

**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 20, 2016, 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
- C. Voyageur, Councillor

**Administration:**

- M. Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer
- K. Scoble, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- R. Billard, Acting Executive Director
- B. Couture, Executive Director
- D. Leflar, Chief Legislative Officer
- A. Rogers, Senior Legislative Officer
- R. Marshall, Legislative Officer
- S. Soutter, Legislative Officer

**Call To Order**

Mayor M. Blake called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by Councillor T. Ault:

- that the Agenda be amended by adding Item # 1.b Bylaw No. 16/021 Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Repeal Bylaw 13/032 – Flood Zone Development Restrictions;
- that Council waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed addition; and
- that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

Councillor K. McGrath served the following Notice of Motion to be presented during the Council Meeting of October 4, 2016.

“WHEREAS the Canadian Border Service Agency has recently exercised its statutory authority to impose a tariff on all gypsum imported from the United States into Western Canada, as a punitive measure resulting from a finding that certain United States based firms have been importing gypsum into Western Canada in contravention of international trade agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality suffered a massive wildfire in May 2016 that destroyed over 2500 homes which will require significant quantities of gypsum to rebuild;

AND WHEREAS the recently imposed tariff on gypsum, justifiable on a national level as a Canadian response to foreign violations of international trade agreements, will nevertheless significantly increase the cost of rebuilding a home and will therefore have a particularly negative impact on property owners seeking to rebuild homes destroyed by the wildfire in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;

AND WHEREAS there has been national support for the recovery efforts of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo which includes support for rebuilding homes damaged and destroyed by the wildfire;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council hereby calls upon the Government of Canada, as the level of government responsible for negotiating and implementing the international trade agreements that have led to the recent gypsum tariff, to develop and fund a grant program to compensate property owners in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo who are rebuilding or will be rebuilding the homes they lost in the May 2016 Wildfire, for the increased costs of rebuilding their homes as a result of the gypsum tariff; and
2. The Mayor is hereby authorized and requested to write on behalf of Council to the Government of Canada advising of the above resolution and requesting federal grant assistance for affected homeowners.”

Mayor M. Blake served the following Notice of Motion to be presented during the Council Meeting of September 27, 2016.

“THAT Administration be directed to bring forward an amendment to the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Bylaw 16/013, to effect the following amendments:

1. **Section 4(a)** “up to” one Councillor elected from a Ward in the Rural Service Area;
2. **Section 4(b)** “one” Councillor elected from Ward 1
3. **Section 7(f)** strike “weekly” and replace with “timely”
4. Replace all of **Section 10** with “Committee members who are also Councillors may claim the same meeting compensation as other Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee members. The Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee will be compensated per the schedule used by the Assessment Review Board for its members.”
5. Strike **Section 11**, and renumber Bylaw 16/013 accordingly.”

Voting occurred on Councillor T. Ault’s motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Minutes of Previous Meetings****1. Minutes of Council Meeting - September 13, 2016**

Moved by Councillor P. Meagher that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 13, 2016 be approved as presented.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**1.b Bylaw No. 16/021 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Repeal Bylaw No. 13/032 – Flood Zone Development Restrictions**  
(6:15 p.m. – 6:17 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor T. Ault that Bylaw No. 16/021, being a Land Use Bylaw Amendment to repeal Bylaw No. 13/032 which restricts flood zone development be read a first time; and that the Public Hearing be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Public Hearings and Related Reports****2. Bylaw No. 16/018 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Repeal Bylaw No. 16/011**  
(6:17 p.m. – 6:31 p.m.)

Mayor M. Blake declared the public hearing open at 6:17 p.m.

**Exit and Return**

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 6:19 p.m. and returned at 6:20 p.m.

**Jamie Doyle, Director of Planning and Development**, provided an overview of the proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendment and indicated that events since the passage of Bylaw No. 16/011, have shown that the remaining Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) restrictions on habitation need not be an obstacle to commence rebuilding.

**Alex McKenzie, resident**, spoke in support of the proposed amendment, as well as the rebuilding process.

**Crystal Lewis-Wilton, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity**, spoke in support of the bylaw and indicated if approved, they are hoping to have a family in a home by Christmas.

Mayor M. Blake declared the public hearing closed at 6:27 p.m.

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath that Bylaw No. 16/018, being a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 16/011, be read a second time.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by S. Germain Councillor that Bylaw No. 16/018, be read a third and final time.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Reports**

### **3. Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Recommendation - Compensation for Firebreak Properties** (6:32 p.m. – 6:37 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath:

- That the Chief Administrative Officer and the Interim Recovery Team Leader work together to develop a program designed to ensure that property owners who suffered loss or damage to their property during the wildfire of May 2016 as a direct result of actions taken on their property:
  - (a) by employees, agents or contractors acting on behalf of either the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo or the Province of Alberta; and
  - (b) in an effort to suppress the wildfire or to delay or prevent movements of the wildfirewill be fairly compensated for their losses; and
- That Administration report back to Council with details of the program so developed, for Council's review and approval, not later than October 4, 2016

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Councillors' Motions**

### **4. Cost of Surveys for Destroyed Properties** (6:37 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.)

Moved by Councillor K. McGrath:

1. That Council supports in principle that residential property owners whose homes were destroyed by the May 2016 wildfire should not be required to pay:
  - (a) the costs of any survey or Real Property Report; or
  - (b) the costs of any geotechnical investigation, analysis or reportthat is required as part of a Development Permit application or as a condition of a Development Permit; and
2. That Administration is directed to report back to Council with a recommendation for an implementation strategy and a cost estimate in respect of the RMWB paying for the services described in 1. above, including information as to the probability of such costs incurred by the RMWB in support of affected property owners being reimbursed by the Government of Alberta

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Adjournment**

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Mayor M. Blake declared the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer