

**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, November 22, 2022, commencing at 6:00 PM.**

Present:

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

Administration:

Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, 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
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

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

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

2.1. **Privileged Information - Legal Briefing**

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

Name	Reason for Attending
Paul Thorkelsson	Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice
Keivan Navidi	Manager, Tax and Assessment
Chris Davis	Senior Manager, Legal Services
Greg Plester	External Legal Counsel

Entrance

Councillor K. Cardinal entered the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Recess

A recess occurred from 4:31 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber with Councillor K. Cardinal not in attendance.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

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

Return

Councillor K. Cardinal returned to the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained within items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 be approved.

4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting – November 7, 2022

THAT the Minutes of the Council meeting held on November 7, 2022 be approved as presented.

4.2. Minutes of Special In Camera Council Meeting – November 15, 2022

THAT the minutes of the Special In Camera Council Meeting held on November 15, 2022 be approved as presented.

4.3. Bylaw No. 22/012 - Fees, Rates and Charges 2023 Bylaw

THAT Bylaw No. 22/012, being the Fees, Rates and Charges 2023 Bylaw, be read a first time.

4.4. Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

THAT the Minutes from Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1 - 5, be accepted as information.

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

5. Recognition

5.1. Proclamation - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Mayor S. Bowman proclaimed December 3, 2022 as International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

6. Presentations

6.1. Gaylene Weidlich, Wood Buffalo Community Foundation, re: 2022 Vital Signs

Gaylene Weidlich, Executive Director, Wood Buffalo Community Foundation, presented the 2022 Vital Signs Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, noting that Vital Signs uses local knowledge to measure the vitality of the region. It was also noted that the local data gathered through the program is used to support solutions to improve the quality of life at the community level and requested that Council members support collaboration between community groups and organizations with Vital Signs by sharing available data.

6.2. Matthew Eisentraut re: Rural Addressing

Matthew Eisentraut, resident, spoke to the issue of rural addressing within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, noting the challenges he has faced in using the current addressing system and requested that the Municipality revise its rural addressing system.

Exit and return

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 6:37 p.m. and returned at 6:42 p.m.

Following discussions and questions of Administration, Councillor K. Cardinal submitted the following recommendation for consideration: THAT the request from Matthew Eisentraut regarding Rural Addressing in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo be referred to Administration to review and bring back a report for consideration of Council.

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, provided background information on how the current addressing system was developed, noting the Municipality's limitations and inability to utilize the provincial rural addressing system as the provincial system relies on surveyed townships and range roads which do not exist within the Municipality.

With consent of Council, Councillor K. Cardinal withdrew his motion.

7. **New Business**

7.1. **Tax Relief Request: Everest Canadian Resources**

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, Keivan Navidi, Manager of Assessment and Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services, presented the Everest Canadian Resources Tax Relief Request, noting that the request is to cancel all prior tax arrears and penalties, if the taxes assessed on the producing assets for 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025 are paid in full by December 31, 2025. It was further noted that this request is not in addition to the amounts previously approved with the exception of extra penalties and interest.

Qiping Men, Chief Executive Officer, Everest Canadian Resources, spoke in support of the recommendation.

Exit

Councillor F. Banjoko exited the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT collection of the 2018 taxes owing and associated penalties for late payment on the tax accounts identified in Attachment 1 in the amount of \$157,989, be deferred for a period of 12 months from December 31, 2022; and

THAT collection of the 2019 taxes owing and associated penalties for late payment on the tax accounts identified in Attachment 1 in the amount of \$494,915.34, be deferred for a period of 24 months from December 31, 2022; and

THAT collection of the 2021 taxes owing and associated penalties for late payment on the tax accounts identified in Attachment 1 in the amount of \$236,655, be deferred for a period of 36 months from December 31, 2022; and

THAT taxes or tax arrears and associated penalties in the amount of \$2,556,273.78 be cancelled without further resolution of Council, at the end of the 36-month deferment period, if property taxes for those properties for 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024 and 2025 are paid in full by December 31, 2025.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 1]
MOVER:	Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
SECONDER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Bussieres
ABSENT:	Banjoko

7.2. 2022 Request for Tax and Accounts Receivable Arrears Write-Off

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, spoke to the 2022 Request for Tax and Accounts Receivable Write-Off, noting Council approval is required to write-off arrears in excess of \$3,000 per account, and tax arrears, which are deemed non-collectible.

MOTION:

THAT the Tax and Accounts Receivable Arrears Write-Off, as shown in Attachment 1, in the amount of \$329,389.82, be approved.

Exit and Returns

Councillor A. Grandison exited the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Councillor F. Banjoko returned to the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Councillor A. Grandison returned to the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

RESULT:	CARRIED [9 TO 2]
MOVER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Banjoko, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Ball, Bussieres

7.3. Reserve Bids and Sale Conditions for Tax Sale Properties

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer and Keivan Navidi, Manager, Assessment, presented the Reserve Bids and Sale Conditions for Tax Sale Properties, noting that until the day of the public auction, those properties for which payment agreements are reached with the property owner, will be removed from the list.

MOTION:

THAT the reserve bids and sale conditions be established as listed in Attachment 1, dated November 22, 2022.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
SECONDER:	Ken Ball, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle

Recess

A recess occurred from 7:54 p.m. to 8:08 p.m. at which time Councillors K. Cardinal, S. Dogar and L. Waquan were not in attendance.

7.4. 2022 Q3 Financial Performance Report

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2022 Q3 Financial Performance Report, speaking to the various components of the report being revenue projections, operating expenses, capital project spending, cash and investments, grant and extraordinary events.

Returns

Councillors S. Dogar and L. Waquan returned to the meeting at 8:09 p.m.
Councillor K. Cardinal returned to the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the 2022 Q3 Financial Performance Report be accepted as information.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Stu Wigle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Ken Ball, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Cardinal, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle

8. Councillors' Motions**8.1. Creation of Alberta Provincial Police Service - Councillor K. McGrath**

Councillor K. McGrath spoke to the recommendation, noting that the intent of the motion is for the Municipality to join other Alberta municipalities in a call to action to the Provincial Government to support the RCMP and ensure that consultation with Indigenous communities occurs before considering the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service.

MOTION:

WHEREAS the Wood Buffalo region and the Province of Alberta are rebuilding from the impact of significant economic stressors over the past six years; and

WHEREAS the region has enjoyed exemplary service from the RCMP as Alberta's police service of choice; and

WHEREAS crime rates are improved over the long-term through improving community access to mental health and addictions support services and through justice system reform, not through policing; and

WHEREAS in the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action Report, police and justice system reform **MUST** be implemented with the full consultation of our Indigenous communities and Peoples;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo joins the 96 municipalities and stakeholder groups in a call to action to the Government of Alberta regarding the creation of an Alberta Provincial Police Service.

RESULT:	CARRIED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Keith McGrath, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Dogar, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Cardinal

8.2. Flood Mitigation - Councillor K. Ball

Councillor K. Ball spoke to the recommendation, noting that its intent is to look at options available in terms of flood mitigation levels, specifically with respect to the Reaches which have not yet been completed and the cost differential of constructing flood mitigation measures to a level of 250.5 m rather than 250.9 m.

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 8:43 p.m. and returned at 8:44 p.m.

Bryce Kumka, resident, spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Exit

Councillor K. McGrath disconnected and left the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Councillor K. Ball put forward the following for consideration:

"WHEREAS Administration has received previous direction from Council to construct flood mitigation measures in the Lower Townsite to a protection level that would keep our community safe for a 1 in 200-year flood event. This elevation has been determined to be 250.9 m above sea level which includes engineering safety factors; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has mandated that we protect our residents from flood by constructing flood mitigation measures that keep our community safe for a 1 in 100-year flood event. This elevation has been determined to be 250.5 m above sea level which includes engineering safety factors; and

WHEREAS the Fort McMurray flood of 2020 reached an elevation of 248.9 m above sea level and is considered to be a 1 in 40-year flood event; and

WHEREAS Administration sought input from residents on options to complete flood mitigation measures to a 1 in 200-year flood protection for Reach 6 and work is underway to complete Reaches 2, 3 ,4, 5 and Taiga Nova South to a 1 in 200-year flood event through various projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration examine the cost differential of constructing to 250.5 m vs. 250.9 m for the aforementioned outstanding reaches and report back to Council with the findings as soon as possible.”

Councillor S. Wigle suggested a friendly amendment to remove any reference to Reach 5 in the preamble, which was accepted by Council.

MOTION:

WHEREAS Administration has received previous direction from Council to construct flood mitigation measures in the Lower Townsite to a protection level that would keep our community safe for a 1 in 200-year flood event. This elevation has been determined to be 250.9 m above sea level which includes engineering safety factors; and

WHEREAS the Province of Alberta has mandated that we protect our residents from flood by constructing flood mitigation measures that keep our community safe for a 1 in 100-year flood event. This elevation has been determined to be 250.5 m above sea level which includes engineering safety factors; and

WHEREAS the Fort McMurray flood of 2020 reached an elevation of 248.9 m above sea level and is considered to be a 1 in 40-year flood event; and

WHEREAS Administration sought input from residents on options to complete flood mitigation measures to a 1 in 200-year flood protection for Reach 6 and work is underway to complete Reaches 2, 3 ,4 and Taiga Nova South to a 1 in 200-year flood event through various projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration examine the cost differential of constructing to 250.5 m vs. 250.9 m for the aforementioned outstanding reaches and report back to Council with the findings as soon as possible.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Ball, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Cardinal
ABSENT:	McGrath

8.3. Eid-al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) - Councillor F. Banjoko

At the request of Councillor F. Banjoko and with the consent of Council, this item was deferred to January 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer