

Minutes of a Special 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 Monday, December 11, 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

Present:

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Ken Ball, Councillor
Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Lance Bussieres, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
Allan Grandison, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Absent:

Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Chief Jody Butz, Regional Emergency and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Organizational Support Services
Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. 2024 Budget Proceedings - 2024 Proposed Budget, 2025 - 2026 Financial Plan

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer, provided introductory comments on the proposed 2024 Budget and 2025 - 2026 Financial Plan.

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the proposed 2024 Budget and 2025 – 2026 Financial Plan, noting that since publishing the proposed Budget, the organization had undergone organizational restructuring, it was further noted that the approach used in preparing the proposed Budget and Financial Plan was to continue to practice fiscal management; therefore, ensuring long-term financial stability for the Municipality.

Entrance

Councillor S. Wigle entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

3. 2024 Proposed Subsidiary Corporation Grant Allocation

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, spoke to the proposed Subsidiary Corporation Grant allocations, which provide funding to Municipally owned or controlled organizations that provide programs and services in alignment with Council's Strategic Plan. It was further noted that an amendment to the Community Investment Program Policy will be brought forward in January 2024 to exclude Subsidiary Corporation Grants from the maximum funding criteria of 75 percent of the requested grant amount.

It was noted for the record that there were no delegations for this item.

3.1. Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Library Board

Corrina Pirie, Chair, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Library Board and Melissa Flett, Executive Director, Wood Buffalo Regional Library, presented the Library's request for Subsidiary Corporation Grant Funding, and spoke in support of the proposed Community Investment Program Policy amendment.

Entrance

Councillor K. McGrath entered the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

MOTION:

THAT \$4,127,683 be allocated to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Library Board under the 2024 Subsidiary Grant.

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

3.2. Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo

Graig Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo, presented the Corporation's request for Subsidiary Corporation Grant Funding.

Exit and Return

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 9:37 a.m. and returned at 9:41 a.m.

MOTION:

THAT \$16,955,605 be allocated to the Regional Recreation Corporation under the 2024 Subsidiary Grant.

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

3.3. Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation

Kevin Weidlich, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Andrew Boutillier, Board Member, Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation, presented the Corporation's request for Subsidiary Corporation Grant Funding.

Exit, Return and Recess

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 9:55 a.m. and returned at 10:06 a.m.
A recess occurred from 10:26 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.

MOTION:

THAT \$4,390,000 be allocated to the Wood Buffalo Economic Development Corporation under the 2024 Subsidiary Corporation Grant.

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Lance Bussieres, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
AGAINST:	McGrath
ABSENT:	Cardinal, Waquan

4. 2024 Proposed Municipal Facility Operating Grant Allocation

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, spoke to the proposed Municipal Facility Operating Grant allocations, which subsidize registered not-for-profits who operate and maintain Municipally owned facilities. It was noted that the proposed amendment to Community Investment Program Policy being brought forward in January 2024 will increase the maximum grant funding available to the Young Men's Christian Association of Edmonton (YMCA of Northern Alberta) and Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009).

It was noted for the record that there were no delegations for this item.

4.1. Recommended Multi-Year Municipal Facility Operating Grant Allocation

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, spoke to the proposed Municipal Facility Operating Grant applications for which there was no requested funding increase from these two organizations.

4.1.1. Ptarmigan Nordic Ski Club

MOTION:

THAT \$172,000 be allocated to Ptarmigan Nordic Ski Club under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

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

4.1.2. Young Men's Christian Association of Edmonton (YMCA of Northern Alberta)

MOTION:

THAT \$653,978 be allocated to Young Men's Christian Association of Edmonton (YMCA of Northern Alberta) under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

RESULT:	CARRIED [7 TO 2]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Dogar, Stroud, Wigle
AGAINST:	Grandison, McGrath
ABSENT:	Cardinal, Waquan

4.2. Requested Municipal Facility Operating Grant Increase

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, spoke to the proposed Municipal Facility Operating Grant applications for organizations which requested an increase in their grant funding.

4.2.1. Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009)

Mike Mayuk, President, Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009), presented the Association's request for an increase in grant funding, noting that the increase is to accommodate the new agreement with the Municipality to maintain the baseball fields at Howard Pew Park.

MOTION:

THAT \$99,750 be allocated to the Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009) under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

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

4.2.2. Fort McMurray Minor Hockey (1981) Association

Steve Schreyer, President, Fort McMurray Minor Hockey (1981) Association, and Roland Saunders, Hockey Operations Manager, Frank Lacroix Arena, presented the Association's request for an increase in grant funding, noting that the increase is due to an increase in salaries and utility costs.

MOTION:

THAT \$849,000 be allocated to the Fort McMurray Minor Hockey (1981) Association under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

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

4.2.3. Northern Alberta Athletic Association

David Fitzgerald, President, Wilbert Hoflin, Treasurer, and Terry Connors, Director of Operations, Northern Alberta Athletic Association, presented the Association's request for an increase in grant funding, noting that the increase is due to mobile equipment and fleet maintenance, increased wages and utility costs, and the 2015 to 2022 deficits.

Exit and Return

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 11:28 a.m. and returned at 11:30 a.m.

MOTION:

THAT \$1,769,131 be allocated to the Northern Alberta Athletic Association under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

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

4.2.4. Vista Ridge Recreational Association

Bernice Later, General Manager, and Marty Giles, Board Member, Vista Ridge Recreational Association, presented the Association's request for an increase in grant funding, noting that it is due to increased maintenance costs and increased wages due to a market correction, which is intended to help recruit and retain local employees.

MOTION:

THAT \$605,000 be allocated to Vista Ridge Recreational Association under the 2024 Municipal Facility Operating Grant.

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

5. **2024 Proposed Municipal Facility Capital Grant Allocations**

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, spoke to the proposed Municipal Facility Capital Grants, which provide financial support for the capital upgrades and replacements for the Municipally owned assets operated by the Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009), the Regional Recreation Corporation and the Vista Ridge Recreational Association.

It was noted for the record that there were no delegations for this item.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 11:58 a.m. and returned at 12:05 p.m.

5.1. **Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009)**

Mike Mayuk, President, Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009), presented the Association's request for grant funding under the Municipal Facility Capital Grant stream, noting that it was for the purchase of additional equipment to support the maintenance of the Howard Pew Park baseball fields, which was recently taken over by the Association from the Municipality.

5.2. **Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo**

Graig Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo, presented the Corporation's request for grant funding under the Municipal

Facility Capital Grant stream, noting that it was for repairs to the training pool, lazy river and upgrades to accessibility for the change rooms and other areas of the facility.

5.3. Vista Ridge Recreational Association

Bernice Later, General Manager, Vista Ridge Recreational Association, presented the Association's request for grant funding under the Municipal Facility Capital Grant stream, noting that it was for the purchase of a new groomer, life cycling of various pieces of equipment and a slope stability project.

MOTION:

THAT the Municipal Facility Capital Grants for 2024 be approved as follows:

- Fort McMurray Minor Baseball Association (2009) \$ 43,000
- Regional Recreation Corporation \$2,675,200
- Vista Ridge Recreational Association \$ 694,600

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 12:06 p.m. to 1:13 p.m., at which time Councillor K. McGrath was absent.

6. 2024 Operating Budget Presentations

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the proposed 2024 Operating Budget, noting that the change in the organizational structure is not reflected in the proposed budget and does not have any impact on the overall operating budget amount.

Return

Councillor K. McGrath returned to the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Delegations

Craig Milley, President, and Nikki Peddle, Vice President, CUPE 1505, spoke to the recent ratification of the CUPE 1505 Collective Agreement, noting that CUPE skilled trade positions that were eligible for market rate adjustments, did not receive the same pay increases as did the other positions and requesting that a review of the current

market rate adjustment be considered to align the wages for these positions with other local employers.

Rolando Inzunza, Director of Consultation, Chard Métis Nation, acknowledged the work of the Indigenous and Rural Relations Department and spoke in support of the protocol agreements, encouraging the Municipality to consider three-to-five-year agreements to advance the work of the local Indigenous communities.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and returned at 2:01 p.m.

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and returned at 2:05 p.m.

Jes Croucher, and Elena Gould, Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP) Taskforce, provided an update on recent activities undertaken by the Taskforce, including training initiatives and the development of a local MMEIP database, and spoke in support of the allocation of additional funding for the Taskforce proposed in the 2024 Operating Budget.

6.1. Community and Protective Services

Deanne Bergey, Community Services, and Chief Superintendent Mark Hancock, RCMP, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Community and Protective Services Department. It was noted that an amendment to the Community Investment Program Policy will be brought forward in January 2024 to exclude Subsidiary Corporation Grants from the maximum funding criteria of 75 percent of the requested grant amount, and that the subsequent shortfall in funding to the various organizations totaled \$310,264.

Exits, Returns and Recess

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 2:22 p.m. and returned at 2:24 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 2:57 p.m. and returned at 3:01 p.m.

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Recess and Returns

A recess occurred from 3:03 p.m. to 3:28 p.m., at which time Councillors K. Ball and L. Bussieres returned to the meeting.

MOTION:

THAT \$310,264 be added to the Community and Protective Services Operating Budget for future allocation to the Municipal Facility Operators and Subsidiary Corporations for 2024.

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

6.2. Communications and Engagement

Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Communications and Engagement Department.

Return

Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Pecuniary Interest

Councillor A. Grandison declared a pecuniary interest in the proposed Communications and Engagement 2024 Operating Budget and exited the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Councillor A. Grandison returned to the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

6.3. Indigenous and Rural Relations

Dennis Fraser, Janine Kruse, and Koralee Samaroden, Indigenous and Rural Relations, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Indigenous and Rural Relations Department.

6.4. Legal Services

Chris Davis, Legal Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Legal Services Department.

6.5. Strategic Planning and Program Management

Kelly Hansen, Organizational Support Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for Municipal Initiatives.

Exits

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

6.6. Supply Chain Management

Rachel Orser, Supply Chain Management, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Supply Chain Management Department.

Return

Councillor K. Ball returned to the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

6.7. Human Resources

Kelly Hansen, Organizational Support Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Human Resources Department.

Return and Recess

Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 5:02 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

Minutes of a Special 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, December 12, 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Chief Jody Butz, Regional Emergency and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Organizational Support Services
Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

Reconvene

Mayor S. Bowman reconvened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. on December 12, 2023, at which time Councillors K. Cardinal, L. Bussieres, K. McGrath and L. Waquan were absent.

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, and Susan McIsaac, Manager, Financial Planning, provided an overview of the salary and wage budgeting process and the change in methodology on how positions are funded in the proposed 2024 Operating Budget.

6.8. Executive Offices

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Executive Offices.

Entrance

Councillor L. Bussieres entered the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

6.9. Financial Services

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, Toni Elliott, AnnMarie Hintz, and Keivan Navidi, Corporate Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Financial Services Department.

6.10. Engineering

Dennis Warr, and Nasir Qureshi, Engineering, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Engineering Department.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 9:54 a.m. and returned at 9:55 a.m.

6.11. Environmental Services

Antoine Rempp, Elliot White, and Justin Canning, Environmental Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Environmental Services Department.

Exits, Entrance, and Returns

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 10:07 a.m. and returned at 10:13 a.m.

Councillor K. McGrath joined the meeting via MS Teams at 10:13 a.m.

Councillor A. Grandison exited the meeting at 10:24 a.m. and returned at 10:25 a.m.

Point of Order

Councillor J. Stroud called a Point of Order on Councillor S. Dogar with respect to inquiries that were unrelated to the matter being discussed. Mayor S. Bowman upheld the Point of Order.

Exit, Recess, and Entrance

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

A recess occurred from 10:39 a.m. to 11:06 a.m., at which time Councillor S. Dogar was in attendance and Councillor S. Wigle was absent.

Councillor S. Wigle entered the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

6.12. Public Works

Keith Smith, Joel Trudell, and Barbara Walsh, Public Works, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Public Works Department.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 11:53 a.m. and returned at 11:54 a.m.

MOTION:

THAT consulting fees in the amount of \$150,000 specific to the Owner's Representative for the Waterfront Park Revitalization Project, be removed from the proposed 2024 Public Works Operating Budget.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 12:12 p.m. to 1:28 p.m., at which time Councillor K. Cardinal was in attendance.

MOTION:

THAT Administration review the operations and service levels for the work undertaken by Public Works in the community of Fort Chipewyan and bring forward information to Council.

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

6.13. Planning and Development

Amanda Haitas, and Kodjo Efu, Planning and Development Services, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Planning and Development Department.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 1:50 p.m. and returned at 1:51 p.m.

6.14. Regional Emergency Services

Chief Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief, Kelly Roberts, Deputy Chief, Operations, Robert Van Hecke, Deputy Chief, Professional Services and Erin Sieger, Emergency Management, presented the proposed 2024 Operating Budget for the Regional Emergency Services Department.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. Ball exited the meeting at 2:53 p.m. and returned at 2:54 p.m.

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 2:53 p.m. and returned at 3:00 p.m.

Councillor S. Wigle exited the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 3:02 p.m. and returned at 3:04 p.m.

Recess and Return

A recess occurred from 3:05 p.m. to 3:32 p.m.

Councillor S. Wigle returned to the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT \$555,000 be added to the Regional Emergency Services 2024 Operating Budget to add three additional full-time positions for the purpose of supporting response; and

THAT Administration investigate options for training programs for firefighters and other apprentices for the organization.

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

Recess and Return

A recess occurred from 3:40 p.m. to 3:42 p.m.

Minutes of a Special 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, December 12, 2023, commencing at 3:42 PM.

Present:

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Ken Ball, Councillor
Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Lance Bussieres, Councillor
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
Allan Grandison, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Absent:

Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Chief Jody Butz, Regional Emergency and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Organizational Support Services
Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

1. Reconvene

Mayor S. Bowman reconvened the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

2. 2024 Capital Budget Presentations

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the proposed 2024 Capital Budget.

Delegation

Dave Callum, General Manager, Fort McMurray Golf Club, spoke to the need for potable drinking water at the Club and requested that the previously cancelled capital project to provide water services to the Club be included in the 2024 Capital Budget.

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Wigle exited the meeting at 3:53 p.m. and returned at 3:54 p.m.

Councillor S. Wigle presented the following motion for consideration:

THAT Administration review this potential project including estimated costs and work with the Fort McMurray Golf Club to identify solutions and report back to Council.

Councillor K. McGrath proposed a friendly amendment to include “before the end of January 2024”, which was accepted by Councillor S. Wigle.

MOTION:

THAT Administration review this potential project including estimated costs and work with the Fort McMurray Golf Club to identify solutions and report back to Council before the end of January, 2024.

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:10 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Minutes of a Special 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 Wednesday, December 13, 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

Present:

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Ken Ball, Councillor
Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Lance Bussieres, Councillor
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
Allan Grandison, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Absent:

Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Chief Jody Butz, Regional Emergency and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Organizational Support Services
Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

Reconvene

Mayor S. Bowman reconvened the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

2.1. Financial Services

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, and AnnMarie Hintz, Information Technology, provided a summary of the impact of the budget motions to date and presented the proposed 2024 Capital Budget for the Financial Services Department.

2.2. Public Works

Keith Smith, Joel Trudell, and Barbara Walsh, Public Works, presented the proposed 2024 Capital Budget for the Public Works Department, including the proposed Capital Budget for Transportation and Facilities, and Parks, Roads, Rural and Fort Chipewyan.

Exits and Returns

Councillor A. Grandison exited the meeting at 10:13 a.m. and returned at 10:18 a.m.

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and returned at 10:44 a.m.

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 10:49 a.m. and returned at 10:55 a.m.

Recess and Return

A recess occurred from 11:00 a.m. to 11:18, at which time Councillor K. McGrath was absent.

Councillor K. McGrath returned to the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Councillor F. Banjoko put forward the following motion for consideration, which was seconded by Councillor S. Dogar:

THAT Administration explore the possibility of a spray park for Abasand and bring forward a report to Council.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 11:28 a.m. and returned at 11:29 a.m.

With consensus of Council, Councillor F. Banjoko withdrew the motion.

2.4. Engineering

2.4.1. Department and Rural Water and Sewer Servicing

Dennis Warr, Nasir Qureshi, and Kashif Khan, Engineering, presented the proposed 2024 Capital Budget for the Engineering Department and the Rural Water and Sewer Servicing project.

Exits and Returns

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 12:14 p.m. and returned at 12:16 p.m.

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 12:14 p.m. and returned at 12:19 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 12:16 p.m. and returned at 12:22 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 12:30 p.m. and returned at 12:33 p.m.

Recess

A recess occurred from 12:38 p.m. to 1:50 p.m., at which time Councillors L. Bussieres and S. Wigle were absent.

2.4.2. Flood Mitigation

Dennis Warr, Nasir Qureshi, and Maureen Nakonechny, Engineering, presented the proposed 2024 Capital Budget for Flood Mitigation.

Return

Councillor S. Wigle returned to the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

2.5. Environmental Services

Antoine Rempp, Justin Canning, and Elliot White, Environmental Services, presented the proposed 2024 Capital Budget for the Environmental Services Department.

Return

Councillor L. Bussieres returned to the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

2.6. Regional Emergency Services

Chief Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief, presented the proposed 2024 Capital budget for the Regional Emergency Services Department.

Recess

A recess occurred from 3:09 p.m. to 3:31 p.m.

3. Capital Project Defunding

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the Capital Projects that are recommended to be defunded, closed or denied.

Delegation

Dan Stuckless, Director of Administration, and Jennifer Vardy, Director, Government Relations and External Affairs, Fort McKay Métis Nation, were available to answer questions on the Fort McKay Métis Nation Capital Funding Reimbursement request, which was deferred from the November 14, 2023 Council meeting.

Recess

A recess occurred from 4:00 p.m. to 4:26 p.m. at which time Councillor K. McGrath was absent.

Councillor J. Stroud, put forward the following motion for consideration, which was seconded by Councillor F. Banjoko:

THAT the Capital Projects as shown on Attachment 1 be defunded, closed or denied as summarized.

With consensus of Council, Councillor J. Stroud withdrew the motion so that each project recommendation could be voted on separately.

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-007 Downtown Revitalization be defunded as outlined on Attachment 1.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-010 Rural Roads and Parking Lots Paving - Fort Chipewyan - Design and Construction be closed, and all remaining funding be released, as outlined on Attachment 1.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-015 Secondary Egress Road - Construction (Saline Parkway) be closed, and all remaining funding be released, as outlined on Attachment 1.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-016 Waterfront Park be defunded as outlined on Attachment 1.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-033 Rural Egress Road Janvier - Construction not be reduced by \$25,000,000.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [3 TO 6]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Stu Wigle, Councillor
FOR:	Banjoko, Stroud, Wigle
AGAINST:	Bowman, Ball, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison
ABSENT:	McGrath, Waquan

Vacating the Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the chair at 4:45 p.m., at which time Acting Mayor K. Cardinal assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT the \$25,000,000 in committed funds for Capital Project 24-033 Rural Egress Road Janvier - Construction, be released, with the matter to return to Council at such time when the necessary preconditions, such as land acquisition or disposition, have been satisfied.

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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 4:57 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the Capital Project 24-048 Rural Egress Road Fort McKay - Design be closed, and all remaining funding be released, as outlined on Attachment 1.

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

MOTION:

THAT the Fort McKay Métis Nation - Paving Request be denied.

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 2]
MOVER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
SECONDER:	Ken Ball, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
AGAINST:	Cardinal, Dogar
ABSENT:	McGrath, Waquan

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:01 p.m. until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Minutes of a Special 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 Thursday, December 14, 2023, commencing at 9:00 AM.

Present:

Sandy Bowman, Mayor
Ken Ball, Councillor
Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Lance Bussieres, Councillor
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
Allan Grandison, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Stu Wigle, Councillor

Absent:

Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Henry Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Chief Jody Butz, Regional Emergency and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Organizational Support Services
Matthew Harrison, Chief of Staff
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

Reconvene

Mayor S. Bowman reconvened the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of additional information on the proposed 2024 Capital Budget, including information with respect to increases to projects that did not form part of the day 3 Capital Budget presentations.

Recess

A recess occurred from 9:49 a.m. to 10:22 a.m.

Vacating the Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 10:52 a.m., at which time Acting Mayor K. Cardinal assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT the following projects be moved from the 2024 proposed Capital Budget to future years:

- 24-105 Recreational Trails Lifecycling in the amount of \$1,200,000;
- 24-204 Anzac Recreation Centre Culvert, Asphalt, Curb - Construction in the amount of \$1,500,000;
- 24-305 2024 RES Light Fleet Replacement x2 in the amount of \$150,000;
- 24-306 2024 Structural Protection Trailer (1) in the amount of \$250,000;
- 24-307 Curbside Collection Tracking System in the amount of \$350,000;
- 24-309 Landfill Baler Replacement in the amount of \$1,000,000;
- 24-310 Landfill Compaction and Grading System in the amount of \$350,000; and

THAT Capital Project Reference No. 24-051, Anzac Walking Paths be added to the proposed 2024 Capital Budget, in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Exits and Returns

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 11:09 a.m. and returned at 11:10 a.m.
Councillor S. Wigle exited the meeting at 11:09 a.m. and returned at 11:11 a.m.

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

Resuming the Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 11:15 a.m.

Exits and Returns

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 11:19 a.m. and returned at 11:22 a.m.
Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 11:19 a.m. and returned at 11:26 a.m.

Recess

A recess occurred from 11:26 a.m. to 11:49 a.m., at which time Councillor K. McGrath was absent.

MOTION:

THAT \$150,000 be added to the 2024 Capital Budget for the purchase of a vehicle for Animal Control in the community of Fort Chipewyan.

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
AGAINST:	Dogar
ABSENT:	McGrath, Waquan

MOTION:

THAT Administration review and bring forward information on the cost and scope required to conduct a feasibility study that considers recycling and a potential recycling depot for the community of Fort Chipewyan.

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

MOTION:

THAT Administration review Capital Project Reference No. 24-101 and identify whether there are other opportunities for a community gathering space for Sapræ Creek and report back to Council.

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

MOTION:

THAT Administration explore the possibility of having a towing yard in Abrahams Landing.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [2 TO 7]
MOVER:	Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Banjoko, Dogar
AGAINST:	Bowman, Ball, Bussieres, Cardinal, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
ABSENT:	McGrath, Waquan

Recess

A recess occurred from 12:34 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.

4. Budget Approval - 2024 Budget, 2025 – 2026 Financial Plan**MOTION:**

THAT the 2024 Operating Budget, in the amount of \$603,671,254 be approved, representing \$466,116,111 for Municipal operations excluding the Communications and Engagement Department, and \$137,555,143 as a funding transfer for reserves and capital purposes, be approved.

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

Pecuniary Interest

Councillor A. Grandison declared a Pecuniary Interest and exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the 2024 Operating Budget be amended to add \$7,909,089 for the Communications and Engagement Department.

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

Return

Councillor A. Grandison returned to the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the 2025 - 2026 Financial Plan in the amount of \$601,132,376 and \$599,440,270 respectively, which includes funding transfers for reserves and capital purposes of \$121,459,659 and \$113,290,135 respectively, be used as the basis for the development of the respective subsequent budgets, and

THAT the 2024 Capital Budget of \$170,374,800 and the Public Art reserve transfer of \$42,370, totaling \$170,417,170, be approved.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer