bussieres, McGrath, Waquan

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer