

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, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007, COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: MAYOR M. BLAKE
COUNCILLORS M. ALLEN
D. BLAIR
M. BYRON
S. CLARKSON
S. GERMAIN
G. JANVIER
P. MEAGHER
R. REBUS
J. VYBOH
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER B. NEWELL
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE OFFICER K. GREIG
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT W. HAYES
ABSENT: COUNCILLORS J. CHADI

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRAYER: The Mayor asked everyone to join her in Prayer.

AGENDA: Resolution # 07-381
MOVED by Councillor Meagher:
▪ THAT the agenda be amended by:
○ deleting, under Reports, Item A – MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment – Project Management
○ deleting, under Reports, Item C – MacDonald Island Park Safety Codes Report; and
○ adding, under Reports, as Item A – MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment – Immediate Mitigative Measures for Safety and Next Steps for Re-Opening; and
▪ THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EXIT
Councillor Clarkson left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

MINUTES: Council Meeting – October 9, 2007

Public Hearing – October 9, 2007

Resolution # 07-382

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 9, 2007, and the Public Hearing held on October 9, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Organizational Meeting – October 29, 2007

Resolution # 07-383

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on October 29, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Timothy Bovaird re: MacDonald Island Closure and Rink Facilities

Mr. Bovaird has been a resident of Fort McMurray for six years. During that period he has rented the MacDonald Island Rink Facility every Friday afternoon for children's activities. He was very distressed to learn of the closure over the radio and not through direct notification. Mr. Bovaird feels that accountability for the cost overruns, failure to meet code and ultimate closure of the facility should be assigned. He brought forth what impact the closure would have on the 1000 minor hockey players and over 400 figure skaters who have been using the facility. Mr. Bovaird feels that a web site detailing the progress on the facility should be put in place to keep the public informed. The curling league now has no facility on which to play causing the cancellation or displacement of many tournaments. Mr. Bovaird also questioned why a hotel was not included in the MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment Project for the convenience of those attending tournaments at the facility.

Administration indicated that a web site for community information would be explored. It was also suggested that the Thickwood/ Timberlea facility would have additional ice space to meet the needs of the users.

Janet Doherty re: Truck Traffic on Draper Road

Ms. Doherty expressed concern regarding the excessive truck traffic around her Draper Road Property. She indicated that the issue had been brought to bylaw and that the city had been petitioned to fix the traffic problem. After the recent fatality, she questioned how many people would have to die in order for the problem to be addressed.

RETURN

Councillor Clarkson rejoined the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Lee Nordbye, Acting Chair, MacDonald Island Park Corporation

Mr. Nordbye expressed his consternation regarding the fact that Council has had a report which would enable partial opening of the facility and have not acted upon the information it contains. He felt sure that the code issues could be resolved in 2 – 3 weeks. Mr. Nordbye indicated that public notification of the closure was not addressed properly and that the impact on the rink users has been immense. In closing he assured Council that unless a resolution was identified quickly, employees would have to be let go.

Stan McNeill, Noralta Figure Skating Club

Mr. McNeil brought up the number of classes and therefore children who were being impacted by this closure. With regard to the figure skating in particular, the coaches are paid for by the program and parents. Reduced ice time will result in the loss of coaches and impact the young athletes training for competition. While he supports a safe environment, he would support any mitigating circumstances which would lead to a quicker re-opening of the facility.

Jeff Reich, President, Fort McMurray Curling Club

Mr. Reich expressed concern that the Curling Club had no other facility to use. He went on to explain that the Northern Seniors Bonspiel which was scheduled to take place at MacDonald Island has had to be transferred. He was also concerned that if curling was cancelled for the year, they would lose many members to other activities. He expressed his wish to have this situation rectified as quickly as possible.

Mike Walsh, Member, MacDonald Island Park Corporation

Mr. Walsh is a concerned parent of two figure skaters who also play ringette. He considers the recommendation brought forth by Administration unacceptable, as there is no time frame included. Mr. Walsh feels that the report provided to Council contains the direction to resolve the technical issues and that the legal and insurance aspects were not complicated. He presented the fact that the closure of the facility represented a loss of \$100,000 per week. He would like the Council to just get on with it, fix the problem and open the facility.

REPORTS:

MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment Project – Immediate Mitigative Measures for Safety and Next Steps for Re-Opening

The following motion was presented by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT a maximum of \$600,000 be allocated from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to fund the following on an interim basis:
 1. The 24/7 Fire Watch contract with a security company
 2. A Project Manager
 3. A Project Coordinator
 4. A Safety Officer; and
 5. Immediate assessment of viable option for reopening; and
- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated with the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget, the balance be funded from a 2007 Corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 Corporate operating surplus is insufficient, the balance of funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve.

Susan Motkaluk, Director of Public Services, emphasized that the Municipality is committed to re-opening the facility as quickly as possible, however, safety is the number one priority. Ms. Motkaluk provided a brief overview of the issues that lead to the closure, noting that it was not a decision that was made lightly, but was very necessary in light of the technical, legal and insurance aspects. The Municipality has a moral duty to ensure that the community is safe.

Ms. Motkaluk also clarified that the proposal submitted by the Board of Directors was reviewed in detail. A further report was submitted by the project architect, but due to the fact it hadn't been received until only a few hours before the meeting, Administration had not had an opportunity to give it a thorough review. The importance of obtaining a third party opinion was stressed, so that a viable solution can be developed. Ms. Motkaluk indicated her belief that there are solutions available and many be obtained very quickly, however it is necessary to ensure that all options, including additional project management expertise, have been explored before proceeding.

The following amending motion was put forward by Councillor Germain: "THAT the motion be amended by adding the following clause: THAT a maximum of \$300,000 be committed from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to complete the mitigation plan to facilitate safely re-opening MacDonald Island Park."

A lengthy discussion ensued in which it was noted that the figures presented in the Board's report identified a cost of \$300,000-\$500,000 to undertake the necessary mitigative measures. In order to ensure that Administration has sufficient flexibility to undertake the necessary measures, it was suggested that the amount be increased to \$500,000

to eliminate the need to bring the matter back for Council consideration should the amount exceed the \$300,000 maximum. Councillor Germain, with Council's consent, then modified his motion, as follows:

Resolution #07-384

MOVED by Councillor Germain that the motion be amended by adding the following clause: "THAT a maximum of \$500,000 be committed from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to complete the mitigation plan to facilitate safely re-opening MacDonald Island Park."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Further discussion occurred relative to Alberta Building Code requirements and the need to bring the entire building up to standard. It was again stressed that safety is of paramount importance, and that Administration's ultimate goal is to undertake whatever steps are necessary to facilitate the safe re-opening of the facility as soon as possible. Voting then occurred on the amended motion, which reads as follows:

Resolution # 07-385

The following motion was presented by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT a maximum of \$600,000 be allocated from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to fund the following on an interim basis:
 1. The 24/7 Fire Watch contract with a security company
 2. A Project Manager
 3. A Project Coordinator
 4. A Safety Officer; and
 5. Immediate assessment of viable option for reopening; and
- THAT a maximum of \$500,000 be committed from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to complete the mitigation plan to facilitate safely re-opening MacDonald Island Park."
- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated with the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget , the balance be funded from a 2007 Corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 Corporate operating surplus is insufficient, the balance of funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment Project – Comprehensive Review and Assessment

Resolution # 07-386

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh:

- THAT Administration be directed to contract with a qualified firm or firms, independent of the firms currently involved in the project, to provide a thorough and professional review and assessment of the MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment project.
- THAT a maximum of \$600,000 be allocated from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to fund the review and assessment of the MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment project;
- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated within the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget, the balance be funded from a 2007 Corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 corporate operating surplus is insufficient or non-existent, the funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment Project – Internal, External and Donor Signage Consultation and Fabrication

The following motion was presented by Councillor Rebus:

- THAT the contract for the MacDonald Island Design Guidelines be awarded to Westwind Design and Display Specialty Ltd. For \$58,500.00
- THAT \$75,000 be utilized from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to fund the signage consultation and the development of Design Guidelines; and
- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated with the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget, the balance to be funded from a 2007 corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 corporate operating surplus is insufficient or non-existent, the funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve

Concern was expressed relative to whether or not the contract award met the provisions of the Municipality's Procurement Policy. It was also noted that no information had been provided relative to the assessment criteria used to evaluate the proposals that had been received.

Resolution # 07-387

MOVED by Councillor Rebus that the report on the MacDonald Island Park Redevelopment Project - Internal, External and Donor Signage Consultation and Fabrication be referred back to Administration for

inclusion of information about the tendering process and assessment criteria used in the evaluation of proposals.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Germain

RECESS

A recess occurred from 7:43 p.m. until 8:02 p.m.

**School Zone Traffic Control – Millennium Drive and Parsons
Creek Drive Intersection**

The following motion was presented by Councillor Meagher: “THAT the Municipality continue to follow the Transportation Association of Canada Standards until such time as the consultant’s functional study and the University of Calgary report have been presented to Council.”

The General Manager of Public Works provided a brief overview of the report and responded to questions from Council.

Resolution # 07-388

MOVED by Councillor Allen that a four-way stop be installed at the intersection of Parsons Creek Drive and Millennium Drive as an immediate interim measure until such time as the consultant’s study and University of Calgary report have been tabled with Council.

It was noted that a temporary sign may create a false sense of security and permanency. It was also noted that the report to Council outlining findings and recommendations is expected to be presented in March, 2008.

DEFEATED

For: Allen, Blake, Germain, Janvier,
Vyboh

Opposed: Blair, Byron, Clarkson,
Meagher, Rebus

Resolution # 07-389

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that the Municipality continue to follow the Transportation Association of Canada Standards until such time as the consultant’s functional study and the University of Calgary report have been presented to Council.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Blake, Byron,
Clarkson, Germain, Meagher,

Rebus
Opposed: Janvier, Vyboh

Regional Economic Development Strategy – Terms of Reference

Resolution # 07-390

MOVED by Councillor Clarkson that the Regional Economic Development Strategy – Terms of Reference be approved as outlined in Attachment 1 – Request for Proposals (RFP) Terms of Reference for the Preparation of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Regional Economic Development Strategy 2009 – 2013, dated November 13, 2007.

CARRIED

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

Community Services User Fee Policy

Resolution # 07-391

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that the Community Services User Fee Policy dated March 13, 2001 be replaced by the Community Services User Fee Policy dated November 13, 2007.

A brief discussion occurred with respect to whether or not the Policy could be amended to include student rates, and it was subsequently agreed that options need to be explored with respect to how such a rate would be applied. It was also requested that consideration be given to capping rates at a percentage of the cost, and that rates be determined using cost recovery and benchmarking considerations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Capital Budget Amendment – Fort Chipewyan Lift Station #3
Auxiliary Power Supply**

Resolution # 07-392

MOVED by Councillor Clarkson

- THAT the 2007 Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Attachment 1 – 2007 Capital Budget Amendment Request - Fort Chipewyan Lift Station #3 Auxiliary Power Supply, dated November 13, 2007;
- THAT \$100,000 be utilized from the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget to fund the Fort Chipewyan Lift Station #3 Auxiliary Power Supply;

- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated with the Public Services Division 2007 operating budget, the balance be funded from a 2007 Corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 Corporate operating surplus is insufficient or non-existent, the funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Tolen Drive Bridge Rehabilitation

Resolution # 07-393

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that the 2007 Capital Budget be amended as outlined in Attachment 1 – 2007 Capital Budget Amendment Request – Tolen Bridge Rehabilitation, dated November 13, 2007.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Photo-Speed Enforcement

Resolution # 07-394

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh:

- THAT \$20,000 be utilized from the 2007 RCMP Operating Budget for the purchase of a Portable Digital Laser Photo Speed Enforcement System;
- THAT in the event the entire amount cannot be accommodated within the 2007 RCMP Operating Budget, the balance be funded from a 2007 Corporate operating surplus; and
- THAT in the event a 2007 Corporate operating surplus is insufficient or non-existent, the funds be committed from the 2007 Emerging Issues Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Retention and Recruitment Initiatives – Cost of Living Allowance

The following motion was presented by Councillor Meagher:

“THAT Council support an increase in the cost of living allowance from \$200 per pay period to \$318 per pay period, while retaining the wellness bonus of \$350 per month, effective the pay period beginning November 23, 2007;

THAT Council support using the administrative directive process for dealing with cost of living allowances, separate from the Collective Agreements bargaining process.

THAT Council support amending the Contract for Service with the RCMP to reflect the cost of this initiative (2007: \$390,000 and 2008: \$400,000).”

It was clarified by Administration that this increase is in keeping with other employers in the Municipality and that it would include the RCMP.

Resolution # 07-395

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh that the proposed cost of living allowance increase be retroactive to June 1, 2007.

It was clarified that the provincial increase to the cost of living allowance was announced in June, 2007, but not paid out until very recently, hence the appearance of a retroactive payment.

DEFEATED

For: Blair, Byron, Germain, Vyboh

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

Resolution # 07-396

MOVED by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT Council support an increase in the cost of living allowance from \$200 per pay period to \$318 per pay period, while retaining the wellness bonus of \$350 per month, effective the pay period beginning November 23, 2007;
- THAT Council support using the administrative directive process for dealing with cost of living allowances, separate from the Collective Agreements bargaining process.
- THAT Council support amending the Contract for Service with the RCMP to reflect the cost of this initiative (2007: \$390,000 and 2008: \$400,000).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEPARTURE

Councillor Rebus left the meeting at 9:23p.m.

BYLAWS:

Bylaw No. 07-004 – Closure of Undeveloped Road Allowance in Parcel F Area of Timberlea

Resolution # 07-397

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 07/004, being a bylaw to close an undeveloped road allowance in the Parcel F area of Timberlea be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution # 07-398

MOVED by Councillor Clarkson that Bylaw No. 07/004, being a

bylaw to close an undeveloped road allowance in the Parcel F area of Timberlea be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RETURN

Councillor Rebus returned to the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Bylaw No. 07/045 – Roads & Transportation Bylaw Amendment

The following motion was presented by Councillor Vyboh: “THAT Bylaw No. 07/045, being a bylaw to amend the Roads and Transportation Bylaw, be read a second time.

Resolution # 07-399

MOVED by Councillor Byron:

- THAT Section 1(e) of Bylaw No. 07/045 be deleted and replaced with the following: “When signalled or directed to stop by a peace officer, a driver shall forthwith bring the vehicle to a stop, furnish to the peace officer any information respecting the driver or the vehicle that the peace officer requires and shall remain stopped until permitted by the peace officer to leave.”; and
- THAT Section 1(z) of Bylaw No. 07/045 be deleted and replaced with the following: “No person shall drive or operate a motor vehicle on or across any boulevard, sidewalk, municipal park, utility lot, utility right-of-way, Municipal Reserve, or other publicly owned lands, not designated for vehicular use, without the written permission of the Chief Administrative Officer or his delegate.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution # 07-400

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 07/045 being a bylaw to amend the Roads and Transportation Bylaw, as amended, be read a second time.

It was requested that the information contained in Section 1(z), as noted above, be communicated to future electoral candidates, as they typically operate vehicles in the prohibited areas when placing campaign signage.

Resolution # 07-401

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 07/045 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw No. 07/066 – Debenture Borrowing Bylaw Thickwood

Heights/Timberlea Multi-Use Facilities.

Resolution # 07-402

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 07/066, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the Thickwood Heights/Timberlea Multi-Use Facility, be read a second time.

Concern was expressed relative to the potential to accrue interest on the debenture and it was clarified that no interest is charged until funds have been drawn, and then charged only on the portion of funds drawn.

It was also requested that, when undertaking project design, that consideration be given to the utilizing the facility to also house municipal staff.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Byron

Resolution # 07-403

MOVED by Councillor Vyboh that Bylaw No. 07/066 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Byron

Bylaw No. 07/068 – Utility Rates Bylaw

Resolution # 07-404

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 07/068, being the Utility Rates Bylaw, be read a first time

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS:

None scheduled.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Allen reported on the following:

- Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation Strategic Planning Workshop

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Fort Chipewyan Community Services Meeting
- Community Services Advisory Committee

Councillor Byron reported on the following:

- MacDonald Island Park Corporation
- Requirement for Volunteers to assist with activities at the Golden Years Society

Councillor Clarkson reported on the following:

- Community Image Steering Committee Campaign Kick-off
- Meeting with Minister Danyluk
- Meeting with RCMP K Division representatives

Mayor's Update

Mayor Blake reported on the following:

- Opening of Gregoire Recycling Depot
- Councillor's Orientation
- Alberta Festival of Science featuring Myth Busters;
- Treasury Board presentation
- NADC Breakfast Meeting and Meeting with Provincial Ministers

- Family Violence Prevention month;
- Prime Minister Harper's Visit to Fort McMurray
- Remembrance Day celebrations
- Big Spirit Campaign Kick-Off

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD BUFFALO REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

ADJOURNMENT:

Resolution # 07-045

MOVED by Councillor Meagher that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF LEGISLATIVE OFFICER