

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting

Meeting #: R7/2021
Date: April 06, 2021
Time: 4:12 pm
Location: City Hall, Courtenay, BC, via video/audio conference

Attending:

Mayor: B. Wells, via video/audio conference
Councillors: W. Cole-Hamilton, via video/audio conference
D. Frisch, via video/audio conference
D. Hillian, via video/audio conference
M. McCollum, via video/audio conference
W. Morin, via video/audio conference
M. Theos, via video/audio conference

Staff: T. Kushner, Interim CAO, via video/audio conference
W. Sorichta, Corporate Officer, via video/audio conference
I. Buck, Director of Development Services, via video/audio conference
J. Nelson, Director of Financial Services, via video/audio conference
K. O'Connell, Director of Corporate Support Services, via video/audio conference
S. Saunders, Director of Recreation, Culture, and Community Services, via video/audio conference
K. Shaw, Director of Public Works Services, via video/audio conference
M. Fitzgerald, Manager of Development Planning, via video/audio conference
A. Berard, Manager of Financial Planning, Payroll and Business Performance, via video/audio conference
R. Matthews, Executive Assistant/Deputy Corporate Officer, via video/audio conference
E. Gavelin, Network Technician, via video/audio conference

Due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 emergency, the City of Courtenay with the authority of Ministerial Order No. M192 Local Government Meetings & Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Order No. 3 implemented changes to its open Council meetings.

In the interest of public health and safety, and in accordance with section 3(1) of Ministerial Order No. 3 M192, in-person attendance by members of the public at Council meetings will not be permitted until further notice. Council meetings are presided over by the Mayor or Acting Mayor with electronic participation by Council and staff via live web streaming.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1.1 Adopt March 15th, 2021 Regular Council meeting minutes (0570-03)

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Frisch

THAT the March 15th, 2021 Regular Council meeting minutes be adopted.

Carried

1.2 Adopt March 29th, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes (0570-03)

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Frisch

THAT the March 29th, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes be adopted.

Carried

1.3 Adopt April 1st, 2021 Special Council meeting minutes (0570-03)

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Frisch

THAT the April 1st, 2021 Special Council meeting minutes be adopted.

Carried

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. DELEGATIONS

4. STAFF REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

VARY AGENDA

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Frisch

THAT Council vary the order of the April 6th, 2021 Regular Council agenda so that item 4.2.1 Development Permit with Variance No. 2004 - 4847 North Island Highway (Comox Valley Dodge) (*Under 4.2. Development Services*) is received before 4.1 Nuisance Property - 1655 20th Street (*Under 4.1 CAO Legislative Services*).

Carried

4.2.1 Development Permit with Variance No. 2004 - 4847 North Island Highway (Comox Valley Dodge) (3060-20-2004)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By McCollum

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report, “Development Permit with Variance No. 2004 - 4847 North Island Highway (Dodge)” Council support approving OPTION 1 and proceed with issuing Development Permit with Variance No. 2004 with the modifications specified in this report.

Carried

4.1 CAO and Legislative Services

4.1.1 Nuisance Property - 1655 20th Street (4020-20)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “Nuisance Property - 1655 20th Street” Council approve OPTION 1 and declare 1655 20th Street a “Nuisance” pursuant to the Nuisance Abatement and Cost Recovery Bylaw No. 2987, 2019, and authorize Staff to record and charge for municipal services, including policing required to abate nuisance activities.

Carried

Amandio Santos, property owner of 1655 20th Street, joined the meeting via audio conference to answer questions of Council and provide comments in response to the nuisance declaration.

4.2 Development Services

4.2.2 Works and Services Development Variance Permit No. 2004 - 4847 North Island Highway (Comox Valley Dodge) (3060-20-2004)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report, “Works and Services Development Variance Permit No. 2004 - 4847 North Island Hwy (Dodge)” Council approve OPTION 1 and approve Development Variance Permit No. 2004 with the modifications specified in this report.

Carried

4.2.3 Zoning for Urban Agriculture (0640-20/3360-01)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT the April 6th, 2021 staff report “Zoning for Urban Agriculture” be received for information.

Carried

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Morin

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “Zoning for Urban Agriculture” Council approve OPTION 2 and direct staff to prepare the necessary bylaw amendments to permit urban agriculture in the City based on the results of the 2017 LUSH Valley Food Action Society survey.

Carried

4.3 Financial Services

4.3.1 2021 - 2025 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3032 (1705-20)

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Hillian

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “2021-2025 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw 3032” Council endorse OPTION 1 and approve the 2021-2025 Consolidated Financial Plan; and

THAT Council proceed to first, second and third reading of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3032, 2021.

Carried

4.3.2 Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association (DCBIA) - 2021 Budget and Tax Levy Request (1971-20)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association - 2021 Budget and Tax Levy Request” Council approve OPTION 1 to approve the DCBIA 2021 Budget and Tax Levy request in the amount of \$60,000.

Carried

4.3.3 2021 Tax Rates Report (1970-02)

Moved By Frisch
Seconded By Hillian

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “2021 Tax Rates Report” Council approve a Residential Tax Class rate of 2.9890 and a Commercial tax rate multiplier of 3.50 in order to generate property tax revenues to cover the budgeted expenditures identified in the 2021 - 2025 Consolidated Financial Plan.

Carried

4.4 Public Works Services

4.4.1 2021 Mile of Flowers Program (5830-20)

Moved By Hillian
Seconded By McCollum

THAT based on the April 6th, 2021 staff report “2021 Mile of Flowers Program” Council approves OPTION 1 and direct staff to proceed with the 2021 Mile of Flowers Program with a staff-only installation compliant with COVID-19 pandemic WorkSafeBC Regulations and Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Guidelines.

Carried

5. EXTERNAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

6. INTERNAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

7. REPORTS/UPDATES FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS INCLUDING REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

7.1 Councillor Hillian

Councillor Hillian participated in the following events:

- Kus-kus-sum Blessing Ceremony
- Comox Valley Social Planning Society meeting re: Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Comox Valley Sewage Commission Agenda Review meeting
- Community to Community Forum with K’ómoks First Nation (KFN)
- Comox Valley Regional Hospital District Executive Board meeting

- Meeting with Island Health Mental Health & Substance Use Services re: Comox Valley Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team
- Comox Valley Sewage Commission meeting
- Comox Valley Water Committee meeting
- Comox Valley Recreation Commission meeting
- CVRD Board meeting (3 Total)
- Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board meeting
- Meeting with Elected Officials regarding men's health issues
- Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital Board meeting
- Comox Valley Community Justice Centre Board of Directors meeting
- Kus-kus-sum Site Visit and Interview re: Commencement of Site Restoration Work
- K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) Chief & Council meeting with CVRD
- Official Community Plan (OCP) Age-Friendly Stakeholder Engagement session
- Fraser River Estuary Co-Governance webinar
- Fortis BC Presentation: Climate Action Partners Program

Councillor Hillian mentioned that members of Council have been receiving letters from the public urging Council to object to the restrictions put in place by the Provincial Government due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillor Hillian reiterated that Council continues to follow the advice of the provincial health experts and that Council is dedicated to the safety of City staff and the general community therefore will not be taking a stand against the Provincial Health Orders. Councillor Hillian acknowledged the tremendous challenge that people and businesses are continuing to bear but is his hope that the community can continue to follow the Provincial Health Orders and keep our community safe.

7.2 Councillor Theos

Councillor Theos mentioned that the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) Courtenay Branch will be moving ahead with improvements to the facility this year; the improvements scheduled for 2020 were postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillor Theos also mentioned that Rosemary Bonanno, Executive Director, VIRL, recently announced her retirement.

7.3 Mayor Wells

Mayor Wells reviewed his attendance at the following events:

- Presented to the Comox Valley Rotary Club re: 2021 City of Courtenay Update
- Interview with Decafnation re: the woodstove industry

8. RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

8.1 In Camera Meeting

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Theos

THAT a Special In-Camera meeting closed to the public will be held April 6th, 2021 at the conclusion of the Regular Council Meeting pursuant to the following subsections of the *Community Charter*:

- 90 (1) (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- 90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- 90 (1) (f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;
- 90 (1) (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- 90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Carried

8.2 Councillor McCollum Resolution - Government of Canada - Call for Toxic Drug Supply Action Plan (0470-20/0430-20)

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

WHEREAS the toxic drug supply crisis is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death about every two hours on average and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020);

WHEREAS other countries have significantly reduced drug-related fatalities with reforms such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply and decriminalization for personal use;

WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests “decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use”; and,

WHEREAS the toxic drug supply crisis rages, showing few signs of abating;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request that the Government of Canada:

- a. declare the toxic drug supply crisis a national public health emergency; and
- b. immediately seek input from the people most affected by this crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive, Pan-Canadian toxic drug supply action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of legal reforms that other countries have implemented to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use.

Carried

New motion:

Moved By Theos

Seconded By McCollum

THAT further to the October 21st, 2019 and April 6th, 2021 resolutions of Council referencing the toxic drug supply crisis in British Columbia and Canada;

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to the Ministry of Mental Health & Addictions, Ministry of Health, and Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting a meeting to discuss challenges in our City related to the toxic drug supply crisis and options for community resources, support and safer alternatives for people at risk.

Carried

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 City of Prince George - Letter to Minister of Health - Opioid Crisis and Call for Overdose Action Plan (0470-20/0430-20)

The correspondence dated March 17th, 2021 from Mayor Lyn Hall, City of Prince George, to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, House of Commons, regarding the opioid crisis and calling upon the Government of Canada to implement a National Overdose Action Plan, was received for information.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BYLAWS

12.1 For First, Second and Third Reading

12.1.1 2021 - 2025 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3032

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By McCollum

THAT "2021 - 2025 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3032" pass first, second, and third reading.

Carried

12.2 For Final Adoption

12.2.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2977, 2020 (2355 Mansfield Drive)

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By McCollum

THAT "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 2977, 2020" be finally adopted.

Carried

12.2.2 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3009, 2020 (1550 Willemar Avenue)

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3009, 2020" be finally adopted.

Carried

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By McCollum

THAT the meeting now adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Corporate Officer

Adopted this 19th day of April, 2021

Mayor