

Approved Minutes of a Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, AB, on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: M. Blake, Mayor
M. Allen, Councillor
D. Blair, Councillor
M. Byron, Councillor
S. Clarkson, Councillor
L. Flett, Councillor (via teleconferencing)
S. Germain, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
J. Vyboh, Councillor

Absent: G. Janvier, Councillor
R. Rebus, Councillor

Administration: K. Kloss, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
S. Kanzig, Chief Legislative Officer
D. Elliott, Deputy CAO
B. Broomfield-Andrews, Legislative Assistant
A. Wojtkiewicz, Recorder/Legislative Assistant

Call to Order

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Opening Prayer

The Mayor asked everyone to join her in Prayer.

Agenda

10-037 Moved by Councillor Meagher:

- THAT the Agenda be amended by adding Item 6.1 under Reports – 2009 Capital Budget Amendment – Solid Waste Office/Shop, and deleting item #4 – Implementation of Commercial Land Use Study; and
- THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Council Meeting – February 9, 2010

10-038 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 9, 2010 be approved as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

2. Mr. Gary Mack, Alberta Transportation re: Update on Highway 63/Parsons Access Road Interchange

Mr. Gary Mack, of ISL Engineering and Land Services, provided an update on Highway 63 and Parsons Access Road Interchange. The update referred to design and planned construction of the Highway 63 and Parsons Access Road interchange and Highway 686 construction to the west.

10-039 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the presentation made by Mr. Gary Mack regarding the Highway 63/Parsons Access Road Interchange be received as information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Dr. Brent Friesen, Medical Officer of Health, and Ms. Judy Corcoran, Public Officer of Health re: Update on the H1N1 Pandemic Response

Dr. Brent Friesen, Medical Officer of Health, and Ms. Judy Corcoran, Public Officer of Health addressed Council to provide an update to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo of H1N1 Pandemic Response and to identify challenges and successes.

MacDonald Island Park was acknowledged for its hospitality and was identified as the perfect site for future immunization clinics.

10-040 Moved by Councillor Allen that the presentation made by Dr. Brent Friesen and Ms. Judy Corcoran regarding the H1N1 Pandemic Response be received as information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Delegations

Mr. Jim Rogers came forward to express his concerns about public access venues and road naming.

10-041 Moved by Councillor Allen that the presentation made by Mr. Jim Rogers regarding public access venues and road naming be accepted as information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentations

4. Mr. Dennis Peck, General Manager, Planning and Development re: Implementation of Commercial and Industrial Land Use Study

This item was deleted from the Agenda.

Reports

5. Community Identification Committee – Naming of Municipal Roadways

Councillor Meagher put forward the following recommendation: “That Council select one of the following names for the road being constructed through the Lower Townsite: Dunvegan Drive; Furber Freeway; Steamboat Boulevard; Marine Drive; N.T. Landing Drive; Grahame Drive; Nistawoyou Road.”

Discussion took place as to consider the word “Prairie” as well as other historical names associated with the area and the following referral was recommended.

10-042 Moved by Councillor Germain that the motion be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was explained that the intent of the referral is to enable Council to further discuss the naming of the subject roadway.

10-043 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the roadway from MacDonald Drive to the Suncor Energy Leisure Centre at MacDonald Island Park be named C.A. Knight Way.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Council Expense Summary – January 1 – December 31, 2009

10-044 Moved by Councillor Allen that the Council Expense Summary for the period January 1 – December 31, 2009 be received as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.1 2009 Capital Budget Amendment – Solid Waste Office/Shop

Mr. Kevin Scoble, Director, Environmental Services Department, gave an overview of the Solid Waste Office/Shop capital project scope required to accommodate increase in costs due to departmental re-organization involving staff addition and collection fleet relocation as part of the South Municipal Facility project.

10-045 Moved by Councillor Allen that the Capital Budget be amended as identified in Attachment 1 (Capital Budget Amendment Request – Solid Waste Office/Shop, dated February 23, 2010).

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Blake, Clarkson, Flett, Germain, Meagher, Vyboh
Opposed: Byron

10-046 Moved by Councillor Allen that the provisions of Attachment 1 (Capital Budget Amendment Request - Solid Waste Office/Shop, dated February 23, 2010) remain confidential pursuant to sections 16 and 25 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A., 2000 c. F-25, as amended.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Blake, Flett, Clarkson, Meagher
Opposed: Byron, Germain, Vyboh

New and Unfinished Business

7. Notice of Motion re: Revenue, Reserve and Debt Management Policy (*Councillor Vyboh*)

The following Notice of Motion was put forward at the February 9, 2010 Council meeting by Councillor Vyboh: “That Administration be directed to bring forward a revenue, reserve and debt management policy to help guide deliberations for a strategic, timely and proactive budget planning process.”

Councillor Vyboh introduced the original Notice of Motion, provided a rationale and then presented the following revised motion for Council’s consideration:

“That Administration be directed to conduct a review and update Council in the development of a reserve and debt management policy to help guide deliberations for a strategic, timely and proactive budget planning process: and

That the review be completed prior to adoption of the 2010 Capital Budget.”

Extensive dialogue occurred followed by a request to vote on both provisions separately.

10-047 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration be directed to conduct a review and update Council in the development of a reserve and debit management policy to help guide deliberations for a strategic, timely and proactive budget planning process.

CARRIED

For: Blair, Byron, Flett, Germain, Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Blake, Clarkson, Meagher

10-048 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the review be completed prior to adoption of the 2010 Capital Budget.

DEFEATED

For: Blair, Byron, Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Blake, Clarkson, Flett, Germain, Meagher

8. Notice of Motion re: Minister of Health Meeting Request (*Councillor Vyboh*)

The following motion was put forward at the February 9, 2010 Council meeting by Councillor Vyboh:

10-049 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Administration be directed to draft a letter to the Minister of Health requesting a meeting to discuss the status and go forward plan of the Long Term Health Care facility.

A lengthy debate occurred about communication between the new Minister of Health and Health authority as there is a need for long term care facility. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Fort McMurray's MLA as a long time advocate of this issue.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blair, Byron, Clarkson, Flett, Germain, Meagher, Vyboh

Opposed: Blake

9. Notice of Motion re: Inclusion of a Performance/Convention Centre in the 2010 Capital Budget (*Councillor Germain*)

Councillor Germain served a Notice of Motion on February 9, 2010 Council meeting and presented the following motion for consideration: "That Administration be directed to include a major performance centre and convention centre in the 2010 capital budget for pre-design, partnership development, and site assessment."

Councillor Germain presented background information that supported his motion including, economy boosters, event hosting, partnership opportunities and quality of life.

A brief discussion followed, at which time Councillor Germain requested and received Council's support to modify the motion to address concerns raised. The revised motion reads as follows:

10-050 Moved by Councillor Germain that Administration be directed to conduct a feasibility study for a major performance centre and convention centre, to be funded from the operating budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

Notice of Motion re: Disclosure of Municipal Expenditures

Councillor Byron served the following Notice of Motion which will be brought forward at the next regular Council meeting for consideration:

“THAT Administration be directed to make public, information regarding municipal expenditures on projects, otherwise protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, after the business risk has been removed.”

Notice of Motion re: Addition of Programs to 2010 Tax Rate Bylaw

Councillor Byron served the following Notice of Motion which will be brought forward at the next regular Council meeting for consideration:

“THAT Administration be directed to add to the 2010 Tax Rate Bylaw, coming before Council in the coming months, the following two programs:

- (i) That would permit seniors to deduct from their property taxes \$300.00; and
- (ii) That would permit local business property owners to deduct from their property taxes \$1,000.00 for beautification initiatives, such as outdoor artwork, or creating a “meeting place” for our community.”

Notice of Motion re: Review of Municipal Parking Policy

Councillor Vyboh served the following Notice of Motion which will be brought forward at the next regular Council meeting for consideration:

“THAT Administration be directed to review the municipal parking policy regarding:

1. Downtown area;
2. Residential areas; and
3. A dialogue with oil companies and their contractors to discuss the potential of creating staging areas where company trucks can be parked so as to alleviate the pressure on residential street parking.”

Updates**Mayor’s Update**

Mayor Blake reported on the following:

- Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Committee
- Alberta Primetime
- Olympic Torch Relay Volunteer Recognition
- Olympic Opening Celebration
- 30th Chinese New Year Banquet
- Fort McMurray Oil sands Classic Novice Tournament
- Roots of Empathy program
- Reopening of Vista Ridge
- Chamber of Commerce luncheon
- Meeting with Administration, Oil Sands Developers Group and Oil Sands Secretariat
- Fort McMurray Tax and Accounting 40 years celebration
- The Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Clarkson reported on the following:

- Inter-City Forum on Social Policy
- Reopening of Vista Ridge

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Winter Road Operations
- Fort Chipewyan Annual Fishing Derby
- Fort Chipewyan Lodge destroyed by fire

Councillor Allen reported on the following:

- Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society
- Chamber of Commerce luncheon
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation
- Canwest Canspell National Spelling Bee

Councillor Vyboh reported on the following:

- Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Regional Aboriginal Recognition Awards
- Reopening of Vista Ridge
- Communities in Bloom Committee

Administrative Update

Deputy CAO, D’arcy Elliott, advised that staff is in the final stages of 2010 Capital Budget preparations. He commended municipal staff for their efforts and dedication, as well as their commitment to serving the community.

Adjournment

10-051 Moved by Councillor Blair that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer