

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, May 9, 2023, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Funky Banjoko, Councillor
Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Caitlin Hanly, Municipal Legal Counsel
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

THAT Council close agenda 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: Stu Wigle, Councillor
SECONDER: Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR: Bowman, Ball, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Wigle
ABSENT: Banjoko, Waquan

Exit

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

2.1 Privileged Information - Request for Legal Support

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

Name	Reason for Attending
Paul Thorkelsson	Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice
Caitlin Hanly	Acting Director, Legal Services

Recess, Reconvene and Return

A recess occurred between 4:54 p.m. and 6:02 p.m., at which time the meeting reconvened in public and Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting.

Entrance

Councillors K. Cardinal and K. McGrath entered the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

Councillor K. McGrath served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the May 23, 2023 Council Meeting:

"THAT the proposed Alberta Municipalities Procurement Resolution (Attachment 1) be approved and submitted for consideration at the 2023 Alberta Municipalities Convention."

Mayor S. Bowman served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the May 23, 2023 Council Meeting:

"THAT Administration be directed, in preparation for the proposed 2024 Property Tax Rate Bylaw, to maintain the property tax ratio between the highest non-residential property tax rate and the lowest residential property tax rate at a ratio of up to, but not exceeding 6.21:1."

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended by adding item no. 7.4 - Request for Leave of Absence;

THAT Council waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed addition; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

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

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting – April 25, 2023

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 25, 2023 be approved as presented.

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

5. Presentations

5.1. Amber Fort, Pastew Place Detox Centre Society re: Services and Post Treatment Program Expansion

Amber Fort, Executive Director, Pastew Place Detox Centre Society, spoke to the programs provided by Pastew Place Detox Society and the importance of re-instating the Post Treatment Program which assists individuals to re-enter the community after attending intensive detox programming.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Water and Sewer Servicing - Fort Chipewyan, Fort Fitzgerald, Fort McKay

Antoine Rempp, Director, and Elliot White, Senior Manager, Environmental Services, presented background information on the various reports and studies that have been completed for Fort Fitzgerald, Fort Chipewyan and Fort McKay, in relation to water and sewer servicing in response to Council's direction to conduct a feasibility study for servicing upgrades. It was explained that conducting further studies would likely generate significantly different recommendations which could delay projects already identified to ensure safe and reliable water and wastewater services for the Communities.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 6:25 p.m. and returned at 6:34 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Administration not proceed with the feasibility study for water and sewer servicing upgrades for Fort Chipewyan, Fort McKay, and Fort Fitzgerald as directed by Council on February 7, 2022, and instead continue to focus on completing the identified infrastructure projects for these communities as outlined in this Report to Council; and

THAT Council accepts this Report as a response to the resolution passed at the February 7, 2022, meeting.

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

7. **New Business**

7.1. **Community Identification Committee Recommendation - Naming a Ball Diamond at MacDonald Island as "Bob Campbell Field"**

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, and Chris Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, presented the Community Identification Committee recommendation to name a baseball field located at MacDonald Island as the Bob Campbell Field, noting Mr. Campbell's contributions to the community.

MOTION:

THAT the Ball Diamond located at MacDonald Island, as shown in Attachment 1, be named "Bob Campbell Field".

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

7.2. **Citizen Recognition Program Policy PRC-090**

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, and Caitlin Downie, Manager, Culture and Social Development, presented the proposed Citizen Recognition Program Policy, noting that the intent of the Policy is to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions and impacts made by residents in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Everyday Hero, Indigenous Advocate and Youth.

Councillor S. Wigle put forward the following for consideration:

THAT Citizen Recognition Program Policy PRC-090, dated May 9, 2023, as outlined in Attachment 1, be approved.

Vacating of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 7:19 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor K. Ball assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT the Citizen Recognition Program Policy PRC-090 be amended:

1. In subsection 3.1.2 by inserting the words “through an act of humanitarianism, heroism, or bravery; outstanding educational, sporting, theatrical, or musical achievements; the process of Reconciliation; or provincial or national achievements;
2. In clause 3.3.2.1 by inserting the words “by submitting a nomination form” after the word “Region”;
3. In clause 3.4.2.4 by deleting the words “unanimous consent of Council” and inserting “final approval from the Mayor’s Office”;
4. In clause 3.5.2.1. by deleting the word “Council” and inserting “the Mayor”; and
5. In clause 3.5.2.2 by deleting the word “Council” and inserting “The Mayor”.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 7:22 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Citizen Recognition Program Policy PRC-090, dated May 9, 2023 as outlined in Attachment 1, be approved, as amended.

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

Exit

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

7.3. Request for Legal Support

Caitlin Hanly, Acting Director, Legal Services, presented the Request for Legal Support, noting that the Municipality's insurance policy would cover the legal defense and recommended that Council approve the payment of the insurance deductible through the Emerging Issues Reserve.

MOTION:

THAT Councillor S. Dogar's request for Legal Support be approved; and

THAT the Insurance Deductible of \$10,000.00 be paid through the Emerging Issues Reserve.

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

7.4 Request for Leave of Absence

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, presented a request for an unpaid leave of absence submitted by Councillor Funky Banjoko, who is a candidate for the Provincial Election scheduled to take place on May 29, 2023. It was noted that there is no legislative requirement for a Councillor running for provincial office to request a leave, or vacate their position on Council during the campaign period.

MOTION:

THAT an unpaid leave of absence, inclusive of salary and benefits, be authorized for Councillor Funky Banjoko, for the period May 9 to May 30, 2023.

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

8. Councillors' Motions

The Notice of Motion regarding Poverty Reduction Plan, served by Councillor F. Banjoko on April 25, 2023 was withdrawn in accordance with the provisions of Procedure Bylaw No.18/020.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Procurement Resolution

WHEREAS the New West Partnership Trade Agreement is an accord between the Governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (“Western Provinces”) to create a barrier-free, interprovincial market;

AND WHEREAS this trade agreement is restrictive as it relates to the procurement process and limits the opportunities or options for local sourcing by municipalities in the Western Provinces to the posting thresholds, which are less than the posting thresholds in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement;

AND WHEREAS that discrepancy in the thresholds creates an advantage for public bodies and contractors outside of the Western Provinces to be detriment of municipalities and contracts within the Western Provinces;

AND WHEREAS local sourcing could be beneficial for a number of Alberta municipalities as they would be supporting their own local economy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo strongly urge the Alberta Municipalities to lobby the provincial government to abolish the NWPTA, as it would permit greater opportunities for local sourcing.

RESOLUTION BACKGROUND:

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is looking for an opportunity to review procurement processes to allow for local businesses to be given priority. Domestic trade agreements, such as the Canadian Free Trade (“CFTA”) and New West Partnership Trade Agreements (“NWPTA”), which are negotiated at the federal and provincial levels of government, do not currently allow for such provisions.

One option for AB Municipalities to consider is to lobby on behalf of all municipalities in Alberta with a focus on dissolving one of the domestic trade agreements, being the NWPTA, which applies only to Western Provinces. While it is true that the NWPTA served a valuable purpose in promoting trade liberalization in the Western Provinces prior to the introduction of the CFTA in 2017, the NWPTA applies only to the Western Provinces, whereas the CFTA applies to the Federal Government and all provinces in Canada. Considering the introduction of the CFTA, a case can be made that the NWPTA continues to exist in a way that disadvantages the Western Provinces.

For example, the thresholds in the CFTA are tied to inflation and increase over time, while the thresholds in the NWPTA do not. Further, the CFTA has higher thresholds than the NWPTA, meaning the threshold for single-source or sole source procurements is higher for non-Western Provinces. Under the NWPTA, Western Provinces are restricted to a threshold of \$75,000 for goods and services and \$200,000 for construction, while other provinces can take advantage of the higher thresholds in the CFTA of \$121,200 for goods

and services and \$302,900 for construction. This ultimately allows non-Western Provinces local preference policies for procurements up to \$121,200 for goods and services and \$302,900 for construction, while Western Provinces are limited to \$75,000 for goods and services and \$200,000 for construction.

Additionally, while the foundational concepts contained in the CFTA and NWPTA are similar, the agreements do contain some different exceptions for when single-sourcing or sole sourcing is permitted. This results in more opportunities for non-Western Provinces to engage in single-source or sole-source procurements than there are for Western Provinces.

To the extent they do so in extending more sole sourcing opportunities to their own local contractors, this also means that contractors from the Western Provinces bidding for work in eastern Canada may have fewer opportunities than are afforded to contractors from eastern Canada bidding on work within the Western Provinces bound by the more restrictive terms of the NWPTA.

As the NWPTA is negotiated at the provincial government level, Alberta Municipalities, which represents numerous Alberta municipalities, is a natural conduit to lobby the provincial government for support in this initiative.