

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 Tuesday, September 15, 2015, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: J. Chadi, Councillor

Administration: M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative and Administrative Support
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

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

National Anthem

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Notice of Motion

Councillor S. Germain served the following notice of motion which will be brought forward for consideration at the September 22, 2015 Council Meeting:

“THAT the Government of Alberta be requested to perform an inspection of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo with regard to any matters connected to its governance function and the activities of the Mayor and Councillors, in accordance with Section 571(1)(b) of the Municipal Government Act.”

Councillor S. Germain served the following notice of motion which will also be brought forward for consideration at the September 22, 2015 Council Meeting:

“THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to take all necessary steps to ensure that no further work is done on, or in support of, construction of the Conklin Multiplex project until Council has been advised of the amounts of anticipated contributions by the provincial and federal governments, by way of capital or operating grants, or lease payments, or through any other mechanism.”

Voting occurred on Councillor P. Meagher's motion:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes from Council Meeting - September 8, 2015

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on September 8, 2015 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Hearings and Related Reports

2. Bylaw No. 15/021 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Election Sign Provisions

(6:05 p.m. – 6:23 p.m.)

Mayor M. Blake declared the Public Hearing opened at 6:05 p.m.

Brad Evanson, Director, Planning and Development, explained this amendment is being brought forward to ensure that the criteria for election signs is consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The only Land Use Bylaw provisions relating to election signs that will remain, relate to the time period during which election signs can be posted, and that no development permit is required. It was confirmed that if this amendment passes, election signs will be regulated through the temporary signs provisions of the Land Use Bylaw.

It was requested that Administration create a communication for potential election candidates to inform them of the current sign regulations regarding what can and cannot be done relative to election signs, while offering guidelines for safe placement of signs.

Mayor M. Blake declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:21 p.m.

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Bylaw No. 15/021, being an amendment to Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Bylaw No. 15/021 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

3. 2017 Alberta 55 Plus Games Bid

(6:24 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo advise the Alberta Ministry of Culture and Tourism of its intent to submit a bid to host the 2017 Alberta 55 Plus Games.

Exit and return

Councillor K. McGrath left the meeting at 6:24 p.m. and returned at 6:26 p.m.

Carole Bouchard, Director of Community Services; and Monica Lance, Manager of Community Strategies, confirmed, that consultation with a number of community groups, resulted in a majority supporting making a bid for these Games. It was also noted that the 2017 Alberta 55 Plus Games would involve a combination of summer and winter sports.

Diane Slater, resident, spoke in support of the initiative while suggesting that when a host committee is established, they need to be made aware of the value of shopping locally in order to sustain the local business community and the community as a whole.

Luana Bussieres, Executive Director St. Aidan's Society and Jason Beck, Executive Director, Justin Slade Youth Foundation, spoke in support of this initiative, advising Council of their interest in including an inter-generational component, showcasing both youths and seniors within the Region as part of the Games.

In keeping with prior discussion of Council, it was again requested that Administration explore, from a collaborative perspective, at any and all possible events aligning with the Municipality's Strategic Plan which can promote the Municipality as a sports and recreation destination.

Discussion occurred regarding the economic impacts resulting from hosting various Games in the community. It was requested that Administration provide Council with an economic assessment/analysis specifically related to hosting of the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games, as soon as possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Parkade Feasibility on Lands Owned by the Municipality
(6:50 p.m. – 7:35 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the findings of the initial downtown parkade feasibility analysis be presented to the Land Planning & Development Advisory Committee for consideration through its Council established mandate to identify and assess options for redevelopment of municipally owned lands in the downtown core, with recommendations to be included in the Committee's final report to Council on November 24, 2015.

Concern was raised relative to the recommendation that the Land Planning & Development Advisory Committee would report back to Council as opposed to reporting to the Land Planning and Transportation Committee.

Exit

Councillor K. McGrath left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Motion Recess

A motion recess occurred from 7:22 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that Administration bring forward an amendment to the Land Planning and Development Advisory

Committee Bylaw No. 15/020, to have the Committee report to the Land Planning and Transportation Committee
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voting then occurred on Councillor P. Meagher's motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Economic Information Session

(7:37 p.m. – 7:47 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Economic Information Session Council Report be accepted as information.

Jeff Penney, Director, Economic Development, spoke on this matter, noting that in addition to the public Economic Information Sessions, Council and the Executive Team will have an opportunity to interact and have a more focused dialogue with the presenters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Confederation Way Sanitary Sewer Bypass Project – Associated Sewer Backups

(7:47 p.m. – 9:29 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Confederation Way Sanitary Sewer Bypass Project – Associated Sewer Backups Council Report dated September 15, 2015 be accepted as information.

Kevin Scoble, Executive Director, and Darcy Dragonetti, Director, Environmental Services, and **Amie McGowan, Manager, Operational Excellence** came forward to address Council on this matter.

Mr. Scoble gave a lengthy technical presentation, including background and historical information, regarding the Confederation Way Sanitary Sewer Bypass Project. The presentation also addressed both the July 12, 2015 event (intense rain storm) and the August 30, 2015 event (watermain break) which both caused sewer backups, including next steps to be taken in both cases.

Exit and return

Councillor S. Germain left the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and returned at 8:37 p.m.

Diane Slater, resident, spoke to the human perspective of both events, noting that Council should strive to provide quality of life for its residents. She mentioned the financial hardship faced by some of the residents affected by either event and recommended that consideration be given to providing financial support to the affected residents. Ms. Slater further suggested that Council consider establishing a small committee of forward-thinking, intuitive persons to work with municipal staff of the same mindset to discuss current challenges and make recommendations to Council.

Garth Booker, resident, came forward and raised concerns and/or questions with respect to how the sewer is moved from one system to another; open manholes during construction; and

work strategies, such as parallel work vs sequential work. He also suggested that running different tests on the model could help more accurately determine which residences are inside the impacted zone.

Alisa Unruh and Dave Scantland, residents, came forward and spoke to how their lives and home business have been negatively impacted by the watermain break which resulted in their water being shut off numerous times, equipment in front of the house blocking off access and the street being shut down. They also questioned the experience and abilities of the contractor in this type of work, and requested that local residents be apprised of what is happening by way of hand delivered notice. It was further requested that Administration review this whole situation and work towards increasing efficiencies to expedite the work required in such a manner as to minimize the impacts on local residents.

Skyler White, resident, came forward to speak specifically to the July 12, 2015 event, outlining what he witnessed on the morning of the event. He noted concern for residents having to pay large amounts of money for something resulting from what he perceives to be negligence on the part of the contractor.

Debbie Hahn, resident, addressed Council and noted that although there are separate issues within this subject matter, her concerns are specifically related to the lack of municipal response during a crisis situation where residents were displaced from their homes due to raw sewage in basements; and the financial hardships faced by the area residents. Ms. Hahn also suggested that Administration look at engaging residents to be part of further investigation in this matter, specifically the residents who made presentations this evening.

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that Administration report back to Council next week with a recommendation for financial support for residents affected by the July 12 and August 30 floods.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor J. Stroud that the Confederation Way Sanitary Sewer Bypass Project – Associated Sewer Backups Council Report dated September 15, 2015 be accepted as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Adjournment

Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer