

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, March 10, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: M. Byron, Councillor

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

Call to Order

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Opening Prayer

The Mayor asked everyone to join her in Prayer.

Agenda

09-037 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Council Meeting – February 24, 2009

09-038 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 24, 2009 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

2. Mrs. Noha El Banna re: Justin Slade Youth Foundation Annual Update

Mrs. Noha El Banna presented an update to Council on the Justin Slade Youth Foundation's successes thus far and future initiatives they plan to undertake. She explained the Foundation caters to a diverse clientele with varying ages and backgrounds. Their target age group is 12-18 years old, for which the Foundation hopes to provide a safe space for youth to be nurtured and feel empowered. In the year ahead, the Foundation plans to initiate leadership programs, classes on web design, art workshops, and two events a year to showcase participants' work. Of the 1,758 clients, that visited the centre last year, 50% were "low risk," 35% were "medium risk," and 15% were "high risk." The average time spent at the centre is three to four hours, which means at-risk youth spent more than 6,700 hours off the streets and in a positive, empowering environment. This year, the Foundation will try to initiate more funding channels, looking for an increased funding capacity from previous partners (municipal and provincial governments and the United Way) as well as hoping to secure federal funding.

3. Mr. Bryan Lutes, President, Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation re: Request to Enter into Construction Mortgage

Mr. Bryan Lutes advised that Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation (WBHDC) is continuing its efforts to fulfill the mandate of constructing The Cascades at Meadow Creek Village using a mortgage not to exceed \$9,070,000. The funds will help facilitate the construction of 45 apartments in Timberlea and the development includes five eight-plex buildings. Construction is scheduled to begin in April and the WBHDC plans on completing the project by early 2010. After completion of the project, the market value of the site is expected to be \$12,200,000. On behalf of the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation, Mr. Lutes requested Council approve the mortgage so construction can begin next month.

Other Delegations

Mayor Blake asked if anyone present in the gallery wished to speak to a topic on the evening's agenda.

Mr. Sean Graham – Request for the Banning of Plastic Shopping Bags

Mr. Graham, resident, returned to Council after first bringing forward the possibility of banning plastic bags in the Municipality in 2007. He explained that even though some plastic bags are in fact recyclable, it costs \$4,000 to recycle one tonne of bags that is then worth only \$34. He maintained that if a ban were to be put in place, he would hope the focus would be on retail businesses in the Municipality and not about enforcing and criminalizing individual citizens who may bring bags from other municipalities into the area. Over two months last summer, Mr. Graham alone collected 2,268 signatures from community members supporting the plastic bag ban. He also received guaranteed support from eight local businesses. He explained that communities in Australia as well as Canadian cities Vancouver and Calgary are also considering

the ban and if Council were to move forward with such legislation, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo would be the largest—and one of the first—municipalities in Canada to do so. Mr. Graham believes the ban would help bring positive feedback to a community that is often plagued by negative press regarding environmental concerns.

Ms. Veronique Rensonnet – Request for the Banning of Plastic Shopping Bags

Ms. Veronique Rensonnet, resident, spoke to Council, voicing concern with the Administration's recommendation, claiming she has found some additional statistics that support the banning of plastic shopping bags. She maintains that if the plastic bag ban were to be passed, the concern of mixing plastic and biodegradable bags in the landfill would no longer be an issue. She believes that the Municipality's relative geographical isolation would perhaps make it easier to enforce the ban. Manitoba's Leaf Rapids started with a one-year levy on plastic bags, followed by a full ban and so far, Ms. Rensonnet claims the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. She argued that since so many cities around the world (including municipalities in the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Corsica) have already enacted the ban, the Regional Municipality can look to those successes to model legislation after.

Business Arising Out of Delegations

4. Justin Slade Youth Foundation Annual Update

09-039 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the presentation regarding the Justin Slade Youth Foundation Annual Update be received as information.

Mrs. Noha El Banna provided clarification and responded to questions of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Arrival

Councillor Blair joined the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

5. Request for Approval to Enter into Construction Mortgage – Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

09-040 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation be authorized to enter into construction and long term take-out mortgages for The Cascades at Meadow Creek Village Stage 6/7, to a maximum of \$9,075,000.

Mr. Bryan Lutes provided clarification and responded to questions of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Both Mr. Sean Graham and Ms. Veronique Rensonnet provided clarification regarding their

presentations and responded to questions of Council.

It was noted that the subject matter would be debated later in the meeting.

Public Hearings

There were no Public Hearings scheduled.

Bylaws

6. Bylaw No. 09/005 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Project Accommodation

Bylaw No. 09/005, being a bylaw of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to amend Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059, was presented to receive first reading.

09-041 Moved by Councillor Clarkson that Bylaw No. 09/005, being a Land Use Bylaw amendment for project accommodation, be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

7. Subdivision and Development Appeal Board – Appointment

09-042 Moved by Councillor Allen that Mr. Malcolm Edirisinghe be appointed to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board effective immediately, until December 31, 2009.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Building Canada Fund – Communities Component Agreement

09-043 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Administration be directed to prepare and submit an application for the Building Canada Fund for the following projects: Lower Town Site Reservoir Upgrade 2010, Sewer Main Rehabilitation 2010, Water Main Rehabilitation 2010, Urban Road Rehabilitation 2010 and Thickwood Reservoir Replacement 2010.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Wes Holodniuk, Assistant Deputy CAO, was in attendance to provide clarification and responded to questions of Council.

9. Allocation of 2009 Community Development Funding

09-044 Moved by Councillor Meagher that \$100,000.00 of 2009

Community Development Funding be allocated as follows:

- Canadian Mental Health Association - \$10,000.00
- Golden Years Society - \$14,000.00
- Multicultural Association of Fort McMurray - \$40,000.00
- Wood Buffalo Educare Society - \$25,600.00
- Wood Buffalo Seniors Society - \$10,400.00

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Capital Budget Amendment – Light Equipment Replacements 2009

09-045 Moved by Councillor Clarkson:

- THAT the 2009 Capital Budget be amended as identified in Attachment 1 – (Capital Budget Amendment Request) – Light Equipment Replacements 2009 - March 10, 2009;
- THAT funding be utilized from the Public Works Department's 2009 Operating Budget to fund the replacement of a truck:
 - THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated within the Public Works Department's 2009 Operating Budget, the balance be funded from the 2009 Corporate Operating Surplus; and
 - THAT in the event the 2009 Corporate Operating Surplus is insufficient or non-existent, the funds be committed from the 2009 Emerging Issues Reserve.
- THAT the provisions of Attachment 1 (Capital Budget Amendment Request) remain confidential pursuant to sections 16 and 25 of the Freedom of Information and Protections of Privacy Act, R.S.A., 2000 c. F-25, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Request for the Banning of Plastic Shopping Bags

09-046 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration be authorized to continue educating residents about the benefits of discontinuing the use of plastic shopping bags and to encourage businesses to voluntarily take a lead role in actively reducing plastic bags usage of all kinds as part of the Recycling Education and Awareness Campaign.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-047 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration be authorized not to proceed with drafting legislation and establishing a budget to ban plastic shopping bags.

A lengthy debate ensued, wherein concerns were raised about the availability of resources to implement a ban, as well as questions related to Municipal priorities.

DEFEATED

For: Allen, Blake, Clarkson

Opposed: Blair, Flett, Germain,
Janvier, Meagher, Rebus, Vyboh

09-048 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration proceed with drafting legislation and establishing a budget to ban plastic shopping bags to be implemented by Council within 2010.

Further discussion occurred concerning environmental stewardship and details about potential enforcement techniques.

CARRIED

For: Blair, Blake, Flett, Germain,

Janvier, Meagher, Rebus, Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Clarkson

Kelly Kloss, Deputy CAO, and Darcy Elder, General Manager, Public Works, were in attendance to provide clarification and responded to questions of Council.

Recess

A recess was called at 8:38 p.m. The Council meeting resumed at 8:55 p.m.

12. Regional Economic Development Alliance Next Level Framework

09-049 Moved by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT Administration be directed to provide feedback to the REDA Consultation Steering Committee regarding the draft report entitled “Establishing a Next Level Framework for Regional Economic Development Alliances in Alberta”, dated March 2009, (Attachment 2) in keeping with the provisions of Attachment 1 (Summary of RMWB REDA Recommendations, dated March 2, 2009); and
- THAT the provisions of Attachments 1 and 2 be held in confidence pursuant to the provisions of Section 24 (Advice from Officials) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSA 2000, c.F-25, as amended.

Marcel Ulliac, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives, and Jeff Penney, Manager, Economic Development, were in attendance to provide clarification and responded to questions of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

13. Notice of Motion

Councillor Vyboh served Notice of Motion at the February 24, 2009 regular Council meeting regarding the Merge Lane off Signal Road onto Thickwood Boulevard. He now provided background information on the matter.

09-050 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration review traffic patterns at the merge lane off Signal Road onto Thickwood Boulevard (east junction) to determine if enhanced traffic measures are warranted.

DEFEATED

For: Blair, Germain, Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Blake, Clarkson,
Flett, Janvier, Meagher, Rebus

Deputy CAO Kelly Kloss and General Manager, Public Works Darcy Elder were in attendance to provide clarification and responded to questions of Council.

Updates

Mayor's Update

Mayor Blake reported on the following:

- Reading a proclamation for the Community Plan on Homelessness at Composite High School
- Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Committee update
- The Unity House fundraiser
- Children First's plan to use \$2,000,000.00 from Alberta government for childcare
- Canadian National Men's Volleyball Championship

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Clarkson reported on the following:

- Arctic Winter Games in Grande Prairie
- AUMA Policing Task Force
- AUMA Building Communities Committee Meeting

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Leadership Wood Buffalo
- Fishing Derby in Fort Chipewyan
- Dr. John O'Connor re: community health concerns
- Cell phone service in Fort Chipewyan
- Resignation from the School Board

Councillor Rebus reported on the following:

- Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity, and Equality

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards (RARA) 2009
- Shoot-Out on the Snye

Councillor Allen reported on the following:

- Watershed Planning and Advisory Council, Athabasca Initiators Group
- Shoot-Out on the Snye
- Winterplay
- Housing First conference

Councillor Germain reported on the following:

- MacDonald Island Park Corporation

Councillor Flett reported on the following:

- Fishing Derby in Fort Chipewyan

Administrative Update

Darcy Elder, General Manager, Public Works – Recycling Education and Awareness

Mr. Darcy Elder provided an update to Council on the Recycling Education and Awareness Campaign. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has been actively recycling since 2005 with Suncor Energy as a corporate sponsor. The campaign focuses on educating people to reduce and reuse as many items as they can. Through the contributions and cooperation of the Municipality's citizens, Mr. Elder calculates that 2,000 tonnes of recyclable material have been diverted from entering the landfill, saving approximately \$250,000 in landfill costs. The growth rate of the campaign has sustained itself, as the amount of material recycled has only increased since the inception of the project. 2008 saw the campaign expand on traditional promotional methods, including Environment and Waste Reduction Weeks as well as seasonal advertising, and partnering with schools to educate about the benefits of recycling. The RRRibbitt program has also been updated and through 2009, Mr. Elder hopes to engage more people in recycling efforts through a new online RRRibbitt game. Television and print ads are also slated to make appearances in the municipality throughout the year. Looking ahead to 2010, Mr. Elder plans to take advantages to the changes made in product lines once local sorting comes on-stream late that year. Mr. Elder then presented an award to Mayor Blake and Suncor representative Brenda

Erskine as the 2008 Recycling Education and Awareness campaign received top honours from the International Association of Business Communication, a worldwide establishment dealing with excellence in communications. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's promotional campaign received a score of 9.38/10, garnering the Municipality the highest award classification, Award of Excellence. The effectiveness of the campaign is a result of the hard work and dedication from the Municipality, the partners involved, and the citizens of this region.

Adjournment

09-051 Moved by Councillor Blair that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer