

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, AB, on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
M. Allen, Councillor
D. Blair, Councillor
M. Byron, Councillor
S. Germain, Councillor
G. Janvier, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
J. Vyboh, Councillor

Absent: S. Clarkson, Councillor
L. Flett, Councillor
R. Rebus, Councillor

Administration: R. Burkard, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Rogers, Acting Chief Legislative Officer
D. Elliott, Deputy CAO
K. Greig, Deputy CAO
K. Kloss, Deputy CAO
J. Callahan, Legislative Officer
B. Broomfield-Andrews, Recorder/Legislative Assistant
A. Johnson, Legislative Assistant

Call to Order

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

Opening Prayer

The Mayor asked everyone to join her in Prayer.

Agenda

09-001 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Council Meeting – December 9, 2008

09-002 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 9, 2008 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations**2. Mr. Mark Wyllie re: First United Church Assessment Request**

Mr. Wyllie advised that the Fort McMurray First United Church received notice from the Municipality for outstanding Local Improvement tax payments. Arrangements have been made for the payment of the 2008 amount that was outstanding. Mr. Wyllie advised that the Church is committed to paying its debt to the Municipality; however, this has been somewhat difficult due to a fluctuating membership. Mr. Wyllie concluded his presentation with a request that the outstanding Local Improvement Tax payments be re-amortized and collected in equal payments over an allotted timeframe, and that relief from any penalties for late payment be granted.

3. Mr. Marcel Ulliach, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives, and Mr. Jeff Penney, Manager, Economic Development re: Regional Economic Development Strategy Update

Mr. Penney advised that the core elements of the Regional Economic Strategy, such as the vision and mission statements and the specific goals and objectives, are presently being worked on. Community engagements have been a major component of this process also. A main topic of discussion during the past six months has been governance, which has led to the formation of an Economic Advisory Board, made up of stakeholders representative of the region. Presently, community engagements are finishing up and the process of assessing the feedback received can begin. Four open houses have been held, and reaction received has been positive. Feedback has been received that in order for the community engagement process to be as productive as possible more up front work needs to occur, such as meeting with community leaders and the different stakeholder groups within the different communities. From this, they are looking at a revised approach to implement more productive open houses. Mr. Penney concluded his presentation by advising that the next steps for this group include finishing the community engagement process, gathering final comments from the stakeholder working group, resource team, senior administration, Council, and finally, the presentation of a final document to Council later this spring.

4. Ms. Linda Ball and Mr. Mark Hodson re: Leadership Wood Buffalo Update

Ms. Linda Ball, Vice Chair, Leadership Wood Buffalo, advised that the mission of Leadership Wood Buffalo (LWB) is to develop active community leaders who can help engage in the challenges of the region. Ms. Ball introduced Ms. Ginger Rozmus, Director, LWB, and Mr. Mark Hodson, Director and Alumni Co-Chair, as two graduates whom she is mentoring. Ms. Rozmus advised she is currently an Oil Sands Communications Manager at Suncor Energy and is a graduate of Leadership Calgary. LWB is an eight month program, and this year there are 17 participants, and 35 alumni from their first three years, with representation from the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth, the RCMP, Volunteer Wood Buffalo, the major oil companies, Keyano College and Mix 103.7. LWB has partnered with organizations such as Mix 103.7, United Way, Volunteer Wood Buffalo, and the Wild Rose Foundation. Mr. Hodson briefly highlighted some of the impacts that the contributions of alumni and participants have made in the community, for instance case studies and presentations on

topics such as the formation of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Understanding Homelessness, and How to Engage the Shadow Population. LWB recently offered its first learning day to participants, alumni and stakeholders, the focus of which was story telling and its relevance in community leadership. Ms. Ball, Ms. Rozmus and Mr. Hodson concluded their update by responding to questions from Council.

Business Arising Out of Delegations

5. Re-Amortization of Local Improvement Tax Payments for the Fort McMurray First United Church

09-003 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the outstanding balance of \$12,742.92 owed by the Fort McMurray First United Church as per the provisions of Local Improvement Bylaw No. 03/034 be re-amortized in equal annual payments for the remaining 15 years of the 20-year term.

Mr. Henk van Waas, General Manager, Assessment and Taxation, was in attendance to provide clarification and responded to questions of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Regional Economic Development Strategy Update

09-004 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the presentation regarding the Regional Economic Development Strategy be received as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Leadership Wood Buffalo Update

09-005 Moved by Councillor Allen that the presentation regarding Leadership Wood Buffalo be received as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaws

8. Bylaw No. 09/010 – Closure of Undeveloped Government Road Allowance (Highway 63 Eco-Industrial Park)

Bylaw No. 09/010, being a bylaw of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to close an undeveloped Government of Alberta road allowance, was presented to receive first reading.

09-006 Moved by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT Bylaw No. 09/010, being a bylaw to close a government road allowance, be read a first time; and

- THAT the subject property be transferred to Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation once Bylaw No. 09/010 has received third and final reading.

Kevin Greig, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, was in attendance and provided clarification in response to a question of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

9. Council Expense Summary – January 1-December 31, 2008

09-007 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Council Expense Summary for the period January 1 – December 31, 2008 be received as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

There was no new or unfinished business.

Updates

Mayor's Update

Mayor Blake reported on the following:

- Fort Chipewyan and Janvier Community Engagements
- Regional Economic Development Strategy
- Northern Alberta Development Council
- Media Interviews
- MLA Thomas Lukaszuk Visit on Diversity
- Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Committee
- Fort McMurray and Sapræ Creek Civic Awards
- Al Hancock Welcome Home

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Fort Chipewyan Community Engagement
- Santa's Anonymous
- 4th Annual Skating Party

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Santa Skate
- Oil Sands Discovery Center Advisory Committee Meeting

- Guy Boutilier 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament
- Annual Christmas Dinner at St John's Church
- Malanka Celebration

Councillor Allen reported on the following:

- Represented Mayor at a Cambridge Energy Workshop
- Athabasca Watershed Protection Group

Councillor Vyboh reported on the following:

- Family Literacy Day

Councillor Germain reported on the following:

- MacDonald Island Park Board Meeting

Councillor Janvier reported on the following:

- Janvier, Conklin and Anzac Civic Awards

Adjournment

09-008 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer