

**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, March 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  
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief  
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  
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services  
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering  
Heather Fredeen, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor K. Balsom called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

## 2. In-Camera Session

### 2.1. **Advice from Officials - Chief Administrative Officer Operational Briefing and Updates**

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

#### **MOTION:**

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

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

#### Briefing/Update No. 1

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Dennis Fraser	Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations

#### Exit

Councillor J. Peddle exited the meeting at 2:40 p.m. and re-entered the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

#### Entrance

Mayor D. Scott joined the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

#### Briefing/Update No. 2

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

#### Briefing/Update No. 3

<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason for Attending</b>
Jamie Doyle	Chief Administrative Officer
Matthew Hough	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Scott Davis	Director, Emergency Management

Recess

A recess occurred between 3:56 p.m. and 4:06 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber and Mayor D. Scott assumed the Chair.

**MOTION:**

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the April 13, 2021 Council Meeting:

"THAT Administration brings forward within 30 days a report and an action plan that can be implemented on an urgent basis to Council regarding social procurement within the Municipality and any updates to the Municipality's Supply Chain Management processes."

Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the April 13, 2021 Council Meeting:

"WHEREAS businesses in Fort McMurray are experiencing economic challenges due to the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic and require an agile environment for successful economic recovery;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo needs a plan with immediate action to address this economic emergency;

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor Don Scott, serve notice of my intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the April 13, 2021, Council Meeting:

- a) THAT Administration work with the Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee, and organizations including the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, to bring forward to Council within 30 days a presentation on a Red Tape Reduction Plan, including but not limited to, updates to the Planning and Development Department's permit application process; and
- b) THAT Administration bring forward to Council, within 30 days, steps that can be implemented from the Red Tape Reduction Plan, with an accelerated implementation period, to improve the permit application processes and response times with the Planning and Development Department."

**MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

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

**4. Consent Agenda**

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

**4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting – March 9, 2021**

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

**4.2. Committee Appointments - Wood Buffalo Development Advisory Committee**

THAT the Committee Appointments as shown on Attachment 1 be approved effective immediately.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Phil Meagher, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

**5. Recognition****5.1. Proclamations**

Mayor D. Scott proclaimed the month of April as Poetry Month.

Mayor D. Scott proclaimed March 31, 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility

## **6. Presentations**

### **6.1. Jamie Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer, re: COVID-19 Public Briefing (Verbal)**

Jamie Doyle Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on COVID-19 noting that infection rates are on the rise and COVID-19 variants are replicating at an alarming rate. Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management indicated that the Municipality is working with Alberta Health Services to set up 20 - 25 Rapid Flow Clinics which would increase the vaccination rate from 400 per day to approximately 2000 per day.

### **6.2. ATCO Gas Line – Draper**

Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering provided an update on the resolution passed by Council on February 23, 2021, requesting that Administration work with ATCO Gas regarding the potential installation of permanent gas lines 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.

D. Warr noted that the Municipality has been in discussion with ATCO Gas regarding the installation of natural gas lines in Draper. As of November 5, 2020, 20-25 Draper residents expressed interest in the project; however, noted that ATCO Gas requires 40 participants for the project to be viable. A total cost of \$7700 would be borne by the customer with 60% of the fee to be paid up front and the remainder due prior to installation. Although ATCO Gas was unable to report on current heating sources, Building Codes has reported that a vast majority of Draper dwellings are currently heated via propane.

Administration confirmed through their presentation that they have provided all necessary information to ATCO Gas to determine design and necessary road alignment requirements. Letters will be sent to Draper residents to determine viability of the project. If the minimum requirement is met, ATCO will begin working on the design with a project timeline of approximately three to six months.

## **7. New and Unfinished Business**

### **7.1. Public Hearing - Backyard Hen Bylaw No. 21/006 and Bylaw 21/07 Land Use Bylaw Amendment Specific to Backyard Hen Pilot Project**

Mayor D. Scott declared the public hearing open at 4:36 p.m.

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, Sabrina Caterini, Manager Bylaw Services and Caitlin Hanly, Legal Services provided a presentation on the proposed Backyard Hen Pilot Project.

The following written submissions were acknowledged for the record:

- Alex Barnes, resident, wrote in support of the Backyard Hen Pilot Project
- Joseph Robb, resident , wrote in support of the Backyard Hen Pilot Project
- Denise Dominie, resident, wrote in opposition of the Backyard Hen Pilot Project

Joseph Robb, resident, spoke to his written submission and indicated support of the proposed Backyard Hen Pilot Project.

Denise Dominie, resident, spoke to her written submission and indicated opposition to the proposed Backyard Hen's Pilot Project and suggested that there should be additional community engagement.

KC Hutchins, resident, spoke in support of the Backyard Hen Pilot Project.

Alex McKenzie, resident, spoke in support of the project; however, specified concerns with provisions of the proposed Bylaw No. 21/006.

Andrew Thorne, resident, submitted written comments regarding concerns with Backyard hens being permitted in the flood plain and provided information received from Dr. Sauvé.

Mayor D. Scott declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:03 p.m.

#### Recess

A recess occurred from 6:03 p.m. to 6:32 p.m.

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

Councillor P. Meagher, put forward the following motion for Council's consideration:

"THAT Bylaw No. 21/006, being the Backyard Hen Bylaw, be read a second time."

Councillor S. Lalonde put forward the following amendment:

"THAT Bylaw No. 21/006 be amended by adding the following as section 8(e):

"satisfy the Licensing authority that the parcel where the hens are kept is not located in a flood hazard area as designated by the Government of Alberta's Awareness Map."

Councillor K. Balsom suggested a friendly amendment to add "or located below 250.9 metres elevation", which was accepted by Councillor S. Lalonde.

The amending motion was then voted on as follows:

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/006 be amended by adding the following as section 8(e):

“satisfy the Licensing authority that the Parcel where the hens are kept is not located in a flood hazard area as designated by the Government of Alberta’s Awareness Map or located below 250.9 metres elevation.”

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DEFEATED [5 TO 6]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Verna Murphy, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Balsom, Lalonde, Murphy, Peddle
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Stroud, Voyageur

Councillor K. Balsom put forward the following amendment:

“THAT Bylaw No. 21/006 be amended by striking section 22 and replacing it with the following:

22. A hen house shall not be located within:
- (a) 2.0 metres of the side or rear property lines of a parcel;
  - (b) 3.0 metres of any dwelling located on the parcel where hens are kept; or
  - (c) 5.0 metres of any other dwelling.”

Councillor M. Allen proposed a friendly amendment to reword sections (b) and (c) as follows:

- “(b) 3.0 metres of any Principal building on the Parcel where the Hens are kept; or
- (c) 5.0 metres of any other Principal building.”

Councillor K. Balsom accepted the friendly amendment.

Council then voted on the amendment as follows:

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/006 be amended by striking section 22 and replacing it with the following:

“22. A Hen house shall not be located within:

- (a) 2.0 metres of the side or rear property lines of a parcel;
- (b) 3.0 metres of any Principal building on the Parcel where the Hens are kept; or
- (c) 5.0 metres of any other Principal building.”

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>DEFEATED [4 TO 7]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Krista Balsom, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sheila Lalonde, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Lalonde
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Inglis, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

The main motion was then voted on.

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/006, being the Backyard Hen Bylaw, be read a second time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Phil Meagher, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Verna Murphy, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Balsom, McGrath, Peddle

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/006 be read a third and final time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Verna Murphy, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Balsom, McGrath, Peddle



**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/007, being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw, specific to Backyard Hens, be read a second time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jeff Peddle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Balsom, McGrath, Peddle

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/007 be read a third and final time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [7 TO 4]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, Meagher, Murphy, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>AGAINST:</b>	Scott, Balsom, McGrath, Peddle

### **7.3. Bylaw No. 21/008 - Amendment to Fees, Rates and Charges 2020 Bylaw to Waive the Annual Business License Fee for Resident Businesses**

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Development Planning spoke to the report indicating that Bylaw No. 21/008 would waive the \$60, 2021 annual business license fee and refunds would be issued to business owners who have already paid this for 2021.

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/008, being a Bylaw to Waive Resident Business License Fees and amend the Fees, Rates and Charges 2020 Bylaw, be read a first time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Claris Voyageur, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Allen, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

Councillor M. Allen put forward the following motion:

“THAT Bylaw No. 21/008 be read a second time.”

Recess

A recess occurred from 7:46 p.m. to 8:01 p.m.

Sultan Zamman, business owner, spoke in support of waiving the 2021 annual business licensing fee.

Dianna de Sousa, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, spoke in support of waiving the 2021 annual business license fee.

Melanie Galea, Discover Fort McMurray, spoke in support of waiving the 2021 annual business license fee.

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/008 be read a second time.

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

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/008 be considered for third and final reading.

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

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 21/008 be read a third and final time.

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

#### 7.4. Wood Buffalo Culture Plan Progress Report

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services and Liana Wheeldon, Executive Director, Arts Council Wood Buffalo, provided an update on the progress of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan and the 2021 municipal priorities and actions for the Plan.

#### MOTION:

THAT the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan Progress Report Presentation be accepted as information.

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

#### 7.5. 2022 Arctic Winter Games Budget

##### Pecuniary Interest

Councillor K. Balsom, declared a pecuniary interest and exited the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Linda Ollivier, Director, Financial Services introduced Nicole Bourque-Bouchier and Melissa Blake, Co-Chairs of the 2022 Arctic Winter Games Host Society, who provided a presentation on the budgetary requirements for the 2022 Arctic Winter Games noting that the budget was prepared prior to the postponement announcement, and that revisions will be required once a new date is announced.

#### MOTION:

THAT the 2022 Arctic Winter Games budget in the amount of \$13,589,022 be approved;

THAT funding in the amount of \$4 million be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to the 2022 Arctic Winter Games Host Society; and

THAT funding in the amount of \$1 million be held in the Emerging Issues Reserve to be allocated to the 2022 Arctic Winter Games Host Society for potential costs related to the restart of operations, subject to a revised budget approved by Council.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [10 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Phil Meagher, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur
<b>PECUNIARY INTEREST:</b>	Balsom

## 7.6. Community Plan on Homelessness: 10-Year Update

### Return

Councillor K. Balsom rejoined the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services provided a presentation on the *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness 2010 - 2020, Heading Home: The Right Thing to Do*, noting that chronic homelessness has been reduced from 90 individuals one-year ago to 30 individuals today.

Tim Richter, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness, spoke to the Municipality's successes and leadership in the effort to end homelessness.

### Exit and Return

Councillor P. Meagher, exited the meeting at 10:13 p.m. and returned at 10:16 p.m.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the Community Plan on Homelessness 10-Year Update Presentation, be accepted as information.

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

## 7.7. 2021-2022 Community Plan on Homelessness Grant Allocation

The administrative introduction of the report before Council was waived.

The following delegates provided an overview of the programs and services that their respective organizations provide to assist in the community's plan to end homelessness and spoke in support of the funding allocation.

- Joy R Flett, Chair of Homelessness Initiative Strategic Committee (HISC), Homelessness Initiative Strategic Committee
- Susan Watson, Program Manager, Community and Housing Initiatives YMCA of Northern Alberta
- Edna Moman, Executive Director, The Salvation Army
- Rosie Keating, Executive Director, Fort McMurray Centre of Hope

A written submission, from Jo-Anne Packham, Executive Director, Wood Buffalo Wellness Society, was read into the record indicating support and appreciation for the grant funding allocation.

**MOTION:**

THAT \$3,915,226 be allocated to the 2021-2022 Community Plan on Homelessness grants as outlined in Attachment 1, dated March 23, 2021.

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

**MOTION:**

THAT agenda items 7.8, 8.1, 8.2 and 9.1, be deferred to the April 13, 2021 Council Meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Verna Murphy, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Scott, Allen, Balsom, Inglis, Lalonde, McGrath, Meagher, Murphy, Peddle, Stroud, Voyageur

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer