

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 17, 2003 AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor McRae, Councillors Mealey, Price, Lord, Solda and Patterson.

EXCUSED: Councillor Chopra

1. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor McRae called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Mealey/Patterson

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

The Acting City Manager introduced the topics for this meeting and outlined that City Council, at the regular meeting of November 10, 2003, directed a \$35,000 contribution to Tourism Promotion for the year 2005, for in kind services of the Tall Ships event. This expenditure is to be reflected in the Five Year Financial Plan. He indicated that such changes will be recorded but the working papers will not be amended until the completion of the budget process.

2. Departmental Budgets

2.1 Engineering and Public Works

The Acting City Engineer provided an outline of the departments and their operating budgets as indicated in the Five Year Financial Plan.

Responding to a question from Mr. Dusty Miller, the Acting City Engineer explained that the cost of aggregate production includes the contract fees for the crushing and screening of all aggregate. This is not undertaken by the City's Public Works.

In response to the question about the age of the City's sewer lagoon, the Acting City Manager stated that he would investigate this matter and report back to Council.

In response to questions from Mr. Dusty Miller, the Acting City Engineer stated that the contractor completing the removal of the sewer lagoon biosolids does coordinate his work with other local projects, and the City prefers the use of blades to snow blowers in consideration of the type and quantity of snow common to the area.

Mr. Dusty Miller expressed his appreciation to the City works crews for their work on the Tenth Avenue Dip and the work to pick up litter on City streets. He also expressed appreciation for the parks crew for cleaning up the Greenwood Cemetery Field of Honour in time for Remembrance Day.

2.2 Planning

The City Planner indicated that the Official Community Plan will be updated in 2004. A request for proposals has been sent out to qualified contractors. The plan was last updated in 1993. The process will include opportunity for public input.

The 2004 budget includes an amount for the implementation of the Strategic Sign Plan.

In response to a question from Mr. Dusty Miller, the City Planner indicated that the costs for membership included the City Planner's membership in the Planning Institute of BC which is a requirement of the position.

2.3 RCMP

Inspector Rick Taylor, OIC RCMP, outlined the organization and the changes in the staff and membership that have taken place in the last year. He indicated that the operating budget for 2004 - 2008 includes increases reflecting inflation only.

Inspector Taylor handed out a proposal to explore replacing the RCMP detachment building, which is attached to and forms part of these minutes. He explained a recent letter from the RCMP 'E' Division which provides a warning for the City to rectify deficiencies at the current detachment. The City has three years to undertake the work or face the possibility of the RCMP completing the project and billing the City. It is a contractual obligation for the City to provide an adequate facility. Inspector Taylor explained that various studies and assessments have looked at the option of renovating the existing building or other sites in the City. He proposes that the City evaluate building a new detachment similar to one constructed in Penticton on the former West Coast General Hospital Site.

Council are to consider this recommendation at the next regular meeting of Council on November 24, 2003. Mr. Taylor was asked to formulate his recommendation for this meeting.

In response to a question from Councillor Lord, the Director of Finance confirmed that a new detachment was not part of the five year financial plan. He proposed that a more accurate costing and determination of the timing be undertaken before Council considers amending the plan to accommodate the detachment.

In response to a question from Mr. Dusty Miller the Mayor asked that the City Clerk investigate options available to local government to contract services for minor offenses to organizations other than the RCMP.

2.4 Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

Mr. Bob Harper, Chief Administrative Officer, and Sean McGinn, Public Works Coordinator, provided Council with a highlight of the services that the Regional District provides which impact the City's budget.

Mr. Harper explained that the Regional District is attempting to complete its budget process by December 10, 2003.

Mr. McGinn explained that the Regional District has approval for its Solid Waste Management Plan. This will result in various improvements to the landfill. Council requested that its Regional District delegates bring back for reconsideration the proposal that the Regional District accept outside waste in order to offset the capital costs.

3. Recap of Council Directions

Staff will investigate the age of the sewer lagoon for Council. The RCMP will bring forward their recommendation to investigate a new detachment building at the next regular meeting with an accurate budget figure.

4. Adjournment

Mealey/Patterson
That the meeting be adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk