

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, February 24, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Allen, Deputy Mayor
D. Blair, Councillor
M. Byron, Councillor
L. Flett, Councillor
S. Germain, Councillor
G. Janvier, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
R. Rebus, Councillor
J. Vyboh, Councillor

Absent: M. Blake, Mayor
S. Clarkson, Councillor

Administration: R. Burkard, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer
D. Elliott, Deputy CAO
K. Greig, Deputy CAO
K. Kloss, Deputy CAO
J. Callahan, Legislative Officer
A. Johnson, Recorder/Legislative Assistant

Call to Order

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

Opening Prayer

The Deputy Mayor asked everyone to join him in Prayer.

Agenda

09-019 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Council Meeting – February 10, 2009

09-020 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 10, 2009 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Hearings

2. Public Hearing re: Bylaw 09/011 – Closure of Undeveloped Government Road Allowance (Tempo Gas)

09-021 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the meeting move into Public Hearing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Public Hearing commenced at 6:04 p.m.

A. Opening Statement

Dennis Peck, General Manager, Planning and Development

Mr. Peck advised that this road closure, specifically closing a portion of land behind the Tempo Gas site, is intended to facilitate the provision of additional space for an access road at a later date. The particular road being closed at this time will no longer be required.

B. Written Presentations

There were no written presentations received.

C. Verbal Presentations

There were no verbal presentations.

D. Other Verbal Presentations

There were no other requests to address Council.

E. Questions of Council

There were no questions of Council.

F. Closing Statement

There was no closing statement.

3. Public Hearing re: Bylaw No. 09/012 – Closure of an Undeveloped Government Road Allowance (Longboat Landing)

A. Opening Statement

Dennis Peck, General Manager, Planning and Development

Mr. Peck advised Council that the road closure is needed in order to move forward on Longboat Landing development plans and will involve a number of developments on the one site.

B. Written Presentations

There were no written presentations received.

C. Verbal Presentations

Mr. Jim Rogers, Waterways resident, came forward and suggested that “swapping” of land, as proposed with the road closure, would be beneficial in the Draper Road area as well.

D. Other Verbal Presentations

There were no other requests to address Council.

E. Questions of Council

There were no questions of Council.

F. Closing Statement

There was no closing statement.

09-022 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Public Hearing be closed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Public Hearing concluded at 6:12 p.m.

Bylaws

4. Bylaw No. 09/011 – Closure of Undeveloped Government Road Allowance (Tempo Gas)

09-023 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/011, being a bylaw to close a government road allowance, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-024 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 09/011 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Bylaw No. 09/012 – Closure of an Undeveloped Government Road Allowance (Longboat Landing)

09-025 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Bylaw No. 09/012, being a bylaw to close a government road allowance, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-026 Moved by Councillor Blair that Bylaw No. 09/012 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Debenture Borrowing Bylaws for 2009 – Approved Public Works Capital Projects

09-027 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 09/001, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Regional Landfill project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-028 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/002, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Franklin/Riedel Upgrade and Rehabilitation project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration clarified that the debenture projects were previously approved through the Capital Budget process.

The following information was requested of Administration:

- Additional project information regarding the debenture bylaws be provided to Council prior to second and third readings; and
- Clarification be given to Council regarding interest rate amounts and payment timelines for the debenture bylaws listed.

09-029 Moved by Councillor Janvier that Bylaw No. 09/003, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Fort MacKay Bridge Replacement project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-030 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Bylaw No. 09/004, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Athabasca Water Treatment Plant Expansion project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-031 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/006,

being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Roads/Fleet and Transit Shared Facility project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-032 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 09/008, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Transit Terminals project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-033 Moved by Councillor Janvier that Bylaw No. 09/009, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Solid Waste Office/Shop project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-034 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/013, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Jubilee Centre Renovation Construction project, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

7. Strategy for Formation of an Airport Authority

09-035 Moved by Councillor Vyboh:

- THAT Administration be authorized to proceed with preparation and submission of a petition to the Alberta Minister of Transportation for formation of an Airport Authority to take over governance of the operations of the Fort McMurray Regional Airport; and
- THAT once approved by the Minister of Transportation, an Airport Authority be formed, the assets of the Airport Commission be transferred to the Authority and the Fort McMurray Regional Airport Commission, a Part IX Corporation owned by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, be dissolved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

8. Notice of Motion

Councillor Vyboh served the following notice of motion which will be brought forward at the next regular Council meeting for consideration:

"THAT Administration review traffic patterns at the merge lane of Signal Road onto Thickwood

Boulevard (East junction) to determine if enhanced traffic controls are warranted.”

Voting on the matter will occur at the March 10, 2009 regular Council meeting.

Updates

Mayor’s Update

Deputy Mayor Allen reported on the following:

- Announcement of the 20-year Oilsands Development plan
- Habitat for Humanity’s third home in the area
- Opening ceremonies of the curling bonspiel

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Rebus reported on the following:

- Annual General Meetings for Sapræ Creek and Draper

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Communities in Bloom
- Represented the municipality at a meeting of the Association Canadienne Française de l’Alberta (ACFA)
- Shoot-Out at the Snye update

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Tragedy on the winter road to Fort Chipewyan

Councillor Vyboh reported on the following:

- Commended the municipality’s snow removal crews on their work this winter season

Councillor Flett reported on the following:

- Tragedies in Fort Chipewyan

Council observed a minute of silence in memory of the recent losses in Fort Chipewyan.

Administrative Update

Mr. Dennis Peck, General Manager, Planning and Development, provided an update to Council on how the Planning and Development Department is currently handling development permits for single family houses at this time.

Mr. Peck explained that Wood Buffalo is a unique municipality, dealing with a much larger volume of permit requests than other major Alberta cities. He reported that the turnaround time his staff currently works on to issue permits is 24 hours— significantly less than in years past— and some have been issued in a matter of hours. The department has hired consultants with full authority to sign permits, which has helped speed up the process. Greater cross-training of staff

will take place in order to assure times of high volume still result in the 24-48 hour turnaround time. The department's long-term plan is to continue their successful level of service for the public which will include the potential for electronic permitting.

Adjournment

09-036 Moved by Councillor Blair that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer