



Report Number: PFC2020-0828

Meeting: Combined Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2020 July 20

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: DISASTER RELIEF AND MITIGATION

Sponsoring Councillor(s): GEORGE CHAHAL

WHEREAS on 13 June 2020, northeast Calgary was devastated with a catastrophic hail and rain storm that caused substantial damage to public and private infrastructure including businesses, homes, and automobiles;

AND WHEREAS with a current estimated total insurable loss of over \$1.2 billion, this storm was one of the costliest natural disasters in Canadian history;

AND WHEREAS the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) recently estimated that this storm produced over 70,000 insurance claims with an approximately equal allocation between automobile and property claims, with about 1% of these claims being uninsurable;

AND WHEREAS a recent study showed that Alberta accounts for more than 60% of Canada's insured damage due to severe weather, and that both the frequency and severity of such storms has increased over the last decade and will likely continue to increase in the years ahead;

AND WHEREAS since 2010, Alberta has endured some of the most devastating and costly severe storms and natural disasters in Canadian history, including the 2013 Southern Alberta floods (~\$3.5 billion total insurable loss), the Fort McMurray wildfires (~\$4 billion), and the June 2020 hail and rain storm that devastated northeast Calgary (~\$1.2 billion);

AND WHEREAS Hailstorm Alley, the area between High River, Red Deer, and Rocky Mountain House, is one of the worst areas in the world for damaging hail produced by thunderstorms;

AND WHEREAS increasing temperatures, rising ocean levels, and more frequent droughts, floods, forest fires, and severe storms will require public and private sector collaboration on solutions that will make our neighborhoods and communities more sustainable and resilient;

AND WHEREAS the public and private sectors must work together on strengthening standards for building codes and building materials for property, which will mitigate costs related to severe storms and natural disasters in the long term;

AND WHEREAS a report by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that every \$1 that government spends on mitigation projects, such as elevating homes at risk of flooding, improving storm water management systems, or strengthening buildings against earthquakes, reduces future costs by an average of \$6;

AND WHEREAS the private insurance industry collects and uses sophisticated data sets, including third-party data from bodies such as Environment Canada, to create algorithms and predictive tools that supplement disaster mitigation efforts and future collaboration between the public and private sector,

allowing for a more in-depth and comprehensive detailed disaster mitigation approach for all stakeholders which would reduce overall costs and make life better for all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary's Climate Resilience Strategy outlines The City's strategies and actions to 1) reduce our contributions to climate change by improving energy management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), and 2) implementing risk management measures to reduce the impact of extreme weather events and climatic changes on infrastructure and services (adaptation), and identifies our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target to be an 80% reduction in city-wide emissions below 2005 levels by 2050;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has already caused extreme difficulty for many Calgarians, both financially and psychologically.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) Council directs City Administration to:
 - a. Report directly to the 14 September 2020 Combined Meeting of Council with a cost estimate and recommended funding source for the actions contained in this notice of motion that cannot be accommodated within existing budgets and workplans;
 - b. Immediately expedite any building, demolition or development permits related to the severe storm on 13 June 2020 and waive any permit fees for any repairs or alterations attributed to this event on permit applications received prior to 30 June 2021, and prepare any necessary fee schedule amendments for approval;
 - c. Engage development and building industry stakeholders – including but not limited to other governmental bodies, BILD Calgary Region, and Calgary Real Estate Board (CREB) – to comprehensively examine building and planning standards including building codes and material standards to make new construction and building alterations more climate resilient and sustainable, while taking into consideration housing affordability and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures, and to use this information to inform advocacy to the Minister of Municipal Affairs on potential amendments to the Provincial Building Codes, with a report back to Council by Q1 2021;
 - d. Conduct a comprehensive debrief of The City's (including our partners and other levels of government) response to the severe storms in June 2020 including but not limited to the alert system/warnings, emergency response, overland flooding, public and (where feasible) private infrastructure, roadways, minor/major stormwater systems, catch basins, and smart technology including sensors, with a detailed report and recommendations back to Council by Q1 2021;
- 2) Council requests that the Mayor write a letter to the federal and provincial governments advocating for:
 - a. immediate relief including interest free loans, tax credits, and rebate programs to cover out of pocket expenses for residents and businesses affected by this disaster that are not covered by private or public programs including insurance, and,
 - b. incentives to support a more resilient and sustainable building product in new construction and building alterations, and,
 - c. to advocate for a full review of the provincial Disaster Relief Program (DRP) and the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) to ensure these programs are equitable, fair, and better coordinated to address the more frequent and more severe weather patterns that are predicted in the future.