

Unapproved Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the River Valley Room at Edmonton City Hall in Edmonton, Alberta, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, commencing at 2:00 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
- C. Voyageur, Councillor

Administration:

- M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
- K. Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- B. Couture, Executive Director
- E. Hutton, Executive Director
- M. Johnstone, Executive Director
- D. Leflar, Director, Legal and Legislative Services
- A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
- D. Soucy, Legislative Officer
- A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and offered heartfelt appreciation to residents throughout Alberta and Canada for their support, encouragement and generosity during a very difficult time. Mayor Blake also extended special thanks to the City of Edmonton and its staff for their ongoing assistance and commitment to ensuring that the Regional Municipality can continue to conduct its business until the evacuation order is lifted.

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the Agenda be amended by deferring Items 1 (Financial Impact of Wildfire Disaster on Employees) and 6 (CAO Authority to Control the Pace and Terms of Re-Entry) to the in-camera portion of the meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the Agenda be further amended by tabling Item 2 (Tone from the Province) until 3:00 p.m. when the Government of Alberta representatives will be in attendance; and that the agenda be adopted as amended
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Financial Impact of Wildfire on Employees

This item was deferred to the in-camera portion of the meeting

2. Tone from the Province

This item was tabled, to be dealt with at upon arrival of Provincial officials.

3. Review of Approved Capital Budget and 2017-2020 Capital Plan

(2:09 p.m. – 2:29 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that Administration be directed to undertake a review of the 2016 approved Capital Budget and 2017-2020 Capital Plan and report back to Council by June 7, 2016 with a recommendation as to what capital projects should be continued, deferred or cancelled.

Kevin Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided the rationale for reviewing the approved Capital Budget and Plan, noting that the magnitude and impact of the recent wildfires, makes it imperative to assess which projects need to continue in order to provide core services, and which projects can be deferred or cancelled to release funds for budget reduction and/or reallocation to new priority projects.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Review of all Programs and Services

(2:28 p.m. – 2:38 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) be directed to undertake a review of all municipal programs and services and report back to Council by May 25, 2016 with a recommendation as to what programs and services should be modified, reduced, temporarily or indefinitely suspended, or cancelled.

Marcel Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of what would be involved in the review, indicating that while some programs and services may need to be modified, reduced, suspended or cancelled, there may also be a need to introduce new or modified services as a result of the wildfire.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Review of Council Resolutions with Cost Implications

(2:39 p.m. – 2:53 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor C. Tatum that Administration be directed to review all outstanding items on the Council Resolution Log that require expenditure of money to implement the direction associated with each item, and make recommendations to Council by the end of May, 2016 as to which of those resolutions could be rescinded at this time.

David Leflar, Director of Legal and Legislative Services, spoke to the need for Council to step into the role of the Oversight Committee and should direct a review of all outstanding Council resolutions that have cost implications to implement. Re-prioritization, rescinding or amending those outstanding resolutions may be required in order to focus and redeploy available resources in response to the wildfire.

Following discussion, it was agreed that if any Council members have any items they wish to be excluded from this review, please forward them to the Chief Administrative Officer and these items will be highlighted in the report with Administration's recommendations

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. CAO Authority to Control the Pace and Terms of Re-entry

This item was deferred to the in-camera portion of the meeting

7. Discussion on Future State of the Municipality

(2:54 p.m. – 3:03 p.m.)

Council Members engaged in a round-table discussion on the future state of the Municipality, and also utilized the opportunity to express thanks and appreciation to first-responders, emergency personnel, volunteers and the many, many people who contributed to the safe evacuation of residents from Fort McMurray, and are committed to its recovery.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that Item 7 (Discussion on Future State of the Municipality) be tabled, and that Item 2 (Tone from the Province), be raised from the table.

CARRIED

For: M. Blake, T. Ault, L. Bussieres, J. Cardinal, S. Germain, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, A. Vinni, C. Voyageur
Opposed: K. McGrath, C. Tatum

2. Tone from the Province

(3:04 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.)

The Honourable Danielle Larrivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs, thanked Council for their leadership and strength and introduced Deputy Minister Brad Pickering, Shane Schreiber, Managing Director of Alberta Emergency Management Agency, and Bill Sweeney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Security Division of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. Minister Larivee committed to working with the Municipality in the coming days, months and years of recovery, noting that the Government of Alberta is working as quickly as possible to make it safe for residents to return, but reiterated that it will be a long time before re-entry. It is anticipated that the timeline and plans for re-entry should be released within two weeks, as previously noted by Premier Notley.

Exits and Returns:

- Mayor M. Blake exited the meeting at 3:57 p.m. and reentered at 4:00 p.m., during which time Deputy Mayor K. McGrath assumed the Chair.
- Councillor C. Tatum exited the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and reentered at 4:01 p.m.
- Councillor T. Ault exited the meeting at 4:08 p.m. and reentered at 4:08 p.m.

Shane Schreiber and Bill Sweeney provided an overview of the "Four Phases of Response to Recovery" beginning with response and getting people safe; moving to the stabilization / re-entry phase of getting people home; then short-term recovery to getting the community functioning and the final stage is medium to long-term recovery. Council's biggest role will come in phase four relative to rebuilding the community. The Government of Alberta

committed to working with and using local businesses wherever possible in the procurement process. Mr. Schreiber also noted that the provincial authority under the current State of Emergency will effectively end on May 30, 2016, and it is not known if a renewal will be required.

Moved by Councillor S. Germain that the presentation provided by the Government of Alberta be accepted as information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that Item 7, Discussion on Future State of the Municipality, be raised from the table.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Discussion on Future State of the Municipality
(4:15 p.m. – 4:23 p.m.)

The round-table dialogue continued, with Council Members again expressing their thanks and appreciation to all, and specifically to the City of Edmonton, for providing the facilities and assistance needed for Council to conduct this meeting.

8. Future Council Meetings Until Re-Entry
(4:23 p.m. – 4:39 p.m.)

Councillor C. Tatum presented the following motion for consideration: “That all Council meetings commencing immediately and until re-entry to the evacuated areas of the Municipality has been accomplished, be held in Edmonton at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons or at such other times as Administration is able to schedule, at facilities provided by the municipal corporation of the City of Edmonton or in such other locations in Edmonton as Administration is able to obtain for that purpose; and That a regular schedule of Council meetings is hereby established on a bi-weekly basis commencing Wednesday May 25, 2016, and that Council members make best efforts to attend at such additional special meetings as the Mayor may convene from time to time under section 197 of the Municipal Government Act.”

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that the motion be amended by deleting the word “bi-weekly” and replacing it with “weekly” in the second paragraph.

CARRIED
For: T. Ault, L. Bussieres, J. Cardinal, S. Germain, K. McGrath, P. Meagher, J. Stroud, C. Tatum, A. Vinni, C. Voyageur
Opposed: M. Blake

Moved by Councillor C. Voyageur that the motion be amended by changing the meeting time to 3:00 p.m.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that the motion be further amended by changing the meeting start date to May 18, 2016.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Voting then occurred on the main motion, as amended, which now reads as follows:

Moved by Councillor Tatum:

- THAT all Council meetings commencing immediately and until re-entry to the evacuated areas of the Municipality has been accomplished, be held in Edmonton at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons or at such other times as Administration is able to schedule, at facilities provided by the municipal corporation of the City of Edmonton or in such other locations in Edmonton as Administration is able to obtain for that purpose; and
- THAT a regular schedule of Council meetings is hereby established on a weekly basis commencing Wednesday May 18, 2016, and that Council members make best efforts to attend at such additional special meetings as the Mayor may convene from time to time under section 197 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Motion to Move In-Camera

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that Council move in-camera pursuant to Section 197(2) of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c.M-26.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess:

A brief recess was held beginning at 4:40 p.m. to allow the gallery to clear, following which Council met in-camera.

Adjournment

Council concluded its in-camera matters at 6:20 p.m., at which time Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer