

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communication in the Council Chamber at the Syncrude Athletic Park Clubhouse in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, commencing at 4:00 PM.

Present:

Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor
Krista Balsom, Councillor
Bruce Inglis, Councillor (via teleconference)
Sheila Lalonde, Councillor (via teleconference)
Keith McGrath, Councillor (via teleconference)
Phil Meagher, Councillor (via teleconference)
Verna Murphy, Councillor (via teleconference)
Jeff Peddle, Councillor (via teleconference)
Jane Stroud, Councillor

Absent:

Claris Voyageur, Councillor

Administration:

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services (via teleconference)
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief (via teleconference)
Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services (via teleconference)
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations (via teleconference)
Matthew Harrison, Acting Director, Communications and Stakeholder Relations (via teleconference)
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development (via teleconference)
Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services (via teleconference)
Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management (via teleconference)
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services (via teleconference)
Dennis Warr, Acting Director, Engineering (via teleconference)
Heather Fredeen, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

THAT Council close item 2.1 to the public pursuant to sections 24(1) and 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
SECONDER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

2.1 Advice from Officials / Privileged Information

(in camera pursuant to sections 24(1) & 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Discussion No. 1

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Linda Olivier	Director, Financial Services
Andrew Geary	Deloitte LLP External Auditor
Sanjeev Rajani	Deloitte LLP External Auditor

Discussion No. 2

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Brad McMurdo	Director, Planning & Development

Discussion No. 3

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Dennis Fraser	Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Deanne Bergey	Director, Community Services

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:55 p.m. and 4:08 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
SECONDER:	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

3. Adoption of AgendaNotices of Motion

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting, whether it be a Special meeting called pursuant to section 194 of the *Municipal Government Act* or the next regularly scheduled Council meeting:

WHEREAS as a result of the downturn in economy, the COVID-19 pandemic and the most recent 2020 flood, youth participation in sport has been significantly impacted in the Region;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to encourage youth participation in sport for the remainder of 2020 and 2021;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed not to increase user fees related to youth ice surface rentals and youth sporting field rentals until the 2022 budget cycle

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the next Council meeting, whether it be a Special meeting called pursuant to section 194 of the *Municipal Government Act* or the next regularly scheduled Council meeting:

WHEREAS Bear Safety has been identified as a concern for residents within the Region;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the 2020 flood there are concerns that an increase in bear activity may occur;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed to review the Alberta BearSmart Program and bring forward recommendations on how the RMWB could implement BearSmart strategies to minimize the risk of bear encounters, including awareness and education programs; such recommendations may include amendments to the Solid Waste Bylaw No. 07/043 and the Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059 to control bear attractants and to promote bear awareness and safety practices within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB).

MOTION:

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
SECONDER:	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1. Meeting - May 12, 2020

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on May 12, 2020 be approved as presented

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
SECONDER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

5. Presentations

5.1. Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, re: COVID-19 and Flood Public Briefing (Verbal)

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the Municipality's continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 Flood, and encouraged residents affected by the flood to complete the survey sent by the Red Cross on May 24, 2020. Residents affected by the flood, were reminded to ensure the proper permits are in place before re-building. It was noted that the goal of the Municipality is to open playgrounds by June 1, 2020.

5.2. Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, re: Boil Water Advisory Briefing (Verbal)

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on the Boil Water Advisory and noted that the boil water advisory has been lifted at the Northern Lights Regional Hospital and remaining boil water advisories will be lifted in stages as soon as possible; however, he cautioned that timelines are subject to change.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1. Public Hearing - Bylaw No. 20/017 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment to Temporarily Relax Recreational Vehicle (RV) Parking

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing open at 4:52 p.m.

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development and Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning provided an overview of the proposed amendment to temporarily relax Recreational Vehicles (RVs) parking on residential lots indicating the amendment will aid in flood recovery and rebuild efforts.

Mayor D. Scott noted there were no written or verbal submissions received and declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:08 p.m.

6.2 Bylaw No. 20/017 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Temporary RV Parking

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/017, being an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw 99/059 to temporarily relax Recreational Vehicle (RV) parking, be read a second time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
SECONDER:	Phil Meagher, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw 20/017 be read a third and final time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Phil Meagher, Councillor
SECONDER:	Verna Murphy, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

**6.3. Approval of Proposed Expropriation of a Portion of NW ¼ 2-89-9W4M
(Secondary Egress Road Expropriation)**

MOTION:

THAT the Approval of Proposed Expropriation of a Portion of NW ¼ 2-89-9W4M (Secondary Egress Road Expropriation) item be deferred until flood mitigation plans are finalized.

RESULT:	DEFERRED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Verna Murphy, Councillor
SECONDER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

7. New Business

7.1. 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, and Andrew Geary and Sanjeev Rajani, Deloitte LLP, provided an overview of the 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements.

MOTION:

THAT the 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for the year ending December 31, 2019, be accepted as information.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

7.2. 2020 Adjusted Budget

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services, provided an overview of the proposed adjustments to the 2020 Budget as a result of the economic downturn, the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 flood.

MOTION:

THAT the 2020 Operating Budget approved on November 29, 2019, in the amount of \$718,371,428, be adjusted to \$581,220,345; representing \$431,190,345 for Municipal operations and \$150,000,000 as a funding transfer for reserve and capital purposes, and

THAT the committed undrawn debt payment, in the amount of \$96,000,000 be offset against the uncommitted Capital Infrastructure Reserve.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

8. Councillors' Motions

8.1. Social Sustainability Plan Committee - Establishment of a Multi-Sector Social Recovery Task Force

Councillor K. Balsom introduced the motion which was deferred from the May 12, 2020 Council Meeting.

Chantal Beaver, Social Sustainability Plan Committee member was in attendance to respond to questions of Council.

MOTION:

THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Administration work with the Social Sustainability Plan Committee to advise on the short and long-term well-being of all residents in our region to identify priorities, help to guide decision making, resource allocation, alignment and collaborative community action as it relates to both the COVID-19 response and recovery and the 2020 flood event.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
SECONDER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

8.2. Council Motion - Waiver of Adherence to Trade Agreements for Local Contractors

Councillor K. McGrath introduced the following motion indicating that advocating on behalf of local businesses and contractors, for a waiver of adherence to various trade agreements, will assist in supporting the local economy:

THAT the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism and the Minister of Service Alberta requesting that adherence to the various trade agreements for scopes of work for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) be waived for a period of 18 months to allow local contractors first right of refusal on work scoped by the RMWB, provided that local contractors have the capacity and capabilities to perform the work required. The intent of this letter is to advocate on behalf of the residents and business in the RMWB to support the local economy throughout the ongoing pandemic and downturn in the oil industry in our region.

Keith Plowman, President, Fort McMurray Construction Association noted his support for the proposed motion in a written submission, which was read aloud for the record.

Councillor K. Balsom submitted a friendly amendment to add the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as letter recipients.

Councillor K. McGrath accepted the friendly amendment and supplemented the additional recipients with the Local Members of the Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament.

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, the Minister of Service Alberta, the Region's Local Members of the Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, requesting that adherence to the various trade agreements for scopes of work for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) be waived for a period of 18 months to allow local contractors first right of refusal on work scoped by the RMWB, provided that local contractors have the capacity and capabilities to perform the work required. The intent of this letter is to advocate on behalf of the residents and business in the RMWB to support the local economy throughout the ongoing pandemic and downturn in the oil industry in our region.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
SECONDER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

8.3. Council Motion - Capital Projects in Lower Townsite

Councillor J. Peddle introduced the following motion which was seconded by Councillor B. Inglis, as follows:

THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of shovel ready projects and flood mitigation, be placed on hold until such time as the flood mitigation project is complete; and

THAT the work associated with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee be placed on hold until the flood mitigation project is complete.

Jean-Marc Guillamot, resident and Committee Member, Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory, provided a verbal presentation indicating opposition to the motion as presented and clarified that he is not presenting on behalf of the Committee itself.

Exit and Returns

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 6:16 p.m. and returned at 6:18 p.m.

Councillor J. Peddle disconnected from the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and reconnected at 6:21 p.m.

Nicole Bourque-Bouchier, Chair, Melissa Blake, Co-Chair and Kim Rizzi, General Manager, Wood Buffalo 2022 Arctic Winter Games spoke in opposition to the proposed motion, noting that Snye Point Park will host the 2022 Arctic Winter Games in 2022, as well as a more recent Arctic Winter Games ceremonial event for the “passing of the torch” in October 2020.

Keith Plowman, on behalf of Fort McMurray Construction Association, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, Consulting Engineers of Alberta, Building Industry and Land Development Association and the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, noted opposition to the proposed motion in a written submission, which was read aloud for the record.

Liana Wheeldon, resident and Committee Member Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee, noted her opposition to the proposed motion in a written submission, which was read aloud for the record. Through the written submission, it was indicated that she was not writing on behalf of the Committee.

Recess

A recess occurred from 6:56 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the matter regarding Capital Projects in the Lower Townsite, be tabled until such time as the next agenda item has been considered by Council.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
SECONDER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

8.4. Council Motion - Accelerated Flood Mitigation Plan

Vacating the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 7:17 p.m., at which time Deputy Mayor M. Allen assumed the Chair.

Mayor D. Scott introduced the motion noting that there have been 15 major floods in the in the region in the last 145 years and that an accelerated mitigation plan is required to get the work done as soon as possible.

Exits and Returns

Councillor J. Peddle disconnected from the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and reconnected at 7:36 p.m.

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and returned at 7:38 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration an accelerated Flood Mitigation Plan within 30 days; and

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration as soon as possible a potential engineering solution, including all costs to implement, to prevent a repetition of the issue that caused the current Boil Water Advisory, taking into consideration the maximum prediction floods within our Region.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud
ABSENT:	Voyageur

Resuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 7:40 p.m.

8.3. Council Motion - Capital Projects in Lower Townsite (Continued)

With consent of Council, the matter regarding Capital Projects in the Lower Townsite, was lifted from the table with no objections.

Councillor J. Peddle re-introduced the motion as follows:

THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of shovel ready projects and flood mitigation, be placed on hold until such time as the flood mitigation project is complete; and

THAT the work associated with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee be placed on hold until the flood mitigation project is complete.

Councillor M. Allen proposed the following amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor K. Balsom:

THAT the motion be revised to read as follows:

THAT Shovel Ready and Flood Mitigation Projects tendered be itemized and reviewed by Council to ensure they are appropriate with completion of Flood Mitigation efforts; and

THAT Administration work with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee to ensure that the work being completed by the Committees is in alignment with the Flood Mitigation efforts.

Councillor K. Balsom offered the following friendly amendment to the amending motion. The friendly amendment was accepted by Councillor M. Allen:

To insert the words “Projects other than” prior to “Shovel Ready and Flood Mitigation Projects”

For clarification, Councillor M. Allen re-introduced the amending motion as follows:

THAT the motion be revised to read:

THAT all capital projects for the lower townsite, with the exception of Shovel Ready and Flood Mitigation Projects already tendered, be itemized and reviewed by Council to ensure they are appropriate with completion of Flood Mitigation efforts; and

THAT Administration work with the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee and the Wood Buffalo Waterfront Advisory Committee to ensure that the work being completed by the Committees is in alignment with the Flood Mitigation efforts.

Exit and Return

The teleconference line disconnected at 8:19 p.m. and re-connected at 8:22 p.m. at which time the meeting resumed. A roll call was conducted, confirming attendance of all Council Members with the exception of Councillor Voyageur.

MOTION:

THAT the motion and proposed amendment be deferred until the June 9, 2020 Council Meeting.

RESULT:	DEFERRED [9 TO 1]
MOVER	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Bruce Inglis, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Peddle, Stroud
AGAINST:	Murphy
ABSENT:	Voyageur

9. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

Council Members provided updates on various initiatives in the region.

Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer