

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, commencing at 4:00 PM.

Present:

Don Scott, Mayor
Mike Allen, Councillor
Krista Balsom, Councillor
Bruce Inglis, Councillor
Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
Keith McGrath, Councillor
Phil Meagher, Councillor
Verna Murphy, Councillor
Jeff Peddle, Councillor
Jane Stroud, Councillor
Claris Voyageur, Councillor

Administration:

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Chris Davis, Acting Director, Legal Services
Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management
Kari Donnelly-Westhaver, Director, Human Resources
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Business Initiatives
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement
Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer
Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session**MOTION:**

THAT Council close agenda items 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 to the public pursuant to sections 17(1), 21(1), 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, Voyageur

2.1 Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations, Advice from Officials and Privileged Information - Legal Matter

(in camera pursuant to sections 21(1), 24(1) and 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Chief Jody Butz	Regional Fire Chief
Chris Davis	Municipal Legal Counsel
Susan Trylinski	Director, Legal Services

2.2 Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy, Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations, Advice from Officials and Privileged Information - Land Acquisition Briefing and Update

(in camera pursuant to sections 17(1), 21(1), 24(1) and 27(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Christopher Booth	Manager, Planning and Development
Michael Ircandia	Manager, Planning and Development
Susan Trylinski	Director, Legal Services
Chris Davis	Municipal Legal Counsel
Kurt Stilwell	Municipal Legal Counsel

2.3 Advice from Officials - CAO Operational Briefing/Updates(in camera pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk

Exit

Councillor K. Balsom exited the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Recess and Return

A recess occurred between 3:30 p.m. and 4:05 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber and Councillor K. Balsom returned to the meeting.

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, Voyageur

3. Adoption of Agenda**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, Voyageur

4. Consent Agenda**MOTION:**

THAT the recommendations contained in Items 4.1 and 4.2 be approved.

4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting - February 9, 2021

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 9, 2021 be approved as presented.

4.2. Minutes of Special In Camera Council Meeting - February 12, 2021

THAT the Minutes of the Special In Camera Council Meeting held on February 12, 2021 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, Voyageur

5. Presentations**5.1. Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, re: COVID-19 Public Briefing (Verbal)**

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update on COVID-19, noting the differences between the municipal mask bylaw requirements and the provincial mask requirements.

6. Unfinished Business**6.1. Public Hearing re: Bylaw No. 21/004 - Fort Chipewyan Area Structure Plan Amendment; and Bylaw No. 21/005 - Land Use Bylaw Map Amendment - Redesignation of a Portion of Lot 6\CHIPEWY**

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing open at 4:23 p.m.

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, introduced the bylaws before Council for consideration, which would allow for the expansion of the Fort Chipewyan cemetery. It was also noted that the subject property has been identified as Sensitive Raptor Range (Peregrine Falcon); therefore, redesignation is required to receive the necessary approval from the Government of Alberta's Director of Cemeteries to operate the cemetery.

There were no verbal or written submissions received on this matter.

Disconnect, Recess and Reconnect

Councillor M. Allen disconnected from the meeting at 4:26 p.m. A recess occurred until 4:35 p.m., at which time Councillor M. Allen was reconnected to the meeting.

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing closed at 4:48 p.m.

6.2. Bylaw No. 21/004 - Fort Chipewyan Area Structure Plan Amendment and Bylaw No. 21/005 - Land Use Bylaw Map Amendment - Redesignation of a Portion of Lot 6\CHIPEWY

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/005, being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw to redistrict a portion of Lot 6\Plan CHIPEWY from UE – Urban Expansion District to DC – Direct Control District, 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, Voyageur

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/005, 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, Voyageur

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/004, being a bylaw to amend the Fort Chipewyan Area Structure Plan, be read a second time.

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

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 21/004, be read a third and final time.

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

6.3. Bylaw No. 20/022 - Natural Gas Distribution System Franchise Agreement

Linda Ollivier, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the proposed bylaw which would renew an exclusive Natural Gas Distribution System Franchise Agreement with ATCO Gas and Pipelines to provide natural gas distribution services to customers throughout the Municipality.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/022, being a bylaw to enter into a renewal of a Natural Gas Franchise Agreement granting ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd., a franchise to deliver natural gas to customers within the Municipality, be read a second time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	McGrath

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 20/022 be read a third and final time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
SECONDER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	McGrath

6.4. Community Gatherings and Festivals Research Initiatives

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, presented the Department Plan Program which identifies all programming planned for 2021, noting that all initiatives would be subject to Alberta Health Services COVID-19 guidelines.

MOTION:

THAT the Departmental Program Plan, Attachment 1, as outlined by Public Works, Community and Protective Services, and Indigenous and Rural Relations, be accepted as information.

Point of Order

Councillor S. Lalonde called a Point of Order with respect to the questions being asked by Councillor K. McGrath as they were no longer relevant to the agenda item. Mayor D. Scott upheld the Point of Order.

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

7. New Business

7.1. **Bylaw No. 21/006 - Backyard Hen Bylaw and Bylaw No. 21/007 - Amendment to Land Use Bylaw specific to Backyard Hen Pilot Project**

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, gave a brief overview of Bylaw No. 21/006 and Bylaw No. 21/007 which would amend the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw and the Land Use Bylaw to allow for a Backyard Hen Pilot Project to be conducted.

MOTION:

1. THAT Bylaw No. 21/006, being the Backyard Hen Bylaw, be read a first time.
2. THAT Bylaw No. 21/007, being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw, specific to Backyard Hens, be read a first time.
3. THAT a Public Hearing with respect to Bylaw No. 21/006 and Bylaw No. 21/007 be scheduled to occur on March 23, 2021.

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

7.2. Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-050 Amendment

Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services, presented the amended Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy. It was noted that the Policy includes updated Flood Hazard Maps to identify grant funding eligibility and expansion of the grant area for the Program.

MOTION:

THAT the amended Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Council Policy OPE-050 coming into effect on March 1, 2021 as outlined in Attachment 1 be approved.

THAT no further budget be allocated at this time and, should there be a requirement for further funding, a request be brought forward to Council once the current budget funds have been exhausted.

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

7.3. Fort Chipewyan Transport Canada Wharf

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an overview of the report, noting the wharf is an important piece of infrastructure for Fort Chipewyan and that ownership and responsibility for maintenance remains within the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada.

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor send a letter on behalf of Council to the Government of Canada, supporting the community of Fort Chipewyan's position that the Transport Canada Wharf remains a responsibility of the Federal Government and confirming that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will not assume ownership or maintenance responsibility for this infrastructure.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 5:57 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

7.4. Municipal Census 2021

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning, presented the 2021 Census report, outlining the process involved in conducting a virtual census.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be authorized to conduct a municipal census in 2021, with enumeration beginning April 1, 2021.

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

7.5. Strategic Plan Progress Report, 4th Quarter: October 1 - December 31, 2020

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Business Initiatives, presented the Strategic Plan Progress Report, and Senior Leadership Team members responded to questions of Council.

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, committed to resend to Council, the most recent draft report related to the East Clearwater Highway.

MOTION:

THAT the Strategic Plan Progress Report for 4th Quarter, 2020 be accepted as information.

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

Pecuniary Interest

Councillor P. Meagher declared a pecuniary interest with the upcoming item due to an employment relationship and disconnected from the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

8. Councillors' Motions

8.1. Christina Gordon Public School Inclusive Playground (Councillor K. Balsom)

Councillor K. Balsom presented the following recommendation for consideration:

THAT Administration be directed to work with the Fort McMurray Public School District and the Christina Gordon Public School to determine the budget shortfall funding amount for the capital enhancements to the playground for sensory friendly playground structures; and should a funding shortfall amount be identified, that up to \$60,000 from the Emerging Issues Reserve be allocated to the Christina Gordon Public School for completion of their inclusive playground project in 2021

Karla Power, Chairperson, Inclusion Advisory Committee, Christina Gordon Public School, spoke in favour of the recommendation.

Councillor M. Allen proposed a friendly amendment to add at the end “and that Administration investigate and apply for funding support from the Provincial Government for this initiative”. Councillor K. Balsom accepted the friendly amendment.

Administration committed to work with the Christina Gordon Public School Inclusion Advisory Committee regarding the capital enhancements to the playground and to investigate and apply for any available grant funding for the project.

Action item

It was requested that Administration review the current procedures for accessing wheelchair swings in the community as well as determine how many playgrounds can be made inclusive throughout the entire region.

Councillor S. Lalonde proposed a second friendly amendment to change the completion date from “2021” to “2022”. Councillor K. Balsom accepted this friendly amendment.

Councillor V. Murphy proposed a further friendly amendment to remove reference to the completion date in its entirety. Councillor K. Balsom accepted this further friendly amendment.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to work with the Fort McMurray Public School District and the Christina Gordon Public School to determine the budget shortfall funding amount for the capital enhancements to the playground for sensory friendly playground structures; and a funding shortfall amount be identified, that up to \$60,000 from the Emerging Issues Reserve be allocated to the Christina Gordon Public School for completion of their inclusive playground project; and

THAT Administration investigate and apply for funding support from the Provincial Government for this initiative.

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

Reconnect

Councillor P. Meagher reconnected to the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

8.2. Waiving of Annual Business License Fees for Local Businesses (Councillor J. Stroud)

Councillor J. Stroud provided background information regarding the proposed waiving of business license fees for all local businesses in 2021.

Diana de Sousa, Executive Director, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Exit and Return

Councillor V. Murphy exited the meeting at 7:22 p.m. and returned at 7:24 p.m.

Keith Plowman, President, Fort McMurray Construction Association, spoke in support of the recommendation.

A written submission received from Michelle Toner, Executive Director, Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, in support of the recommendation was read for the record.

MOTION:

THAT Administration bring forward a report, including financial implications and bylaw amendment(s) to Bylaw No. 20/030 (the Fees, Rates and Charges 2020 Bylaw), necessary to waive business licensing fees for all local businesses in 2021, not later than Council's regularly scheduled meeting of March 23, 2021.

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

Vacating and Assuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair and Deputy Mayor S. Lalonde assumed the Chair at 7:40 p.m.

8.3. Draper Community Servicing – Water Delivery Service Subsidy (Mayor D. Scott)

Mayor D. Scott provided background information regarding the proposed recommendation to continue providing a subsidy for trucked water delivery service to residential property owners in Draper.

MOTION:

THAT the Municipality continue providing subsidized trucked water delivery service for residential property owners of Draper until such time as a permanent piped water solution for the Draper community is installed and operational.

Brandon Howse, Draper resident, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Disconnect and Reconnect

Councillor M. Allen disconnected from the meeting at 7:56 p.m. and reconnected at 7:57 p.m. Councillor C. Voyageur disconnected from the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and reconnected at 8:07 p.m.

Point of Order

Councillor K. McGrath called a Point of Order with respect to the questions being asked by Deputy Mayor S. Lalonde as they were no longer relevant to the agenda item. Deputy Mayor S. Lalonde accepted the Point of Order.

Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that Administration would reach out to Mr. Howse to clarify the confusion regarding the permit process.

Deputy Mayor S. Lalonde put forward a friendly amendment to add “sewage hauling service” to the motion. Mayor D. Scott did not accept this friendly amendment.

RESULT:	CARRIED [7 TO 4]
MOVER:	Don Scott, Mayor
SECONDER:	Mike Allen, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Allen, Balsom, McGrath, Meagher, Peddle, Stroud
AGAINST:	Inglis, Lalonde, Murphy, Voyageur

8.4. Draper Community Servicing – ATCO Gas Line (Mayor D. Scott)

Mayor D. Scott provided background information on the proposed recommendation regarding installation of permanent gas line(s) for residential properties in Draper.

Brandon Howse, Draper resident, spoke in support of the recommendation and submitted documentation identifying residents whom are interested in a permanent gas line to the area.

Disconnect and Reconnect

Councillor M. Allen disconnected from the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and reconnected at 8:23 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Administration immediately engage with ATCO Gas regarding the potential installation of permanent gas line(s) for residential properties in Draper and report back to Council by March 23, 2021, such report to include information on how the Municipality can support and facilitate such project.

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

9. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates

Council Members provided updates on various initiatives in the region.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer