

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007 AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor McRae, Councillors Chopra, McLeman, Mealey, Patterson, Solda and Whiteman

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (including introduction of late items)

Mealey/Patterson

That the agenda be adopted as circulated with addition of Late Correspondence to be considered as follows: E.1(a) Margaret Growcott, E.7 Debbie Reid and I.10 Stacey Robins.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mealey/Whiteman

That the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held January 8, 2007, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Joop Scheffers

Mayor McRae made a presentation to Joop Scheffers for contributions to Octoberfest and the Europa Club.

2. John Young, President Port Alberni and District Labour Council

Mr. Young requested City Council's support of the resolution regarding minimum wages, a resolution regarding working alone and a proclamation regarding a forest industry summit and a \$10 billion stability fund for the forest industry.

McLeman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the Alberni Valley and District Labour Councils' support of the BC Federation of Labour's call for an immediate increase in the minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour and increasing to \$11.00 per hour in 2008 and indexed to inflation every year after, and the call for an end of the discriminatory training wage introduced in 2001.

Carried

McLeman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the Alberni Valley and District Labour Councils' support of the BC Federation of Labour in demanding that WorkSafeBC implement a regulation that addresses the potential violence workers face working alone at night and that would require employers to:

- *Keep the doors locked between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am;*
- *Employ two people between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am; or*
- *Install physical barriers and/enclosures made of bullet-resistant material; and*
- *Implement a 24 hour pay before you pump policy for all gas stations throughout the province.*

Carried

McLeman/Chopra

That the Council and Mayor for the City of Port Alberni each sign the proclamation of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers' Union of Canada, in which they support CEP's action to save forest-related jobs, and join them in urging both the federal and provincial governments to address this crisis by convening a Forest Industry Summit representing governments, Industry and Trade Unions, and we call upon the Federal Government to establish a \$10 billion stabilization fund for silviculture, to protect jobs, save mills and provide labour adjustment programs for workers impacted by layoffs.

Carried

D. PROCLAMATIONS NIL

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. The Boyko, Krein, Rowe and Larson Families

Mealey/Whiteman

That the email dated January 13, 2007 asking Council to reconsider their decision regarding the Abashiri Sister City Twinning Programs, be received and the correspondence of Mayor McRae to Mayor Oba be provided to Mr. Boyko, et.al.

Carried

1.(a) Margaret Growcott

Mealey/Whiteman

That the letter dated January 20, 2007 objecting to Council's decision regarding Abashiri, be received and the correspondence of Mayor McRae to Mayor Oba be provided to Ms. Growcott.

Carried

2. Dennis Andow

McLeman/Solda

That the letter dated January 14, 2007 objecting to City vehicles left running while employees carry out ground tasks (i.e. picking up garbage), suggesting that the City could save money if the vehicles were shut off during these times, and providing an article regarding idling vehicles, be received and the City Engineer be asked to investigate the matter and report back to Council.

Carried

3. Fred Luecke – Lucky Printers and Stationers Ltd.

McLeman/Solda

That the letter received January 15, 2007 requesting that the City deal with the boulevard trees on the south and west sides of Lucky Printers at 4503 Margaret Street that he believes are causing flooding due to leaves blocking gutters or roadside drainage gates, be received and staff be directed to investigate the matter and report back to Council at the next regular meeting.

Carried

4. Aleata Carpenter

Whiteman/Mealey

That the letter dated January 7, 2007 objecting to the proposed trail connecting Seaton Park to Somass Park and that property owners in the area were not notified of this proposal, be received and referred to the Regional District of Alberni Clayoquot for comment.

Carried

5. Canada Post

Chopra/Mealey

That the letter dated January 2007 from Moya Greene, President and CEO of Canada Post, responding to the City's October 31, 2006 letter regarding levels of service, be received.

Carried

Chopra/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to refuse a building permit for a post office if proposed on lands which do not permit this use pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw.

Carried

**6. RCMP
Town of View Royal**

Solda/Mealey

That the letter from the RCMP dated January 10, 2007 describing the Police Records Management Environment for BC (PRIME-BC), a legislated multi-jurisdictional operational records management system implemented to meet the need for accurate and timely sharing of police information, and providing a PRIME Levy and training cost update, be received and Council respond expressing its concern for the downloading of costs to local government.

Carried

Solda/Mealey

That the copy of letter from the Town of View Royal to the Solicitor General dated January 15, 2007, opposing the PRIME-BC system, be received.

Carried

7. Debbie Reid, Tag Day

Mealey/McLeman

That the email dated January 22, 2007 requesting a Tag Day on January 27 or February 3, for ADSS Drama students participating in the exchange program with Montreal, be received and January 27 be approved.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Timber Sales, Ministry of Forest and Range**
Letter dated January 10, 2007 advising that the Recommendations Report from the BC Timber Sales Structural Review, the Minister of Forests and Range expectations for implementation of the recommendations, and other background information are available on the website www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts.
- 2. Letters received in support of efforts to maintain the Martin Mars Water Bombers**
 - Honourable Pat Carney, PC, Senator for British Columbia
 - Village of Valemount
 - Mike Hill
 - City of Coquitlam
 - Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
 - District of Coldstream
- 3. Chris Ashby, owner of the Rusty Anchor (previously the Somass Hotel)**
Letter received January 9, 2007 requesting that the City "speed up the Southport Community Plan" in order to rejuvenate the Southport area.

- 4. Jim Chutka, Executive Assistant to Dr. James Lunney, MP, Nanaimo-Alberni**
Letter dated January 8, 2007 responding to the Mayor's letter requesting a meeting to discuss homelessness and advising that Dr. Lunney would be pleased to meet at a future date, and enclosing a copy of the new "Homelessness Partnering Strategy" in which the Federal Government commits \$526 million to combat homelessness and extend the CMHC's renovation programs.
- 5. Alberni Valley SafetyNet**
Letter dated January 5, 2007 advising that the organization is undertaking a three year comprehensive community safety initiative funded by the National Crime Prevention Centre and inviting Council to attend a meeting on January 23, 2007.
- 6. Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni-Qualicum**
Copy of a letter dated January 10, 2007 to the Minister of Forest and Range regarding the unauthorized restriction of public access to the Comox Main Line (also know as the Comox-Ash River Connector) located at the north end of Somers Road in the Alberni Valley and requesting that the Ministry remove the gate to ensure that public access is available.
- 7. Municipality of North Cowichan**
Copy of a letter dated January 8, 2007 to Terasen Gas Vancouver Island providing a copy of their resolution that Terasen Gas continue to provide "locate services" for its underground gas lines within roadways and on private property.
- 8. Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)**
Letter dated January 5, 2007 providing a publication highlighting PHSA's work with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.
- 9. Mark Sundstrom**
Email dated January 15, 2007 requesting that the City and Regional District discourage illegal use of all terrain vehicles on the Log Train Trail.
- 10. University of Victoria**
Letter dated January 12, 2007 acknowledging the City's letter regarding grant in lieu of property taxes for 2180 Mallory Drive, and that the University's Vice-President of Finance and Operations will review the matter and respond in the near future.
- 11. Group of Gabriola Island Residents**
Letter dated December 29, 2006 expressing concerns about the BC – Alberta agreement "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" and providing articles and discussion papers on the subject.

12. Forest Practices Board

Letter dated January 10, 2007 providing a copy of the Forest Practices Board Annual Report for 2005-2006.

13. Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA-BC)

Information circular received January 17, 2007 providing details of the MFA-BC's Financial Forum and Annual General Meeting on March 14 and 15, 2007 in Vancouver.

14. Heritage Society of BC

Letter dated January 12, 2007 advising that the 2007 Heritage Week theme is "Vernacular Heritage", meaning from the local region, informal or of the common people, and detailed information can be obtained from their web site www.heritagebc.ca.

McLeman/Patterson

That Council for the City of Port Alberni request that Mr. Scott Fraser, MLA, investigate the implications of the "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" and ensure that there is no negative impact to local government.

Carried

Mealey/Patterson

That Informational Correspondence items numbered 1 through 14 be received and filed.

Carried

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS NIL

H. BYLAWS

1. City Clerk – Public Hearing Report

Mealey/Whiteman

That the City Clerk's verbal report of the Public Hearing held on January 22, 2007 at 6:00 pm regarding Bylaw No. 4655 be received.

Carried

2. "Zoning Amendment No. 57 (6003 River Road – Craig, Croucher and Wilson) Bylaw No. 4655"

Mealey/Solda

That "Zoning Amendment No. 57 (6003 River Road – Craig, Croucher and Wilson) Bylaw No. 4655", be read a third time.

Carried

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Patterson

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated January 22, 2007 be received and the cheques numbered 94055 to 94288 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$791,776.21 be approved.

Carried

2. RCMP

Solda/McLeman

That the monthly report from the OIC, Port Alberni RCMP providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

3. Manager of Human Resources and Community Development – 2007 Staff Training Calendar and January Monthly Report

Chopra/Mealey

That the report dated January 2007 regarding monthly activities and the City of Port Alberni 2007 Staff Training Calendar, be received.

Carried

4. Engineering Report

McLeman/Mealey

That the monthly report from the City Engineer providing information about current departmental operations and events, be received.

Carried

5. Alberni Valley Museum

Patterson/Whiteman

That the monthly report from the Director of the Alberni Valley Museum providing information about current departmental operations and events, be received.

Carried

6. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Patterson/Mealey

That the minutes from the meeting held January 10, 2007 be received and filed.

Carried

7. Director of Parks and Recreation – Harbour Quay, BC Spirit Squares Program

Whiteman/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni grant early approval for the Harbour Quay Spirit Squares capital project, in the amount of \$40,000 for 50% of the planning and design services.

Carried

Whiteman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni support the project application in order to proceed with the grant application in the BC Spirit Squares program.

Carried

8. City Planner and City Engineer – Way Finding Sign Plan

McLeman/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni agree to the request from the Alberni Valley Tourism Advisory Council for input into the strategic sign plan, and staff and the consultant be directed to meet with the Tourism Advisory Council to integrate their branding process in the way finding system, by the end of March 2007.

Carried

McLeman/Solda

That the City of Port Alberni Request for Proposal 049-06 for the Way Finding Sign Plan project be awarded to Signworks as outlined by their proposal dated January 4, 2007 for the price of \$35,000.

McLeman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni table the resolution for the reward of the Way Finding Sign Plan contract until the next regular meeting of Council.

Carried

9. City Clerk – Grants-in-Aid Applications 2007

Chopra/Patterson

That Council for the City of Port Alberni receive the January 16, 2007 report including recommendations for 2007 Grants-in-Aid from the Grants-in-Aid Committee and the recommendations be endorsed to allocate \$15,425 in grants, maintain a contingency of \$925 and reduce the 2007 budget to \$16,350.

Carried

**10. City Clerk – Martin Mars Water Bombers
Premier Campbell**

McLeman/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni receive the letters from Premier Campbell and Minister Coleman regarding the Martin Mars, and Mayor McRae respond to the Minister by providing all letters of support received to date and requesting that the Province provide support for the continued operation of the planes in the Alberni Valley.

Carried

McLeman/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni promote the continued operation of the Martin Mars Water Bombers in the Alberni Valley and that the Mayor write a letter to Timberwest sharing the letters of support received to date, requesting that favourable consideration be given to proposals that include their continued operation from the base in the Alberni Valley, thanking the company for offering to provide one of the planes upon retirement indicating that this is very important, if no operational proposals are viable and asking for an opportunity for the Community to plan for this before the planes status changes.

Carried

11. City of Port Alberni Chief Building Inspector – Building Policy Branch

Solda/McLeman

That the report from the City of Port Alberni Chief Building Inspector dated January 17, 2007 regarding a review of the Information Bulletin on Assessment of Slope Stability from the Building Policy Branch, be received.

Carried

12. Administrative Assistant – Acting Mayor Appointments

Chopra/McLeman

That the report dated January 17, 2007 requesting that the schedule for the alternate Mayor be amended to reflect the appointment of Councillor Solda during May and September and Councillor McLeman during March and November, be received and Council concur.

Carried

13. Current Status Report

Chopra/Mealey

That the Current Status Report be received.

Carried

14. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on recent activities and matters of current interest.

*Mealey/Patterson
That the Mayor's report be received.*

Carried

15. Councillors' Reports

The Councillors reported on recent activities related to their various portfolios.

*Mealey/Patterson
That the Councillors' reports be received.*

Carried

J. QUESTION PERIOD

The public and the press were provided the opportunity to ask questions of the Mayor and Council.

The owner of 2183 Motion Drive asked that Council direct the City Engineer to review access to the back of his property where a retaining wall has collapsed. Council granted this request.

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

*McLeman/Chopra
That Council for the City of Port Alberni request that Terasen Gas
continue to provide on site gas line locates within the City of Port Alberni.*

Carried

L. ADJOURNMENT

*Mealey/Whiteman
That the meeting adjourn at 9:15 pm.*

Carried

Mayor

Clerk