

**Approved 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 Friday, January 17, 2014, commencing at 1:00 p.m.**

**Present:** M. Blake, Mayor  
T. Ault, Councillor  
G. Boutilier, Councillor  
L. Bussieres, Councillor  
J. Cardinal, Councillor  
S. Germain, Councillor  
K. McGrath, Councillor  
P. Meagher, Councillor  
J. Stroud, Councillor  
A. Vinni, Councillor

**Absent:** J. Chadi, Councillor

**Administration:** G. Laubenstein, Chief Administrative Officer  
A. Rogers, Acting Chief Legislative Officer  
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

**Call To Order**

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

**Reports**

**1. Audit and Budget Committee Recommendations: 2014 Capital and Operating Budgets**

Mayor Blake reviewed the process followed to date relative to budget discussions, explaining that today's process will start with a motion to approve the 2014 Capital Budget, followed by any and all amendments which may be brought forward by Council Members. The same process will then be followed relative to the Operating Budget.

Councillor K. McGrath presented the following motion: "That the 2014 Capital Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment 1 (Council Report – 2014 Capital Budget: 2015 – 2019 Capital Plan, dated December 11, 2013)."

It was noted that the proposed budget was reviewed by the Audit and Budget Committee, at which time a number of revisions were made to the document. It was confirmed that the document being reviewed today includes those changes.

It was further noted that the budget is a living document, which Council has the ability to amend if required.

**RECESS**

A break occurred between 1:52 p.m. and 2:11 p.m.

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the 2014 Capital Budget be

amended by adding the Warm Up Shelters project (Conklin and Janvier) at a cost of \$275,000 to be funded from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve.

**EXIT**

Councillor G. Boutilier left the room at 2:14 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by adding the Beaver Trail Lighting Project (Birchwood Trail System) at a cost of \$450,000, to be funded from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor J. Cardinal that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by increasing the Rural Street Light Conversion to LED project from \$130,000 to \$210,000, to be funded from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by increasing the Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation project from \$7.5M to \$14M for paving of Spruce Valley Drive, to be funded from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by adding the Rural Water & Sewer Servicing - Construction project, with the 2014 cost of \$250,000 funded by Federal Grant, and 2015-2018 future year costs of \$90,750,000 funded by Federal Grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**RETURN**

Councillor G. Boutilier returned to the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by removing \$2,279,678 from prior year and all future budget years from Arts & Events – Construction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor K. McGrath presented the following motion: “That the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by removing the Conklin Multiplex Construction project at a cost of \$4,500,000”.

Following a lengthy discussion, the motion was withdrawn, with consent of Council.

**RECESS**

A break occurred between 3:19 p.m. and 3:38 p.m.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by deferring all unexpended funding for the Transit Facility Construction Green Tip Project until such time as Administration comes back to Council with a full analysis.

Chief Administrative Officer Laubenstein suggested a report on this matter should be available to Council within three months.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ARRIVAL**

Councillor P. Meagher joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Tim Reid, CEO for Regional Recreation Corporation was present at Council's request to address the following topics:

- MacDonald Island Park Expansion Grant
- MacDonald Island Utility Expansion Construction
- Replacements of slow pitch ball diamonds at MacDonald Island
- Conklin Recreation Facility – phasing options
- Northside Recreation Centre
- Parking requirements at MacDonald Island

Moved by Councillor L. Bussieres that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by increasing MacDonald Island Park Expansion Grant, from \$25,000,000 to \$26,900,000 to include development of the softball diamonds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **RECESS**

A break occurred between 5:03 p.m. and 5:44 p.m.

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by adding South Side Off-leash Dog Park in the amount of \$150,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by adding Water Splash Park in the Timberlea area in the amount of \$500,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the 2014 Capital Budget be amended by deleting City Centre Downtown Core Streetscapes - Construction previous year funding in the amount of \$1,583,110.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the 2014 Capital Budget be

amended by deleting City Centre Downtown Core Streetscapes – Pre-Construction in the amount of \$500,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor G. Boutilier presented the following motion: “That the Flood Protection - Construction project be deferred while Administration identifies the need and pursues federal and provincial grant funding”.

A lengthy discussion ensued following which the motion was withdrawn, with consent of Council.

### **RECESS**

A break occurred from 6:37 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

The recommendations in Attachment 1, revised based on the approved amendments are as follows:

1. THAT the 2014 Capital Budget in the amount of \$446,752,242 be approved as set out in Attachment 1 - 2014 Capital Budget, dated December 11, 2013.
2. THAT the 2014 Capital Budget funding be approved as follows:
  - Financial Reserves \$ 270,610,675
  - Debenture Financing \$ 135,856,567
  - Grants \$ 30,285,000
  - Offsite Levies/Charges \$ 10,000,000
3. THAT the multi-year projects in progress as set out in Attachment 2 - 2014 Capital Budget – Multi-Year Projects – In Progress – Cash Flow dated December 11, 2013, be approved.
4. THAT new multi-year projects as set out in Attachment 3 - 2014 New Multi Year Project – Cash Flow dated December 11, 2013, be approved.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the 2014 Capital Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment 1 (Council Report - 2014 Capital Budget; 2015 - 2019 Capital Plan, dated December 11, 2013) as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following items were flagged for further review/information/action:

- Public Arts Policy
- Park'n Ride project at Casman Centre
- City Centre Downtown Core Streetscapes
- Administration to pursue provincial and federal funding for Flood Protection

The following motion was presented by Councillor T. Ault for Council's “That the 2014 Operating Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment 2 (Council Report - 2014 Operating Budget; 2015-2016 Financial Plans, dated December 11, 2013)”.

Earlier in the meeting, questions were raised relative to payment of honorariums versus

professional development and discretion about honorariums being a responsibility of Council. Chief Administrative Officer Laubenstein advised this topic is being reviewed and will be brought forward to Council through the Committee system.

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the Operating Budget be amended by allocating funds from the Municipal Auditor's Budget to conduct an external audit regarding expropriation with the Terms of Reference and selection of an auditor to be determined by the Audit and Budget Committee.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The recommendation within Attachment 2 is as follows:

THAT the 2014 Operating Budget in the amount of \$706,385,655 be approved, representing \$486,288,455 for municipal operations and \$220,097,200 as a funding transfer for capital purposes.

Voting occurred on Councillor T. Ault's motion:

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the 2014 Operating Budget be approved as outlined in Attachment 2 (Council Report – 2014 Operating Budget; 2015-2016 Financial Plans, dated December 11, 2013).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Round table followed where Council Members presented their views on the budget process; thanking administration for all their efforts in bringing this to a conclusion.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer