

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 26, 2023, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Present:

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

Administration:

Jody Butz, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Amanda Haitas, Acting Director, Planning and Development
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Laurie Farquharson, Chief Financial Officer (via MS Teams)
Antoine Rempp, Director, Environmental Services
Keith Smith, Director, Public Works
Susan Trylinski, Director, Legal Services
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:31 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:	Stu Wigle, Councillor
SECONDER:	Shafiq Dogar, Councillor
FOR:	Bowman, Ball, Banjoko, Dogar, Grandison, Stroud, Waquan, Wigle
ABSENT:	Bussieres, Cardinal, McGrath

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
Jody Butz	Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice
Susan Trylinski	Director, Legal Services
Caitlin Hanly	Municipal Legal Counsel

Entrances, Exits and Returns

Councillor L. Bussieres entered the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath disconnected from the meeting at 4:37 p.m. and rejoined at 4:41 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath disconnected from the meeting at 4:52 p.m. and rejoined at 4:53 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath disconnected from the meeting at 4:54 p.m.

Councillor K. Cardinal entered the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath rejoined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Councillor L. Waquan exited the meeting at 5:11 p.m. and returned at 5:12 p.m.

Councillor L. Waquan exited the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Councillor K. Cardinal exited the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Councillor S. Dogar exited the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Councillor K. McGrath exited the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

Recess

A recess occurred from 5:32 p.m. to 6:06 p.m., at which time Councillors F. Banjoko, K. McGrath, J. Stroud and S. Wigle were absent.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended by removing Item No. 6.1 Cathy Steeves, United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo, re: Annual Campaign; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

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

4. **Consent Agenda**

MOTION:

THAT the recommendations contained in items 4.1., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4., 4.5., 4.6. and 4.7. be approved.

4.1. Minutes of Council Meeting - September 12, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on September 12, 2023, be approved as presented.

4.2. Minutes of Special Council Meeting - September 19, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on September 19, 2023, be approved as presented.

4.3. Bylaw No. 23/018 - Land Use Bylaw Text Amendment to the City Centre General Regulations

THAT Bylaw No. 23/018, being a text amendment to Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059, specific to the City Centre General Regulations, be read a first time; and

THAT the required public hearing be held on October 24, 2023.

4.4. Bylaw No. 23/019 - Land Use Bylaw Amendment to update the Definition of Funeral Home/Crematorium and adding it as a use to the BI- Business Industrial District

THAT Bylaw No. 23/019, being a text amendment to the Land Use Bylaw No. 99/059, specific to Funeral Homes / Crematoriums, be read a first time; and

THAT the required public hearing be held on October 24, 2023.

4.5. Bylaw No. 23/020 - Committees Bylaw Amendment - Community Investment Program Approval Committee

THAT Bylaw No. 23/020, being an amendment to the Committees Bylaw No. 17/024, specific to amending Appendix K and delegating grant approval authority to the Community Investment Program Approval Committee for 2024 for the following grant programs: Community Sustaining Grant, Community Capital Grant, Community Impact Grant, and Games Legacy Grant, be read a first time.

4.6. Bylaw No. 23/021 - Committees Bylaw Amendment - Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee

THAT Bylaw No. 23/021, being an amendment to the Committees Bylaw No. 17/024, specific to the establishment of the Homelessness Initiatives Strategic Committee, be read a first time.

4.7. Council-Appointed Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

THAT the Minutes from Council-Appointed Committee Meetings, as outlined in Attachments 1 - 13, be accepted as information.

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

5. Recognition

5.1. Proclamation - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Mayor S. Bowman proclaimed September 30, 2023 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

6. Presentations

6.1. Cathy Steeves, United Way Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo, re: Annual Campaign

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Flood Mitigation Update

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, Nasir Qureshi, Senior Manager, and Maureen Nakonechny, Program Manager, Engineering, presented an update on the current status and costing of the permanent flood mitigation measures for the various reaches, including the next step in reporting and project controls.

Entrances

Councillor F. Banjoko joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.
 Councillor J. Stroud joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.
 Councillor S. Wigle entered the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Delegation

Dr. R.M.C. (Bob) Jones, resident, spoke to concerns with Reach 5 flood mitigation measures, suggesting that the height of the sheet pile wall around Edgewater Court and Riverwalk Villas complexes, be lowered to improve sight lines for residents, and to alleviate residents’ concerns regarding security and privacy, there be no walking trail on the top of the wall.

A discussion occurred with respect to Reach 5, and Administration answered questions of Council.

Exit and Return

Councillor L. Bussieres exited the meeting at 6:50 p.m. and returned at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the Flood Mitigation Update be accepted as information.

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

7.2. Draper Household Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program Policy FIN-420 Amendment

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management, and Chris Davis, Senior Manager, Legal Services, provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the Draper Household Flood Risk Reduction Program Policy, which is intended to ensure that the Program is available to all eligible homes, noting that the anticipated maximum cost of the Program would be \$953,400.

MOTION:

THAT the amended Draper Household Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program Policy, FIN-420, dated September 26, 2023, as outlined on Attachment 1, be approved; and

THAT \$953,400 be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to fund the Draper Household Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program Policy, FIN-420.

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

8. New Business

8.1. 2026 Alberta Summer Games - Funding Request

Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, and Michelle Toner, Chair, 2026 Alberta Summer Games Bid Committee, provided an overview of the 2026 Alberta Summer Games Funding Request, noting that the bid package has been submitted, including numerous letters of support from various groups, clubs, organizations, and elected officials in the Region. It was indicated that announcement of the successful host community is scheduled for November 2023.

MOTION:

THAT \$2,600,000 be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to the 2026 Alberta Summer Games Host Society in accordance with the proposed Games budget overview should Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo be the successful host community.

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

Recess and Returns

A recess occurred from 7:35 p.m. to 7:48 p.m., at which time Councillors K. Cardinal and S. Dogar were absent. Councillors K. Cardinal and S. Dogar returned to the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

8.2. EMS Service Delivery in the Region - Ground Ambulance

Patricia Penton, Assistant Deputy Chief, Regional Emergency Services, provided an overview of the current status of the agreement with Alberta Health Services (AHS) regarding the detailed service delivery of Emergency Medical Services for ground ambulance within the region, noting that the agreement is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2023. It was advised that negotiations are ongoing with AHS, and that Administration recommends that the Municipality continue to negotiate an agreement that includes full cost recovery for the service provided, terms and conditions that reflect a partnership relationship, and the continued use of the Municipality's integrated service model to ensure operational flexibility and efficiencies.

MOTION:

THAT Administration be directed to extend the existing Ground Ambulance Agreement with Alberta Health Services to continue to provide regional emergency services with continuity and stability in the region; and

THAT Administration be directed to continue the negotiation of a new Ground Ambulance Agreement with Alberta Health Services that pursues full cost recovery, improved agreement terms and conditions, and continuation of integrated Emergency Medical Services in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

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

9. Councillors' Motions

Vacating Chair

Mayor S. Bowman vacated the Chair at 8:20 p.m., at which time Councillor L. Waquan assumed the Chair.

9.1. Federal Inquiry into the matter of Moccasin Flats - Mayor S. Bowman

Mayor S. Bowman spoke to the motion, noting that recommitting to a 2019 Council resolution calling for a Federal Inquiry into Moccasin Flats, to which no response has been received to date, would support commemorating, documenting, and raising awareness to ensure significant events impacting relationships with Indigenous Peoples are recognized, remembered, and honoured.

Delegation

John Malcolm and Ian Peach, Wood Buffalo First Nation Elders Society, spoke in support of the proposed motion to request a Federal Inquiry into the matter of Moccasin Flats, indicating that the Society would be willing to participate in any inquiry.

MOTION:

WHEREAS Moccasin Flats is located on the southern bank of the Snye River, at the confluence of the Athabasca and Clearwater Rivers and is part of Nistawoyou, a Cree word meaning “where three rivers meet”; and

WHEREAS Indigenous residents who lived there were forced to move from their homes to make way for urban development; and

WHEREAS on July 10, 2018, the 2017-2021 Council unanimously approved a resolution to support and collaborate with local Indigenous Peoples in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo to reconcile Moccasin Flats and called upon the Government of Alberta to undertake a public inquiry into Moccasin Flats; and

WHEREAS the 2017-2021 Council passed a resolution on March 12, 2019, calling upon the Federal Government for a Federal Inquiry into the matter of Moccasin Flats; and

WHEREAS letters were sent from the Municipality to the Federal Government in 2019 calling for a Federal Inquiry into Moccasin Flats and to date no responses have been received; and

WHEREAS Council’s 2021-2025 Strategic Plan includes a commitment to advancing the Municipality’s response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, and a commitment to commemorating, documenting, and raising awareness to ensure significant events impacting relationships with Indigenous Peoples are recognized, remembered, and honoured.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo recommit to the resolution of Council in 2019 and call upon the Federal Government for a Federal Inquiry into the matter of Moccasin Flats and that the Mayor be authorized, on behalf of Council, to send a letter to the Federal Government to support this request.

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

Resuming of Chair

Mayor S. Bowman resumed the Chair at 8:46 p.m.

Recess

A recess occurred from 8:48 p.m. to 8:59 p.m.

10. In-Camera Session

MOTION:

THAT Council close item 10.1 to the public pursuant to section 24(1) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

10.1. Advice from Officials - Chief Administrative Officer Briefing and Update

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

Name	Reason for Attending
Jody Butz	Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Jade Brown	Clerk/Legislative Advice
Deanne Bergey	Director, Community and Protective Services
Kari Donnelly	Director, Human Resources
Laurie Farquharson	Chief Financial Officer (via MS Teams)
Antoine Rempp	Director, Environmental Services
Susan Trylinski	Director, Legal Services
Dennis Warr	Director, Engineering
Nasir Qureshi	Senior Manager, Engineering

Recess

A recess occurred from 9:55 p.m. to 9:57 p.m. at which time Councillor S. Dogar was not in attendance.

Return

Councillor S. Dogar returned to the meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Exit

Administration exited the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the meeting reconvene in public.

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

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer