

**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, September 13, 2022, commencing at 6:00 PM.**

**Present:**

Sandy Bowman, Mayor  
Funky Banjoko, Councillor  
Lance Bussieres, Councillor (via MS Teams)  
Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor  
Shafiq Dogar, Councillor  
Allan Grandison, Councillor  
Keith McGrath, Councillor  
Jane Stroud, Councillor  
Loretta Waquan, Councillor (via MS Teams)  
Stu Wigle, Councillor

**Absent:**

Ken Ball, Councillor

**Administration:**

Antoine Rempp, Acting Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Nicole Chouinard, Acting Director, Community and Protective Services  
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer  
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management  
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement  
Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development  
Nasir Qureshi, Acting Director, Engineering  
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works  
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services  
Elliot White, Acting Director, Environmental Services  
Heather Fredeen, Legislative Officer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**2. In-Camera Session**

**MOTION:**

THAT Council close items 2.1 and 2.2 to the public pursuant to sections 23(1) and 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball, McGrath, Waquan

### 2.1. Advice from Officials – Government Relations Briefing

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

Name	Reason for Attending
Antoine Rempp	Acting Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice
Matthew Harrison	Director, Communications and Engagement
John Sparks	Strategic Counsel, National Public Relations

#### Entrance

Councillor K. McGrath entered the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

### 2.2 Advice from Officials and Local Public Body Confidences – Council Dialogue

(in camera pursuant to sections 23(1) and 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Antoine Rempp	Acting Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice

#### Exit and Return

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the Council Chamber at 5:05 p.m. and returned at 5:09 p.m.

#### Entrance

Councillor L. Waquan joined the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

#### Exit and Return

Councillor S. Dogar exited the Chamber at 5:19 p.m. and returned at 5:25 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath exited the Chamber at 5:23 p.m. and returned at 5:27 p.m.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**MOTION:**

WHEREAS at the regular Council meeting of July 12, 2022, both Councillors K. McGrath and L. Waquan were absent;

AND WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* provides that a councillor is disqualified from council if the councillor is absent from all regular meetings held during any period of 8 consecutive weeks starting with the date that the first meeting is missed, unless there are no other regular council meetings during that 8-week period and the absence is authorized by a resolution of council passed before the end of the next regular council meeting, which is September 13, 2022;

AND WHEREAS there were no regular Council meetings during the period of 9 consecutive weeks between the regular Council meeting of July 12, 2022 and the regular Council meeting of September 13, 2022;

AND WHEREAS while there were special meetings of Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Council during this 9-week period, with both Council members being present, these meetings are not considered 'regular' within the provisions of the Act;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo authorizes the absences of Councillors K. McGrath and L. Waquan between the period of July 12, 2022 and September 13, 2022, as warranted.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

Recess

A recess occurred from 5:35 p.m. and 6:03 p.m. at which time the meeting was reconvened in the Chamber.

Prior to adopting the Agenda, Mayor S. Bowman provided remarks regarding the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. It was noted that flags at municipal buildings across the region will continue to be flown at half-mast during the official mourning period and messages of support can be shared via an online book or by visiting the Provincial Government building on Franklin Avenue.

Mayor S. Bowman also extended condolences and support to the families and all those impacted by the attacks that took place at the James Smith Cree Nation and in Weldon, Saskatchewan.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Allan Grandison, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

### **4. Consent Agenda**

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the recommendations contained in items 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 be approved.

#### **4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting – July 12, 2022**

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on July 12, 2022, be approved as presented.

#### **4.2. Minutes of Special In-Camera Council Meeting – August 19, 2022**

#### **MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Special In-Camera Council Meeting held on August 19, 2022, be approved as presented.

#### **4.3. Minutes of Special In-Camera Council Meeting - September 6, 2022**

**MOTION:**

THAT the Minutes of the Special In-Camera Council Meeting held on September 6, 2022, be approved as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**5. Presentations****5.1. Cathy Steeves, Executive Director, United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo re: 2022 United Way Campaign**

Cathy Steeves, Executive Director, United Way, Fort McMurray, and Wood Buffalo (“United Way”) provided an overview of the United Way’s mandate and funding contributions made to local non-profit community groups via fundraising campaigns and donations. Community members and leaders were encouraged to personally contribute, volunteer, and participate in the 2022 United Way campaign.

**6. New and Unfinished Business****6.1. Bylaw No. 22/011 - Committees Bylaw No. 17/024 Amendment Specific to the Establishment of the Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee**

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, introduced the report indicating that the intent of the proposed Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee is to gather information on ongoing challenges experienced by businesses in the Region, and propose solutions to Administration and Council to address challenges.

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 22/011, being an amendment to the Committees Bylaw No. 17/024, specific to establishing the Wood Buffalo Pro-Business Advisory Committee, be read a second time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**MOTION:**

THAT Bylaw No. 22/011 be read a third and final time.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**6.2. Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer**

Mayor S. Bowman provided an overview of the qualifications and experience of the incoming Chief Administrative Officer, Paul Thorkelsson, and thanked the recruitment panel and those who supported Council and Administration during the recruitment process.

Point of Order

Councillor K. McGrath called a Point of Order on Councillor S. Dogar regarding his comments on the selection process. The Point of Order was upheld by Mayor S. Bowman.

Exit and Return

Councillor A. Grandison exited the meeting at 6:44 p.m. and returned at 6:46 p.m.

**MOTION:**

THAT Paul Thorkelsson be appointed as Chief Administrative Officer for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, effective September 26, 2022.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**6.3. Asset Management Cohort**

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, introduced the report noting that the Asset Management Cohort would enhance the Municipality's asset management program and guide fiscally responsible decision making.

**MOTION:**

THAT Administration apply for the Introduction to Asset Management Cohort through Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Municipalities, and Infrastructure Asset Management Alberta;

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer assign staffing resources to participate in the program to advance our municipal asset management program; and

THAT Administration include in the proposed 2023 Operating Budget, funding to support staff travel and accommodations as part of the cohort, should the Municipality's application be approved.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jane Stroud, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

**6.4. 2022 Capital Budget Amendments**

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the report noting that the \$550,000 decrease to the 2022 Capital Budget is due to the cancellation of the Tennis Court Replacement Project in Beacon Hill as a result of public consultation in which residents favored a greenspace rather than replacing the tennis court.

**MOTION:**

THAT the 2022 Capital Budget Amendment as summarized on Attachment 1 (2022 Capital Budget Amendment – Project Cancellation, dated September 13, 2022) be approved; and

THAT the revised Cash Flow of Capital Projects as summarized on Attachment 2 (2022 Capital Budget Amendment – Project Cancellation – Project Cash Flow Summary, dated September 13, 2022) be approved.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

## 6.5. 2022 Q2 Financial Performance Report

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the 2022 Q2 Financial Performance Report noting that the Municipality is expecting a \$7.3 million surplus at year end and is positively positioned for financial sustainability while continuing to meet resident expectations.

### Exits and Returns

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 7:07 p.m. and returned at 7:08 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar and Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 7:09 p.m. and returned at 7:10 p.m.

Through discussions and questions of Council the following items were noted for follow-up:

- Municipal Sustainability Initiative grant amounts and other grant amounts received by the Municipality for the Rural Water and Sewer Servicing and Rural Road Rehabilitation projects, from the inception of the projects to present;
- Debt amounts for the Municipality's subsidiary corporations;

Through further discussion, it was requested that Council be provided with the correspondence from the Government of Alberta related to the construction of the snow dump and correspondence that references snow not being dumped the south of Fort McMurray.

### **MOTION:**

THAT the 2022 Q2 Financial Performance Report be accepted as information.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Keith McGrath, Councillor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Stu Wigle, Councillor
<b>FOR:</b>	Bowman, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ball

### Exits and Return

Councillor A. Grandison exited the meeting at 7:26 p.m. and returned at 7:27 p.m.

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 7:28 p.m.



**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Mayor

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Chief Legislative Officer