

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, February 28, 2023, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Loretta Waquan, Councillor

Administration:

Paul Thorkelsson, Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Chris Booth, Acting Director, Planning and Development
Nina Caines, Acting Director, Public Works
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis Fraser, Director, Indigenous and Rural Relations
Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement
Nasir Qureshi, Acting Director, Engineering
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor S. Bowman served notice of his intent to bring forward the following motion for Council's consideration at the March 14, 2023 Council Meeting:

"THAT Administration explore and bring forward options to coincide with consideration of the 2024 Capital Budget, for the potential development of an additional snow dump to be located south of the Athabasca River Bridge."

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

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

3. Consent Agenda

THAT the recommendations contained in items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 be approved.

3.1. Minutes of Council Meeting – February 14, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 14, 2023 be approved as presented.

3.2. Minutes of Special Council Meeting – February 15, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on February 15, 2023 be approved as presented.

3.3. Appointment of Chair - Assessment Review Boards

THAT Sean Schaffer be appointed as Chair of the Assessment Review Boards, effective immediately to December 31, 2024.

3.4. Council-Appointed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

THAT the Minutes from Council-Appointed Committee Meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1-7, be accepted as information.

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

4. Recognition

4.1. **Proclamation - Alberta Francophonie Month**

Mayor S. Bowman declared March 2023 as Alberta Francophonie Month.

Entrance

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

5. Unfinished Business

5.1. **Public Hearing - Bylaw No. 23/002 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment - Text amendment to the "C1 - Community Commercial District" specific to Lot 4, Block 65, Plan 782 2691 and to Section 93B.1(c) of the Land Use Bylaw 99/059**

Mayor S. Bowman declared the Public Hearing open at 6:04 p.m.

Chris Booth, Acting Director, Planning and Development, introduced Bylaw No. 23/002, which proposes an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw to allow the development of a Cannabis Retail Store specifically on Lot 4, Block 65, Plan 782 2691, known as 700 Signal Road; as well as allowing Cannabis Retail Stores to be located on lands abutting parcels with medium and high-density residential uses on the main floor.

There were no written submissions received for the Public Hearing.

Verbal Submission

Gene Dobie, President and Karen Puga, Recorder, Barrington Condo Association spoke in opposition to Bylaw No. 23/002.

Mayor S. Bowman declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:51 p.m.

Second and Third Readings - Bylaw No. 23/002 – Land Use Bylaw Amendment – Text amendment to the “C1 - Community Commercial District” specific to Lot 4, Block 65, Plan 782 2691 and to Section 93B.1 (c) of the Land Use Bylaw 99/059

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 6:53 p.m. and returned at 6:56 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 23/002, being both a Land Use Bylaw amendment specific to Lot 4, Block 65, Plan 782 2691; and a general amendment to Section 93B.1(c) of the Land Use Bylaw, be read a second time.

RESULT:	CARRIED [6 TO 4]
MOVER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
SECONDER:	Allan Grandison, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Banjoko, Cardinal, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud
AGAINST:	Ball, Bussieres, Dogar, Wigle
ABSENT:	Waquan

MOTION:

THAT Bylaw No. 23/002 be read a third and final time.

RESULT:	DEFEATED [5 TO 5]
MOVER:	Funky Banjoko, Councillor
SECONDER:	Jane Stroud, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Cardinal, Grandison, McGrath, Stroud
AGAINST:	Ball, Banjoko, Bussieres, Dogar, Wigle
ABSENT:	Waquan

Exit

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Recess and Return

A recess occurred from 7:08 p.m. to 7:24 p.m. at which time Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting.

6. New Business**6.1. Community Plan on Homelessness 2023 - 2024 Grant Allocation**

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, presented the Community Plan on Homelessness grant allocation report, noting that the Municipality receives funds from the Federal and Provincial Governments which are distributed to non-profit organizations whose goals and objectives align with the municipal, provincial and federal objectives to end homelessness.

Delegate

Michele Taylor, Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee (HISC), spoke in support of the funding allocations.

MOTION:

THAT \$5,267,728 be allocated to the 2023-2024 Community Plan on Homelessness grants as outlined in Attachment 1, dated February 28, 2023.

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

6.2. 2023 Public Art Work Plan

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services and Sharon Heading, Chair, Public Art Committee, presented the 2023 Public Art Work Plan, noting that the mandate of the Wood Buffalo Public Art Plan is to strengthen community identity and sense of place through the creation and development of public art in the Region. It was further presented that funding in the amount of \$214,000 is required to support the Public Art Wood Buffalo 2023 Work Plan.

MOTION:

THAT the Public Art Wood Buffalo 2023 Work Plan, provided as Attachment 1 to the Report dated February 28, 2023, be accepted as information; and

THAT \$214,000 be drawn from the Public Art Reserve Fund to support the Public Art Wood Buffalo 2023 Work Plan.

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

6.3. Wood Buffalo Wayfinding Strategy

Matthew Harrison, Director, Communications and Engagement and Nadia Power, Manager, Public Engagement, presented the Wood Buffalo Wayfinding Strategy, noting that this is an overarching strategy intended to be applied to the entire Region over time, while further wayfinding plans will be developed for specific neighbourhoods and communities throughout the Region.

Exit and Return

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 8:21 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the Wood Buffalo Wayfinding Strategy, dated January 2023, be adopted as an overarching guiding document to support the development of wayfinding plans in the neighbourhoods and communities of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 8:26 p.m. to 8:40 p.m.

6.4. 2022 Q4 Capital Budget Fiscal Amendments Update

Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2022 Q4 Capital Budget Fiscal Amendments Update, noting that only one capital project, being Service Connections (Rural Water and Sewer Servicing), was amended in the fourth quarter, with no change to the overall capital project budget.

MOTION:

THAT the 2022 Q4 Capital Budget Fiscal Amendments update, as summarized on Attachment 1 (2022 Capital Budget Fiscal Amendments, dated December 31, 2022), be accepted as information.

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

7. Councillors' Motions

7.1. Ice Surfaces - Northside Twin Arena - Councillor K. Ball

Councillor K. Ball spoke to the motion, noting concerns raised by users with respect to the challenges faced in accessing ice times within the current facilities available to them, impeding the groups' growth and development.

MOTION:

WHEREAS there is a significant shortage of available ice times for users within our community; and

WHEREAS there are currently four ice surfaces available, and studies have shown that Fort McMurray is short a minimum of two ice surfaces to properly service a community of our size; and

WHEREAS many organizations are currently restricted on how many participants can register due to ice shortage and as a result, some potential users are being turned away; and

WHEREAS this prohibits organizations in our community to grow and provide adequate services to our residents.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed to review the design from 2016 for the Northside Twin Arena at Abraham's Landing and bring forward a report that includes the following information:

- analysis of total cost of ownership (capital/construction costs, costs related to land, and operating costs);
- analysis of the approved 2023 Capital Budget that includes projects that would need to be moved to future years to accommodate a project of this nature; and
- a capital budget amendment should Council wish to consider adjusting the approved 2023 Capital Budget to include this project.

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

7.2. Bus Stop - Quarry Ridge - Councillor K. McGrath

Councillor K. McGrath spoke to the motion, noting that a bus stop at this location is required as it is a safety concern for riders getting off the bus from the Discovery Centre stop and having to cross Highway 63.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward for Council's consideration at the March 28, 2023 Council meeting a report on the feasibility of a bus stop at the Quarry Ridge Sub-division located at the southwest corner of Highway 63 and Mackenzie Boulevard junction, such report to take into consideration any ridership, safety, and security requirements.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer