

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, December 13, 2022, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Kendrick Cardinal, Councillor
Shafiq Dogar, 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 4:04 p.m.

2. In-Camera Session

MOTION

THAT Council close items 2.1 and 2.2 to the public pursuant to sections 19(1) and 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

2.1 Advice from Officials - Procurement Overview: Current and Future State
 (in camera pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*)

Name	Reason for Attending
Paul Thorkelsson	Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Legislative Advice/Clerk
Rachel Orser	Director, Supply Chain Management

Entrance

Councillor L. Waquan entered the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Due to time constraints and with no concerns from Council, Item 2.2 did not proceed and will be brought forward in the New Year.

Recess

A recess occurred between 5:16 p.m. and 6:05 p.m., at which time the meeting was reconvened in public in the Council Chamber.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

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

4. Consent Agenda

Councillor J. Stroud requested that Item 4.6 - Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained in Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5, be approved.

4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting - November 22, 2022

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on November 22, 2022, be approved as presented.

4.2. Minutes of Special Council Meeting - November 29, 2022

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on November 29, 2022, be approved as presented.

4.3. Bylaw No. 22/013 - Reserve Designation Removal From Lot 4MR, Block 11, Plan 7920314 (Anzac)

THAT Bylaw No. 22/013, being a bylaw to remove the reserve designation within Lot 4MR, Block 11, Plan 7920314, be read a first time; and

THAT the required Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 22/013 be held on January 24, 2023.

4.4. 2022 Council's Excellence Awards

THAT the recommended recipients for the Council's Excellence Awards outlined on Attachment 1 be approved.

4.5. 2023 Board and Committee Appointments

1. THAT the Committee Appointments as outlined in Attachment 1 be approved effective January 1, 2023.
2. THAT Councillor Funky Banjoko be appointed to the Vehicle For Hire Committee until the 2023 Council Organizational Meeting.

3. THAT Councillor Stu Wigle be appointed to the Wood Buffalo Pro Business Advisory Committee until December 31, 2023.

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

5. Presentations

5.1. **Kevin Weidlich, Dianna de Sousa, Jay Notay and Beverley Tjarera re: Workforce Immigration & Support Program (WISP)**

Kevin Weidlich, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism, Diana de Sousa, Regional Labour Market Committee and Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, Jay Notay, Keyano College and Beverley Tjarera, YMCA of Northern Alberta, provided an overview of the Workforce Immigration & Support Program (WISP), noting that the groups presenting are collaborating to meet the program goal to attract and retain newcomers to become long-term residents and contribute to the Region's workforce.

Exit and Return

Councillor L. Waquan exited the meeting at 6:28 p.m. and returned at 6:30 p.m.

6. Unfinished Business

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

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, and Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, presented the proposed Fees, Rates and Charges 2023 Bylaw, noting that fees and charges are levied to assist in funding the provisions of goods, services and access to municipal facilities, including, but not limited to fees related to cemeteries, ice rental, transit, and utilities.

MOTION:

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

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Grandison, McGrath, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Stroud
ABSENT:	Cardinal, Dogar

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 22/012 be read and third and final time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
SECONDER:	Ken Ball, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Grandison, McGrath, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Stroud
ABSENT:	Cardinal, Dogar

6.2. Dog Park in Abasand

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, and Stephen Fudge, Manager, Parks, presented background information on the request to develop a dog park in Abasand, noting there are currently three off-leash dog parks in the south side of Fort McMurray while there is only one located in the north side. Administration is proposing to continue exploring locations for a new park in the north side of Fort McMurray.

MOTION:

THAT Administration continue exploring locations for the new off-leash dog park on the north side of Fort McMurray, specifically sites not adjacent to already developed lots, in preparation for the 2024 budget cycle.

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

7. New Business

7.1. Council's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Update

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, presented Administration's approach to implementing Council Strategic Plan; highlights of the progress within 2022, and how future reporting will occur.

MOTION:

THAT Administration's approach to implementing Council's Strategic Plan be approved.

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

7.2. Tax Relief Request for Plan: 3969ET Block: 3 Lot: 7

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer and Keivan Navidi, Manager, Assessment Services, presented the Tax Relief Request for Plan 3969ET, Block 3, Lot 7, noting that Administration is recommending that the request for relief be denied as the request does not meet the provisions of Council's Property Tax Relief Policy, and adding that since the report was originally prepared, the amount due has increased from \$90,074.60 to \$91,875.47.

Delegation

Jama Ali and Mohamed Tarrabin spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Recess

A recess occurred between 8:12 p.m. and 8:38 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the request for relief of cleanup costs and penalties, as caused by the 2016 Horse River Wildfire, in the amount of \$90,071.60, for the property legally described as Plan: 3969ET Block: 3 Lot: 7 (the "property"), be approved.

RESULT:	CARRIED [8 TO 1]
MOVER:	Stu Wigle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, McGrath, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
AGAINST:	Grandison
ABSENT:	Cardinal, Dogar

7.3. Potential Land Sale of Lots 1 - 4, Block 13, Plan 616AO (Downtown, Fort McMurray)

Brad McMurdo, Director, Planning and Development, and Brynn Armstrong, Manager, Land Administration, presented a report on the potential land sale of municipality-owned lots, noting that this matter is a result of an unsolicited offer to purchase received for Lots 1-4, Block 13, Plan 616AO.

Delegation

Bryce Kumka, downtown business owner, spoke in support of the land sale.

Councillor S. Wigle put forward the following recommendation for consideration:

THAT Administration be directed to transfer Lots 1-4, Block 13, Plan 616AO in the downtown area of Fort McMurray (Attachment 1) to SMG Builders, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Attachment 2.

Mayor S. Bowman suggested a friendly amendment to add a caveat that construction start by April 2024, which was accepted by Councillor S. Wigle.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to transfer Lots 1 - 4, Block 13, Plan 616AO in the downtown area of Fort McMurray (Attachment 1) to SMG Builders, subject to the terms and conditions outlined in Attachment 2, and that construction start by April 2024.

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

7.4. Council Appointed Advisory Board/Committee Meeting Minutes

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and questions were asked of Administration related to the Advisory Committee on Aging's Committee Minutes. Following conversation, and by consent of Council, this item was received as information.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer