

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, AB, on Tuesday, August 26, 2008, 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
S. Germain, Councillor
G. Janvier, Councillor
P. Meagher, Councillor
R. Rebus, Councillor
J. Vyboh, Councillor

Administration: R. Burkard, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Greig, Deputy CAO – Corporate
W. Holodniuk, Acting Deputy CAO - Operations
A. Rogers, Acting Chief Legislative Officer
A. Hawkins, Legislative Officer
B. Broomfield, Legislative Assistant
L.J. Johnson, Legislative Assistant

Call to Order

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

Opening Prayer

The Mayor asked everyone to join her in Prayer.

Agenda

08-206 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – July 8, 2008

08-207 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 8, 2008 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Public Hearing – July 8, 2008

08-208 Moved by Councillor Meagher that the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 8, 2008 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Delegations

3. Mr. Sean Graham re: Request to Ban Plastic Bags

Mr. Graham advised that he has lived in Fort McMurray for over 16 years and is in attendance on behalf of himself and other students of Father Mercredi High School who wish to ban plastic bags from Fort McMurray. Plastic bags seem harmless, and are useful and convenient. The costs of this convenience are many; for example, aquatic and other wildlife think plastic bags are food, ingest them and end up perishing, or become entangled in the bags and are trapped until their death. Plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to break down, but do not break down into organic matter, but smaller and smaller pieces, which releases microscopic toxins into the soil, then eventually moves into and up the food chain. Mr. Graham advised he is aware of a recycling program being implemented by the Municipality, but believes this is not the answer to deal with the amount of plastic bags. Mr. Graham provided statistics with regard to the costs of the manufacturing and recycling of plastic bags versus the benefits of using cloth bags. In the process of compiling this petition, his research has shown that paper bags are no better than plastic bags, and provided statistics with regard to the manufacture, transport, and landfill space used by paper bags. The use of plastic bags has already been banned within places in Canada, the United States, and other parts of the world. Mr. Graham concluded his presentation by presenting a petition with 2268 signatures in support of this initiative, and a request to receive a response from Council and Administration within one month. Mr. Graham responded to questions from Council with respect to his initiative.

Arrival

Councillor Byron joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

08-209 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Mr. Sean Graham's presentation regarding a request to ban plastic bags be received as information and that the matter be referred to Administration for review and preparation of a report for Council's consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Mr. Vaughn Jessome, Vice Chairperson, and Mr. Cody Johnston, Stepping Stones Youth Home Advisory Committee re: Youth Home Funding

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Jessome were in attendance to present a proposal for youth home funding and to request funding in the amount of \$200,000 for a three year pilot project. Mr. Johnston

advised he sits on the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth, as well as the Stepping Stones Youth Home Advisory Committee, and a variety of other community based organizations. Mr. Johnston provided a brief overview of the Stepping Stones Committee which has formed partnerships with local stakeholders such as the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth, Family and Community Support Services, the local RCMP, Mix 103 radio, Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation, the Dugout Youth Drop-In Centre, and other local businesses. Homeless youth under the age of 18 in this area have limited or no access to programs and services provided by organizations that offer such programs and services. A comparison of other regions in Alberta that offer local services for youth demonstrates that a severe shortage of these services exist for youth in Fort McMurray. Stepping Stones Youth Program focuses on the premise that every youth deserves a safe and healthy home. In May 2007, the Homelessness Initiatives Steering Committee conducted a survey which 2000 local youth responded to. The survey concluded that at that point in time, 65 youth self-identified as homeless due to addictions and/or violence in their homes. Stepping Stones Youth Home is a necessity for this community. In closing, Mr. Johnston, on behalf of the youth in this community and the Mayor's Advisory Council on Youth, thanked Council for taking this proposal into consideration.

Mr. Jessome further commented that with regard to the 2007 survey results, 60 to 70% of these youth were also attending school and held part or full time jobs. Wood's Homes, based in Calgary, has been engaged to develop a program to provide much needed services for the local youth. This initiative for an operational model was adapted from other street services programs in Calgary. To date, \$100,000 in funding has been received from Child and Family Services Authority and \$300,000 from the United Way of Fort McMurray, for the next three years. Mr. Jessome advised that the Province is considering this initiative as a pilot project as well. The overall concept of this initiative is the reintegration of youth back into the home. In closing, Mr. Jessome requested that Council consider this funding request in a time sensitive manner.

A short discussion occurred with respect to the timelines for financial contributions. It was noted that in order for Wood's Homes to come to this area they need a three year commitment and it is hoped that key stakeholders continue to be involved with this initiative after the initial three year term.

08-210 Moved by Councillor Clarkson that the presentation regarding Youth Home Funding be received as information; and that it be referred to Administration for preparation of a report for consideration at the Council meeting scheduled for September 9, 2008.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other Delegations

Mr. Steve Cook, UDI-Wood Buffalo on the issue of Off-site levy Bylaw amendment advised that UDI-Wood Buffalo has assisted in the development of this bylaw with Administration and

the consultants. Under the Municipal Government Act, no taxes or levies can be assessed until there is a bylaw in place in order to provide the revenue necessary for infrastructure, and to provide certainty to the development and building industry. Mr. Cook thanked the Municipality for the opportunity to participate in this process, and advised that UDI-Wood Buffalo supports this bylaw.

The following delegations are related to the Saline Creek Area Structure Plan – Proposed Arterial Roadway Alignment.

Helen Rogers, Waterways resident, advised she is in attendance to speak on behalf of Mr. Jim Rogers, Waterways resident. Ms. Rogers commented that the recent “Future Forward” exercise could have explored several possible futures for Fort McMurray with respect to different options for traffic infrastructure.

Byron Bailey, Fort McMurray Rotary Club, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and advised that the Rotary Club is supportive of the proposed road coming into Saline Creek through the Draper area. Mr. Bailey advised that the previous Director of Planning had indicated that the Area Structure Plan approved in 2007 was flexible with regard to a road that would not either go around or through the Rotary Golf Course. There is a need to have a road connecting to the airport, and a need to have an emergency access, but Mr. Bailey pointed out that there are alternatives for a route that can be viable. In closing, Mr. Bailey noted that they are not opposing a road, but are opposing a recommendation coming forward that goes against what the previous Council instructed Administration in 2007.

Marco Paulichen, Draper Road Residents Society, advised that overall the response from Draper residents has been favourable for the proposed arterial roadway alignment. It means that Draper Road will be upgraded from what it is now. Some concerns of residents are the increase in the amount of traffic, and the lack of services such as water and gas. Mr. Paulichen suggested that while the road is being constructed, consideration should be given to installing a water main or at least individual water lines while there is equipment available on site. In closing, Mr. Paulichen thanked Council for their time.

Tom Holland, resident, was in attendance to present a question regarding Option 1. In his review of Option 1, he noticed that there were no studies with regard to uranium contamination by the railway yard in Waterways. He questioned if the road is going to be built over the top of the uranium contamination, will the uranium be cleaned up, and where is the cost noted in the proposal for this.

Tony Punko, resident, advised he is in attendance to speak on behalf of the Waterways Residents Association. It is their view that this road alignment not be approved. He noted that the report presented by Planning and Development lacks in a lot of detail. Information requested by them has never been provided to them. If a road of the magnitude proposed is constructed through Waterways it will be too close to residents. Mr. Punko provided, as an alternative to Option 1 with regard to traffic congestion, building a ring road on the east or west side of Waterways that would tie in with Beacon Hill, Abasand, Thickwood and Timberlea that would

join up to Highway 63 north of the City. In closing, Mr. Punko pointed out that it seems no one is listening to Waterways residents, who do not want to see dangerous goods or big trucks going through their community.

Grant Henry, resident, indicated opposition to the proposed road alignment, and commented that the impact of the proposed road will affect the quality of life in Waterways. Mr. Henry implored Council not to approve the proposed arterial roadway alignment.

Janet Doherty, resident, indicated opposition to the proposed road alignment, and advised she has an avid interest in the parks and roads in Waterways. Ms. Doherty pointed out that residents do not want more traffic going through their community. The value of their homes will depreciate by virtue of the road, and a sound abatement wall will change the way people interact within the community.

Carman Sutton, resident, indicated opposition to the proposed road alignment, and advised that he enjoys living in Waterways because of the quiet and there is less traffic. There are other options that the Municipality can consider such as building a road across the river, or a ring road option.

Ruth Kleinbub, resident, advised she is also the Vice Chair for the Clearwater River Committee and indicated opposition to the proposed road alignment. Ms. Kleinbub advised that the Clearwater River is the only river in Alberta to be declared a heritage river by the Canada Heritage River Program.

Recess

A recess occurred from 7:25 p.m. to 7:46 p.m.

Reports

5. Saline Creek Area Structure Plan – Proposed Arterial Roadway Alignment

Mr. Dennis Peck, General Manager, Planning and Development, Mr. Jamal Ramjohn, Dillon Associates, and Amanda Owens, Planner were in attendance to address the proposed arterial roadway alignment.

Mr. Ramjohn presented a presentation with regard to the history of approval of the Saline Creek Area Structure Plan. The presentation covered the history of approval options, mitigative measures and several of the overall recommendations. The presentation concluded with a rationale for Administration's recommendation that the proposed arterial roadway alignment is the most feasible route, and this is clearly demonstrated in the feasibility study, traffic impact assessment, and their evaluation sheet.

In closing, Mr. Peck, Mr. Ramjohn, and Nelson Contreras, Engineering Technician, provided clarification in response to questions from Council.

The following motion was presented by Councillor Rebus: “That the proposed arterial roadway alignment presented in the Saline Creek Plateau Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 07/058 be approved.”

A lengthy discussion occurred during which concerns were expressed and discussed with regard to the proposed arterial roadway alignment. Discussion also occurred with respect to how not approving this bylaw would impact the overall project, why Waterways residents did not receive all of the information requested by them, dangers of uranium contamination, uranium clean up, river impact study, bridge crossing at Hangingstone Creek, improved access alignment to the lower townsite, the parkway speed limit, the amount of space between walkways and roadways, aesthetics, community impact assessment, dangerous good route, traffic congestion, possible east-west loop road, road grades, traffic impact assessment, the materials that can be used in the construction of a noise berm, mitigation measures, budget amounts, and road costs.

Councillor Vyboh then presented the following amendment to the original motion.

08-211 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that this report be referred back to Administration with the intent to discuss with the Oil Sands Secretariat to look at the option of creating a loop road east to west across the Athabasca River.

A short discussion ensued with respect to the length of time which would be required to build a loop road, the costs associated with building a loop road, the topography behind Beacon Hill and Abasand, and the necessity of a connector road.

Voting then occurred on the amendment.

DEFEATED

For: Blair, Byron, Flett, Janvier,
Vyboh

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

Discussion then resumed with respect to the concerns discussed following the original motion, after which Councillor Vyboh presented the following motion.

08-212 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that Option 5 - a proposed connection to Mackenzie Industrial Park, presented in the Saline Creek Plateau Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 07/058 be approved.

DEFEATED

For: Byron, Flett, Janvier, Vyboh

Opposed: Allen, Blair, Blake,
Clarkson, Germain,
Meagher, Rebus

A short discussion on the original motion followed, after which Councillor Byron presented the following motion.

08-213 Moved by Councillor Byron that Option 4 - the Saline Creek Valley Road be proposed as presented in the Saline Creek Plateau Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 07/058 be approved.

DEFEATED

For: Byron, Janvier, Vyboh

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

Discussion on concerns discussed following the original motion followed, after which Councillor Janvier presented the following motion.

08-214 Moved by Councillor Janvier that this report be referred back to Administration and that further options be considered.

DEFEATED

For: Blair, Byron, Flett, Janvier,
Vyboh

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

Discussion resumed on the original motion, which reads as follows:

08-215 Moved by Councillor Rebus that the proposed arterial roadway alignment presented in the Saline Creek Plateau Area Structure Plan Bylaw No. 07/058 be approved.

CARRIED

For: Allen, Blake, Clarkson,
Germain, Meagher, Rebus

Opposed: Blair, Byron, Flett, Janvier,
Vyboh

Recess

A recess occurred from 10:17 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

6. Council Expense Summary – January 1 – June 30, 2008

08-216 Moved by Councillor Vyboh that the Council Expense Summary for the period January 1 - June 30, 2008 be received as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Return

Councillor Rebus joined the meeting at 10:32 p.m.

Bylaws

7. Bylaw No. 08/039 – Debenture Borrowing Bylaw – In Vehicle Computers

08-217 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 08/039, being a debenture borrowing bylaw for the In Vehicle Computers, be read a second time.

Brian Makey, Regional Deputy Fire Chief, was in attendance and responded to questions from Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

08-218 Moved by Councillor Allen that Bylaw No. 08/039 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Bylaw No. 08/041 – Off-Site Levy Bylaw Amendment

08-219 Moved by Councillor Clarkson that Bylaw No. 08/041, being an Off-Site Levy Bylaw Amendment, be read a second time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

08-220 Moved by Councillor Meagher that Bylaw No. 08/041 be read a third and final time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

New and Unfinished Business

There was no new or unfinished business.

Updates

Mayor's Update

Mayor Blake reported on the following:

- Anzac Tour with Administration
- International Air Rally
- Pacific Northwest Annual Summit
- Heritage Day Opening Ceremonies
- Interplay Festival
- Athabasca Tribal Council 2nd Annual Gathering in Fort McKay

- Alberta Secretariat on Action on Homelessness
- Interview for FCM
- Sister Mary Phillips – top 25 schools
- Passing of Fort McMurray Today Editor Michael Hall

Reporting of Councillors on Boards and Committees

Councillor Byron reported on the following:

- Quality of Life for Seniors Meeting

Councillor Allen reported on the following:

- Little League Provincial Tournament
- Communities in Bloom BBQ
- Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation Annual General Meeting

Councillor Vyboh reported on the following:

- Canadian Environmental Grant Group,
- Meeting with Minister Danyluk on Mayor's behalf

Councillor Blair reported on the following:

- Air Show in Fort Chipewyan
- Wellness Camps
- Water Conference
- Upcoming Town Hall Meeting in Fort Chipewyan on September 17, 2008

Councillor Clarkson reported on the following:

- AUMA Building Communities Meeting

Councillor Janvier reported on the following:

- Special Meeting in Conklin
- Anzac Tour
- Community Meeting – Rural Services Delivery
- Community Meeting in Janvier
- Tour of Janvier and Conklin

Councillor Meagher reported on the following:

- Athabasca Tribal Council Tournament
- Miskanaw Golf Tournament
- Communities in Bloom National Convention
- Sports Hall of Fame Banquet

Adjournment

08-221 Moved by Councillor Blair that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Mayor

Chief Legislative Officer