

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

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

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

09-052 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Council Meeting – March 10, 2009

09-053 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2009 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

2. Mr. Don Thompson, President, Oil Sands Developers Group re: Oil Sands Industry Forecast Update and Implications

Mr. Thompson advised that the purpose of his presentation is to provide an update on an industry that is the cornerstone of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo - the oil sands industry. Mr. Thompson's presentation included a synopsis of the proposed and approved projects in the region, and those projects that have been suspended or delayed. He indicated that projections as of January 2009 indicate that capital project funds that were intended to be spent in this region will now not be spent as a direct result of the recent economic downturn. When the projects are re-initiated, it will likely occur in smaller, more phased approaches. While operating and maintenance expenditures in the region will largely be unaffected, current and future growth are be directly impacted. Mr. Thompson concluded his presentation by noting that the Oil Sands Developers Group, with Council's support, would like to continue working with municipal administration to ensure that the Municipality has access to the most current and up-to-date information as it is generated by the Oil Sands Developers Group.

09-054 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the presentation regarding the Oil Sands Industry Forecast Update and Implications be accepted as information.

Mr. Thompson provided clarification and responded to questions of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Hearings

There were no Public Hearings scheduled.

Bylaws

3. Debenture Borrowing for 2009 Public Works Capital Projects

09-055 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/001, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Regional Landfill project, be read a second time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blake, Blair, Clarkson,
Flett, Germain, Janvier, Meagher,
Rebus, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron

09-056 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/001 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blake, Blair, Clarkson,
Flett, Germain, Janvier, Meagher,
Rebus, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron

09-057 Moved by Councillor Allen that Bylaw No. 09/002, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Franklin/Riedel Upgrade & Rehabilitation project, be read a second time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blake, Blair, Clarkson,
Flett, Germain, Janvier, Meagher,
Rebus, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron

09-058 Moved by Councillor Allen that Bylaw No. 09/002 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blake, Blair, Clarkson,
Flett, Germain, Janvier, Meagher,
Rebus, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron

The following motion was presented by Councillor Meagher: “THAT Bylaw No. 09/003, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Fort MacKay Bridge Replacement project, be read a second time.” Concern was expressed relative to the condition of the Fort MacKay bridge substructure, and as to whether or not negotiations had occurred with other potential funding partners, such as Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

09-059 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Bylaw No. 09/003, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Fort MacKay Bridge Replacement project, be referred to Administration for the purpose of obtaining more information about the current condition of the bridge, and verification of other funding sources.”

A brief debate ensued during which the Acting General Manager, Public Works, and Chief Financial Officer responded to questions from Council.

Exit and Assuming of the Chair

Mayor Blake left the meeting and Deputy Mayor Allen assumed the Chair at 6:52 p.m.

The debate continued following Mayor Blake’s departure, and voting then occurred on the referral motion.

DEFEATED

For: Allen, Byron, Germain, Rebus

Opposed: Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh

Voting then occurred on the original motion, which reads as follows:

09-060 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/003, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Fort MacKay Bridge Replacement project, be read a second time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh

Opposed: Byron, Rebus

09-061 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/003 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh

Opposed: Byron, Rebus

Exit

Councillor Janvier exited the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

09-062 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 09/004, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Athabasca Water Treatment Plant Expansion project, be read a second time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Meagher, Rebus, Vyboh

Opposed: Byron

Return

Councillor Janvier returned to the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

09-063 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/004 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh

Opposed: Byron, Rebus

Councillor Rebus presented the following motion: “THAT Bylaw No. 09/006, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Roads/Fleet and Transit Shared Facility project, be read a second time.” Concern was then expressed regarding the lack of detail relative to the proposed location and facility size and design.

09-064 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Bylaw No. 09/006, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Roads/Fleet and Transit Shared Facility project, be referred to Administration for the purpose of clarification and identification of possible locations and obtaining more information on potential facility design.

A brief discussion ensued in which the Acting General Manager, Public Works, and the Chief Financial Officer responded to questions of Council. It was also clarified that there would be no major impact in terms of project delay if the matter is referred to Administration for provision of additional information. Voting then occurred on the referral motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-065 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/008, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Transit Terminals project, be read a second time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron, Rebus

09-066 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/008 be read a third and final time.

It was requested that Administration provide Council with design plans and an update as to the proposed facility location(s).

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Clarkson, Flett,
Germain, Janvier, Meagher, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron, Rebus

09-067 Moved by Councillor Rebus that Bylaw No. 09/009, being a debenture borrowing bylaw amendment for the Solid Waste Shop/Office project, be read a second time.

Concern was raised regarding the need to utilize debenture funding at this point in time, as it is known if the project will be completed in 2009 or 2010. It was also suggested that the use of reserve funds might be more appropriate in this particular instance.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Flett, Germain, Janvier,
Meagher, Vyboh
Opposed: Blair, Byron, Clarkson,
Rebus

09-068 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/009 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Flett, Germain, Janvier,
Meagher, Vyboh

Opposed: Blair, Byron, Clarkson,
Rebus

The following motion was presented by Councillor Clarkson: “THAT Bylaw No. 09/013, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Jubilee Centre Renovation Construction project, be read a second time.” Concern was expressed regarding the lack of detail presented relative to the scope of the proposed renovations.

09-069 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 09/013, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Jubilee Centre Renovation Construction project, be referred back to Administration pending a more detailed cost analysis.

Mr. D’arcy Elliott, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Darcy Elder, Acting General Manager, Public Works, Ms. Carol Theberge, General Manager, Community Services, and Ms. Elsie Hutton, Chief Financial Officer, were present to respond to questions of Council and provide clarification. A lengthy discussion occurred on the need for more definitive information on the type of renovations required, such as electrical and mechanical systems, the cost of renovating Jubilee Centre versus the cost of a new civic center, the recommendations contained within the yet-to-be finalized Accommodation Master Plan, and potential repercussions associated with delaying or not proceeding. Administration advised that delaying the project at this point will delay it for the course of the year because the entire renovation needs to be complete by September 15th of this year.

The proposed renovation will encompass approximately one-third of the building and is needed to accommodate existing and additional staff; proceeding with the renovation within identified timelines would speak to Council’s commitment to a strong hiring and recruitment process by ensuring that sufficient work space is available. Voting then occurred on the referral motion.

CARRIED

For: Blair, Byron, Clarkson, Flett,
Janvier, Rebus, and Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Germain, Meagher

Following the vote, Administration was specifically requested to provide Council with information on the type and scope of renovations required, along with detailed costing information at the April 14, 2009 Council meeting.

Recess

A recess occurred from 8:00 p.m. to 8:11 p.m.

4. Bylaw No. 09/014 – Amendment to Highway 63 North Water Supply Line Local Improvement Bylaw

09-070 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/014, being an amendment to the Highway 63 North Water Supply Line Local Improvement Bylaw be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-071 Moved by Councillor Clarkson that Bylaw No. 09/014 be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-072 Moved by Councillor Blair that Bylaw No. 09/014 be considered for third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

09-073 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/014 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Bylaw No. 09/007 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Lot 25, Block 2, Plan 852 0247 (177 Northland Drive, Conklin)

09-074 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 09/007, being a Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Lot 25, Block 2, Plan 852 0247, (177 Northland Drive, Conklin), be read a first time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was requested that Administration provide the following information at a Public Hearing being held on April 14, 2009:

- Clarification regarding the definitions of campground and project accommodations, and associated impacts; and
- Clarification regarding the provision of water and sewer services at the campground, and the impacts to residents and on the surrounding area.

Reports

6. Capital Budget Amendment – Rural Core Amenities

09-075 Moved by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT the 2009 Capital Budget be amended as summarized in Attachment 1- Capital Budget Amendment Request – Rural Core Amenities - March 24, 2009; and
- THAT the provisions of Attachment 1- Capital Budget Amendment Request – Rural Core Amenities – March 24, 2009, remain confidential pursuant to sections 16 and 25 of the

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A.,
2000 c. F-25, as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

There was no new or unfinished business.

Updates

Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Allen reported on the following:

- Hosting of Airdrie delegation regarding development of a new RCMP Facility
- 2009 CCAA Men's Volleyball National Championship
- Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce Luncheon with guest speaker Peter Watson, Deputy Minister, Alberta Energy
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation Board Meeting

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Rotary House St. Patrick's Day Celebration
- Commuter Air Access Network of Alberta (CAANA) Meeting
- Cell Phone Service in Fort Chipewyan
- Official Closure of Fort Chipewyan Winter Road

Councillor Rebus reported on the following:

- St. Patrick's Irish Dancers Association
- Diversity Workshop at Golden Years Society

Councillor Germain reported on the following:

- MacDonald Island Park Corporation Meeting

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Communities In Bloom Committee Meeting
- New Location of United Way Facility on Franklin Avenue
- Annual Fellowship Baptist Church Soup Kitchen and Auction

Councillor Clarkson reported on the following:

- Leadership Wood Buffalo

Councillor Flett reported on the following:

- Cell Phone Service in Fort Chipewyan
- Official Closure of Fort Chipewyan Winter Road

Councillor Janvier reported on the following:

- Official Closure of La Loche Winter Road

Adjournment

09-076 Moved by Councillor Clarkson that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer