

Unapproved 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, August 30, 2016, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
T. Ault, Councillor
L. Bussieres, Councillor
J. Cardinal, Councillor (via teleconference)
S. Germain, Councillor
K. McGrath, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
J. Stroud, Councillor
A. Vinni, Councillor
C. Voyageur, Councillor (via teleconference)

Absent: C. Tatum, Councillor

Administration: M. Ulliach, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
D. Bendfeld, Executive Director
R. Billard, Acting Executive Director
B. Couture, Executive Director
T. Hartley, Acting Executive Director
D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
R. Marshall, Legislative Officer
D. Soucy, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Councillor S. Germain served the following Notice of Motion to be presented for consideration at the Council Meeting of September 6, 2016:

“THAT Administration is hereby directed to fairly compensate with pay municipal employees, for overtime hours worked from May 1, 2016 until such time as the State of Local Emergency ends, including the time following May 1, 2016 during which a Provincial State of Emergency was in effect, such compensation to be:

- (a) in accordance with the terms of collective agreements for all employees covered by collective agreements; and
- (b) for employees at Director-level and below not covered by collective agreements at a rate equal to the employee's regular hourly rate for any hour or portion of an hour worked in a calendar week above 35 hours up to 44 hours, and at a rate equal to 1.5 times the employee's regular hourly rate for any hour or portion of an hour worked in a calendar week above 44 hours, as approved by the employee's immediate supervisor.
- (c) for employees to whom time off in lieu of pay for overtime hours worked in response to the wildfire emergency has been offered, the employee will have the option of accepting time in lieu of instead of overtime pay.

THAT Administration is further directed to submit the total sum of all such overtime payments made to municipal employees to the Government of Alberta as a claim for reimbursement under the Disaster Recovery Program so as to minimize the impact to Wood Buffalo taxpayers and in keeping with the principle of fiscal responsibility.

THAT Administration is further directed to ensure that the monetary overtime compensation is communicated to employees and that eligible employees are paid in accordance therewith no later than October 6, 2016.

THAT Administration is further directed to develop a policy for Council's consideration respecting compensation for employees who are required to work overtime as a result of an emergency or disaster in the Municipality."

Presentations

1. **Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Business and Economic Recovery Plan Status Update**
(6:07 p.m. – 6:27 p.m.)

Keith Smith, Director, Land Administration and Acting Director of Economic Development, and Amanda Haitas, Manager of Economic Development, gave a brief overview relative to the Business and Economic Recovery Plan established by Council on May 25, 2016.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Economic Development's status update for the approved Business and Economic Recovery Plan be accepted as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

2. **Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation – Taxation Matters**
(6:28 p.m. – 6:58 p.m.)

Jeannette Bancarz, Chair of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee, spoke to the recommendations of the taxation matters and provided background as to why the recommendations were coming before Council.

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke in support of the proposed cancellation of the municipal portion of property taxes.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the Chamber at 6:33 p.m. and returned at 6:34 p.m.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that Council use its authority under s. 347 of the *Municipal Government Act* to cancel the municipal portion of property taxes payable for 2016 on residential properties, in accordance with the following:

1. For all residential properties (that were required to be evacuated due to the wildfire): cancellation of 1/12 of the tax (the “base tax cancellation amount”);
2. For every residential property that was not allowed to be re-occupied after general re-entry in the first week of June due to actions taken pursuant to recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health: cancellation of the base tax cancellation amount plus cancellation of an additional amount representing the pro-rated daily amount of the whole municipal portion of tax multiplied by the number of days in 2016 commencing June 1, 2016 that the property in question was not allowed to be re-occupied;
3. For every residential property that became uninhabitable because it was destroyed or irreparably damaged by the wildfire: cancellation of the base tax cancellation amount plus cancellation of an additional amount representing the pro-rated daily amount of the whole municipal portion of tax other than that portion attributable to the land only, multiplied by the number of days from June 1, 2016 until the first to occur of:
 - (a) completion of reconstruction of the residence on the property,
 - (b) sale of the property to a new owner, or
 - (c) the end of the calendar year 2016.
4. That the Government of Alberta be requested to remove the education tax levy to be consistent with the cancelled portion of municipal property taxes identified in sections 1 through 3 of this motion; and
5. That an application be made to the Government of Alberta for funding support to offset the cancelled portion of municipal property taxes

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Germain exited the Chamber at 6:43 p.m. and returned at 6:44 p.m.

Voting then occurred on Councillor K. McGrath’s motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Joint Rural Committee and Sustainable Development Committee
Recommendation – Expression of Support for Review of 1995 Amalgamation
Agreement**

(6:58 p.m. – 7:33 p.m.)

Jim Rogers, resident, spoke to amalgamation matters, but did not voice his support or opposition to the proposed recommendation.

Exit and Return

Mayor M. Blake exited the Chamber at 7:02 p.m. and returned at 7:04 p.m. During that time, Councillor S. Germain assumed the Chair.

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the Chamber at 7:02 p.m. and returned at 7:04 p.m.

Jeffrey O'Donnell and Jay Telegdi, representing the Rural Stakeholders Group, spoke to the review of the 1995 amalgamation agreement and reiterated that there is no desire to separate.

Councillor K. McGrath put the following motion forward for consideration:

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the Mayor send to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, on behalf of Council, an expression of support for the request of the Rural Stakeholders Group for a fair and equitable third party review of the 1995 Amalgamation Agreement.

Councillor S. Germain then put forward the following amendment:

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Administration work with the Rural Stakeholders Group in the context of the review of the 1995 amalgamation agreement to formulate a strategy and an approach aimed at persuading the Provincial Government to write the forthcoming property tax rate regulations under Bill 21 in a manner that allows the Municipality to create a separate taxation category and tax rate for rural small business, that would no longer be statutorily tied to the rate of taxation for Machinery and Equipment.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, T. Ault, L. Bussieres, J.
Cardinal, S. Germain, K. McGrath, J.
Stroud, C. Voyageur

Opposed: P. Meagher, A. Vinni

Voting then occurred on the main motion, as amended.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain :

- That the Mayor send to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, on behalf of Council, an expression of support for the request of the Rural Stakeholders Group for a fair and equitable third party review of the 1995 Amalgamation Agreement; and
- That Administration work with the Rural Stakeholders Group in the context of the review of the 1995 amalgamation agreement to formulate a strategy and an approach aimed at persuading the Provincial Government to write the forthcoming property tax rate regulations under Bill 21 in a manner that allows the Municipality to create a separate taxation category and tax rate for rural small business, that would no longer be statutorily tied to the rate of taxation for Machinery and Equipment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Bylaw No. 16/018 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Repeal Bylaw No. 16/011
(7:33 p.m. – 7:34 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher:

- That Bylaw No. 16/018, to repeal Bylaw No. 16/011, be read a first time; and
- That the required public hearing for Bylaw No. 16/018 be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer