

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held via Electronic Communications a combination of video conferencing and teleconferencing, in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Sunday, April 25, 2021, commencing at 5:00 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Phil Meagher, Councillor
Verna Murphy, Councillor

Administration:

Matthew Hough, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Jody Butz, Regional Fire Chief
Scott Davis, Director, Emergency Management
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Megan Langpap, Manager, Strategic Communications
Sonia Soutter, Manager, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor D. Scott called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. and indicated that this meeting is being held in accordance with s. 194(4) and 199 of the *Municipal Government Act*. It was confirmed for the record that written notice was received by two thirds of Council to proceed with the meeting as legislated.

A discussion occurred with respect to the meeting procedure as set out by the Procedure Bylaw. Through consensus, Council relaxed their procedures to provide for the opportunity to hear from anyone during the meeting without restricting organizations to only one opportunity to speak.

2. New Business

2.1. COVID-19 and Impacts on Region

Mayor D. Scott welcomed Indigenous leaders and representatives in attendance and thanked the Athabasca Tribal Council for initiating this dialogue.

Chief Allan Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation and President, Athabasca Tribal Council and addressed Council in relation to the significant outbreak of COVID-19 in the Region. It was recommended that a State of Local Emergency be declared by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo ("RMWB") Council in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and bring awareness to the severity of the situation within the RMWB.

President Ron Quintal, Fort McKay Métis Nation, spoke to concerns with the rising COVID-19 numbers and indicated that a structure of how the collaborative leadership within the RMWB moves forward. It was also identified that industry leaders are important participants in these discussions.

Chief Peter Powder, Mikisew Cree First Nation, echoed comments shared and recommended a prayer be held at the onset of future meetings.

Justin Bourque, Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Willow Lake Métis Nation, provided comment on the benefit of declaring a State of Local Emergency.

Bill Loutitt, Chief Executive Officer, McMurray Métis, echoed concerns raised by previous speakers and offered support for the recommended actions discussed thus far.

Chief Mel Grandjamb, Fort McKay First Nation, spoke to concerns with ongoing industry shutdowns and recommended that a joint action plan between Indigenous Governments and Leadership, Industry and RMWB be enacted to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Chief Allan Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, restated the necessity of declaring a State of Local Emergency.

Chief Vern Janvier, Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, spoke to concerns surrounding the rise in cases and the detrimental impact of COVID-19 on the Region's communities.

Judy Ann Cardinal, Vice President, Fort Chipewyan Métis Association, agreed with the comments of the all the previous speakers, indicating a collaborative approach would be beneficial.

Valerie Quintal, Vice President Conklin Community Association, spoke to impacts on their community from the surrounding camps.

Chief Ron Kreutzer, Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, supported comments shared by the previous speakers and spoke to the need for more information.

Justin Herman, Chief Executive Officer, Chard Métis, expressed concern with respect to the hospital capacity and the effect this may have on the community.

Chief Peter Powder, Mikisew Cree First Nation, restated the need to have an action plan and rose concerns with aviation and the importance of sharing information.

President Ron Quintal, Fort McKay Métis Nation, restated the necessity of declaring a State of Local Emergency.

Point of Order

Councillor K. McGrath called a Point of Order and indicated that he has questions for Administration. Mayor D. Scott overruled the Point of Order and handed the floor back to the next speaker.

President Jim Cardinal, Region 1, Métis Nation of Alberta, indicated support for working with all leaders in the Region and provided support for his involvement in future meetings and discussions.

Councillor Ray Powder, Fort McKay First Nation, echoed comments to keep our communities safe and indicated the need to look at contributing factors and make a collective decision.

Karla Buffalo, Chief Executive Officer, Athabasca Tribal Council, summarized the actions raised by First Nation and Métis leaders throughout this meeting noting the following:

- Request for Council to pass a resolution to affect a State of Local Emergency.
- Municipality has a number of areas where they can influence a signal to the public and other levels of Government on the severity of this matter.
- Declaring a State of Local Emergency provides for the ability to impact travel restrictions.
- Need for collective RMWB leadership to call for an emergency meeting with Federal and Provincial Governments identifying specific actions to advance critical needs in our Region.
- Need to engage industry and identify them as part of solution and advocacy.
- Request for schools to move to virtual learning, although this was just announced for both the Catholic and Public-School Divisions, advocacy to see the Northlands School Division taking these same steps is required.
- Consideration of community curfew and/or other measures as deemed necessary.
- Need for Alberta Health Services to be engaged for intensified resources for vaccination rollout.
- Additional isolation supports as there are currently limited resources within our Region for those residents testing positive for COVID-19.
- Need for rapid test sites and increased social supports.

- Request for immediate action to avoid long term impact to our people, our economy and strain on healthcare system.
- Indigenous leadership are willing to move this forward as a collaborative partner.

Councillor Russell Kaskamin, Mikisew Cree First Nation, restated concerns with the spread of COVID-19 and the impact on the hospital and indicated the priority on passing a motion to declare the State of Local Emergency.

Councillor Melinda Stewart, Fort McKay First Nation, spoke to the number of cases in the Region.

MOTION:

Councillor K. Balsom put forward the following motion for consideration:

THAT the Mayor, in accordance with section 14 of the Emergency Management Bylaw and section 11.3(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) with respect to the most recent outbreak of COVID-19 and variants in the Region.

Councillor M. Allen put forward the following amending motion:

THAT Council direct Administration to quickly engage with AHS and other authorities and bring forward a recommendation of what the most effective means and measures would be to curb this emergency immediately, which could include calling a State of Local Emergency.

Councillor M. Allen withdrew his amending motion upon procedural clarification.

The main motion was then voted on:

MOTION:

THAT the Mayor, in accordance with section 14 of the Emergency Management Bylaw and section 11.3(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) with respect to the most recent outbreak of COVID-19 and variants in the Region

RESULT:	CARRIED [5-4]
MOVER:	Krista Balsom, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Scott, Balsom, Inglis, Stroud, Voyageur
AGAINST:	Allen, Lalonde, McGrath, Peddle
ABSENT:	Meagher, Murphy

Vacating and Assuming the Chair

Mayor D. Scott vacated the Chair at 8:08 p.m. at which time Deputy Mayor K. Balsom assumed the Chair.

MOTION:

THAT a request be made to the Provincial and Federal Governments for an accelerated vaccine distribution for Wood Buffalo.

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

Mayor D. Scott put forward the following motion for consideration:

“THAT an urgent meeting be requested with the Premier and Minister of Health with the aim to reduce the COVID19 trajectory our Region is on.”

Councillor K. McGrath proposed a friendly amendment to include “between Council”. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

Deputy Mayor K. Balsom proposed a friendly amendment to include Federal Ministers and Indigenous Leadership. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion now reads as following:

THAT an urgent meeting be requested between Council and our Indigenous Leadership with the Premier and Minister of Health and Federal Ministers with the aim to reduce the COVID-19 trajectory our Region is on.

Recess and Exits

A recess occurred from 8:20 p.m. to 8:37 p.m. at which time Councillors B. Inglis and J. Peddle disconnected from the meeting.

Following the recess, Mayor D. Scott withdrew his motion and put the following motion forward for consideration:

MOTION:

THAT Mayor and Councillors collaborate with Indigenous Governments of our Region and call for an emergency meeting with the Premier of Alberta, Provincial Minister of Health, Alberta Health Services, Federal Ministers of Health, Public Safety and Indigenous Services, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as Industry Partners, to identify immediate actions to be taken to reduce the COVID-19 numbers in the Region and increase resources for the health of our people.

Councillor M. Allen proposed a friendly amendment to add “urgent”. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

Councillor J. Stroud proposed a friendly amendment to include the Minister of Education. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

Deputy Mayor K. Balsom proposed a friendly amendment to include a public letter outlining concerns. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

Deputy Mayor K. Balsom proposed a friendly amendment to include “anyone else identified by Mayor and Councillors and/or our Indigenous Governments and to remove “collaborate” and replace it with “and”. Mayor D. Scott accepted the friendly amendment.

With the acceptance of the friendly amendments, the motion now reads as follows:

MOTION:

THAT Mayor, Councillors and Indigenous Governments of our Region call for an urgent, emergency meeting with the Premier of Alberta, Provincial Ministers of Health and Education, Alberta Health Services, Federal Ministers of Health, Public Safety and Indigenous Services, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as Industry Partners, and anyone else identified by Mayor and Councillors and/or our Indigenous Governments, to identify immediate actions to be taken to reduce the COVID19 numbers in the Region and increase resources for the health of our people; and

THAT a letter from the collaborative leadership of the Region be sent to both Provincial and Federal Government Officials outlining our concerns with respect to this matter.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor D. Scott resumed the Chair at 8:52 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer

April 25, 2021

Jade Brown,
Chief Legislative Officer
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
9909 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

Pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*, Section 194(4) - Special Council Meetings, Section 199 – Meeting through electronic communications, and Order in Council 99/2020 – Meeting Procedures (COVID19 Suppression) Regulation, we, Council, hereby agree to hold a Special Council Meeting, by way of Microsoft Teams and Teleconferencing, on the 25th day of April 2021, commencing at 5:00 p.m.

Business to be discussed will be:

1. COVID-19 and Impacts on Region

Sincerely,

Attached Written Waiver
D. Scott, QC
Mayor

Attached Written Waiver
M. Allen
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
K. Balsom
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
B. Inglis
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
S. Lalonde
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
K. McGrath
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
P. Meagher
Councillor

V. Murphy
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
J. Peddle
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
J. Stroud
Councillor

Attached Written Waiver
C. Voyageur
Councillor

From: [Mike Allen](#)
To: [Krista Balsom](#); [Jade Brown](#)
Cc: [Mayor and Councillors](#); [Karoline Power](#); [Sonia Soutter](#); [Matthew Hough](#); [Jamie Doyle](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:03:02 PM

I have waive notice

Mike Allen
Ward 1 Councillor
mike.allen@rmwb.ca

From: Krista Balsom <Krista.Balsom@rmwb.ca>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:39:27 PM
To: Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca>
Cc: Mayor and Councillors <Council@rmwb.ca>; Karoline Power <Karoline.Power@rmwb.ca>; Sonia Soutter <Sonia.Soutter@rmwb.ca>; Matthew Hough <Matthew.Hough@rmwb.ca>; Jamie Doyle <Jamie.Doyle@rmwb.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today

Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 25, 2021, at 6:08 PM, Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca> wrote:
>
> Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

From: [Krista Balsom](#)
To: [Jade Brown](#)
Cc: [Mayor and Councillors](#); [Karoline Power](#); [Sonia Soutter](#); [Matthew Hough](#); [Jamie Doyle](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:39:29 PM

Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 25, 2021, at 6:08 PM, Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca> wrote:

>

> Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

From: [Bruce Inglis](#)
To: [Don Scott](#); [Mayor and Councillors](#); [Matthew Hough](#); [Jamie Doyle](#)
Cc: [Jade Brown](#); [Karoline Power](#); [Sonia Soutter](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:39:38 PM

Hi All

With this email I am waiving the notice for meeting and acknowledging I will be present for 5pm Sunday April 25 special meeting.

Bruce

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From: Don Scott <Don.Scott@rmwb.ca>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 1:23:56 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors <Council@rmwb.ca>; Matthew Hough <Matthew.Hough@rmwb.ca>; Jamie Doyle <Jamie.Doyle@rmwb.ca>
Cc: Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca>; Karoline Power <Karoline.Power@rmwb.ca>; Sonia Soutter <Sonia.Soutter@rmwb.ca>
Subject: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today

ATC leadership has requested an urgent discussion on the Pandemic at 5pm today. All of our council has been invited as well as our leadership. A link will be forthcoming from ATC. I have copied Jade in case there are procedural or other concerns.

All the Best
Don Scott

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sheila Lalonde](#)
To: [Jade Brown](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:41:49 PM

Hi Jade
I waive notice provisions
Sheila
Sheila Lalonde
Councillor
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

T 780-743-7011
sheila.lalonde@rmwb.ca
www.rmwb.ca

9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 2K4

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Krista Balsom <Krista.Balsom@rmwb.ca>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:39:27 PM
To: Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca>
Cc: Mayor and Councillors <Council@rmwb.ca>; Karoline Power <Karoline.Power@rmwb.ca>; Sonia Soutter <Sonia.Soutter@rmwb.ca>; Matthew Hough <Matthew.Hough@rmwb.ca>; Jamie Doyle <Jamie.Doyle@rmwb.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today

Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

Sent from my iPhone

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>
> Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

From: [Don Scott](#)
To: [Jade Brown](#)
Cc: [Mayor and Councillors](#); [Karoline Power](#); [Sonia Soutter](#); [Matthew Hough](#); [Jamie Doyle](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:14:50 PM

I confirm I waive notice

Sent from my iPad

From: [keith.mcgrath](#)
To: [Sonia Soutter](#)
Cc: _____
Subject: Wave NOM.
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 4:04:45 PM

External Message - Please be cautious when opening links or attachments in email

I waive notice on the meeting request of mayor council public meeting on April 25th 2021.

I thought was meeting ATC address community health.

I look forward whatever outcomes common for All.

God Bless

Best Regards
Keith McGrath

From: [Jade Brown](#)
To: [Sonia Soutter](#)
Subject: FW: ATC BOD/RMWB Mayor & Council Call for Action to COVID-19
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:13:54 PM

Jade Brown
Chief Legislative Officer | Legislative Services
T: 780-588-4720 | M: 780-714-0179

From: Phil Meagher <Phil.Meagher@rmwb.ca>
Sent: April 25, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca>
Subject: Re: ATC BOD/RMWB Mayor & Council Call for Action to COVID-19

Good afternoon Jade

I agree with waving the notice for a public meeting, good to go I will be join at 5:00 pm

Thanks, phil

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From: [Jeff Peddle](#)
To: [Sonia Soutter](#)
Cc: [Jade Brown](#)
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:36:12 PM

I am waiving notice provisions for today's meeting

Jeff Peddle
Councillor
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo



From: [Jane Stroud](#)
To: [Jade Brown](#)
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 2:40:56 PM

Good afternoon Jade,

Yes I waive the notice provisions” in accordance with s. 194(4) of the MGA as soon as possible.

Thank you
Stay safe
Jane Stroud
Councillor Ward 4

From: [Claris Voyageur](#)
To: [Don Scott](#); [Jade Brown](#)
Cc: [Mayor and Councillors](#); [Karoline Power](#); [Sonia Soutter](#); [Matthew Hough](#); [Jamie Doyle](#)
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today
Date: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:15:16 PM

I waive notice

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From: Don Scott <Don.Scott@rmwb.ca>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 3:14:48 PM
To: Jade Brown <Jade.Brown@rmwb.ca>
Cc: Mayor and Councillors <Council@rmwb.ca>; Karoline Power <Karoline.Power@rmwb.ca>; Sonia Soutter <Sonia.Soutter@rmwb.ca>; Matthew Hough <Matthew.Hough@rmwb.ca>; Jamie Doyle <Jamie.Doyle@rmwb.ca>
Subject: Re: Urgent Discussion with First Nations on Pandemic at 5pm today

I confirm I waive notice

Sent from my iPad