

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, MARCH 26,
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 approved as circulated with the addition of late item E. 9 Port Alberni Operation Trackshoes – Tag Day request.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mealey/McLeman

That the minutes of the March 12, 2007, Budget Meetings held on March 13 and 14, 2007 and the Special Council Meeting held on March 15, 2007 be approved as circulated.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Canadian Award for Financial Reporting

The Mayor presented the Director of Finance with the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting.

2. Leslie Wright, Mount Klitsa Garden Club

Leslie Wright and Heather Washburn of the Mount Klitsa Garden Club discussed eradicating scotch broom in our area and declaring “Broombusting Week” in June.

Whiteman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni declare June 17 – 23 as “Broombusting Week” in Port Alberni, that citizens be permitted to drop off cut broom at a suitable site to be determined and that the City support the request to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District that fees for broom brought to the landfill site during that week be waived.

Carried

3. Marta Williamson

Marta Williamson provided a presentation regarding updates to Port Alberni's Heritage Registry and new approaches to heritage.

Councillor Solda declared a potential conflict of interest with respect to Item C. 4. as she is an employee of the developer. She left the meeting at 7:35 pm.

4. Jochem Juurlink

Jochem Juurlink discussed the ongoing problems at the Canada Post building.

Councillor Solda returned to the meeting at 7:44 pm.

5. Lynne Schroeder

Attended at the invitation of Councillor McLeman to introduce herself to Council as the new CUPE Local 118 President.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

1. British Columbia Paraplegic Association

McLeman/Mealey

That the letter dated March 6, 2007 requesting that June 12, 2007 be declared as "BC Paraplegic Association Day" in the City of Port Alberni be received and the day proclaimed as requested.

Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Uptown Merchants Association

Solda/Chopra

That the letter dated March 14, 2007 be received, and Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the Uptown Merchants Association Community Clean Up, and Council request that they bring forward specific information regarding their request of the City, identify areas to be cleaned up and the dates of the event for consideration of Council.

Carried

2. Uptown Merchants Association

McLeman/Whiteman

That the letter received March 14, 2007 requesting the closure to regular traffic on 3rd Avenue between Argyle and Mar Street and closing the cross street to 3rd Avenue at Angus Street from mid morning to dusk to accommodate a Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair, be received and Council concur with the request subject to notification of the event date, notification of emergency services, consultation with all affected businesses to minimize potential conflict and traffic concerns and provision of standard liability insurance.

Carried

3. Bill Lekich

Patterson/Mealey

That the email received March 14, 2007 regarding budget cuts at the Alberni Valley Museum be received and filed.

Carried

4. Alexandra Pazitch

Patterson/Mealey

That the email received March 19, 2007 requesting that the 2008 Port Alberni Municipal Elections provide two polling stations, one for the north side of Port Alberni and one for the south side of Port Alberni as well as providing free bus transportation to the polling stations, be received.

Carried

Patterson/McLeman

That staff investigate the cost of providing free bus transportation to the polling station on election day.

Carried

5. Tsawaayuus (Rainbow Gardens)

Mealey/Solda

That the letter dated March 15, 2007 be received and that Council for the City of Port Alberni agree to the request of Tsawaayuus (Rainbow Gardens) and the Restrictive Covenant for an Option to Purchase be released from title for the property at 6151 Russell Place at their expense.

Carried

6. Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC

Solda/Mealey

That the letter and DVD received March 15, 2007 regarding the child care crisis in British Columbia be received and that Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the March 15, 2007 resolution included in their letter.

Carried

7. Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon

McLeman/Mealey

That the letter dated March 16, 2007 requesting permission to use City streets for the “Big Bike Ride for Stroke” event on May 30, 2007, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, and advising that the route begins and ends at Roger Creek Park, be received and the request endorsed by Council subject to standard liability insurance requirements.

Carried

8. Lyle Price

Solda/Chopra

That the letter dated March 21, 2007 requesting that the eight residences on Franklin River Road enter into an agreement with the City to have the City Fire Department provide fire protection to these residences, be received and staff directed to identify operational challenges, develop a plan and provide a report for Council’s consideration.

Carried

9. Port Alberni Operation Trackshoes – Alberni Valley Energizers

Solda/Mealey

That the letter received March 23, 2007 requesting a tag day on April 25, 2007 be received and the requested granted.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Tofino Bus Services Ltd.

Email dated March 7, 2007 from Dylan Green of Tofino Bus Services to Mayor McRae, indicating that the application by Tofino Bus remains before the Board and the March 29, 2007 hearing has been cancelled.

2. Trevor W. Jackson

Email dated March 8, 2007 concerned Tofino Bus schedule has changed, limiting their bus trips to Vancouver.

- 3. Alberni District Historical Society**
Letter dated March 9, 2007 advising of their request to TimberWest Forest Corp. to allow the Alberni District Historical Society to retain all historical information pertaining to the Martin Mars Flying Tankers.
- 4. Union of British Columbia Municipalities**
Fax dated March 9, 2007 announcing that they have finalized the Spring Conference Program which includes a wide range of offerings.
- 5. Group of Gabriola Island Residents**
Letter dated March 2, 2007 expressing concerns about the BC – Alberta agreement "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" and providing articles and discussion papers on the subject.
- 6. Jenny Kwan, Official Opposition**
Letter dated March 7, 2007 informing council that the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) is set to take effect April 1, 2007 and encouraging local governments to pass a motion or write a letter to Premier Campbell and Minister Hansen.
- 7. Vancouver Island Health Authority**
Letter dated March 16, 2007 replying to Mayor McRae's letter of February 28, 2007 in regard to health services in Port Alberni.
- 8. Union of British Columbia Municipalities**
Fax dated March 19, 2007 regarding the 2007 West Nile Risk Reduction Funding now available for communities.
- 9. The Council of Canadians**
Letter dated March 12, 2007 expressing concerns about the BC – Alberta agreement "Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement" and providing an article on the subject.
- 10. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources**
Letter dated March 16, 2007 regarding the Government of British Columbia's new Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership.
- 11. Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference**
Information received March 19, 2007 regarding the upcoming Vancouver Island Emergency Preparedness Conference on May 11, 12, & 13, 2007.
- 12. District of West Vancouver**
Letter dated March 16, 2007 expressing concerns with regard to inequities in the Home Owner Grant program and request that the Homeowner Grant regulations be made equitable and applied uniformly across the Province.

- 13. Public Works and Government Services Canada**
Letter dated March 13, 2007 explaining that they are continuing to negotiate with Canada Post Corporation with the objective of securing a new lease agreement.
- 14. The Corporation of the Village of Montrose**
Letter dated March 7, 2007 expressing concerns on the reduction of child care programs in British Columbia.
- 15. Charlie Wyse, MLA**
Email received March 15, 2007 regarding Mr. Wyse's response to the budget speech on TILMA.

McLeman/Mealey

Regarding item F. 4, that Council for the City of Port Alberni provide a letter supporting the Alberni District Historical Society request to retain historical information pertaining to the Martin Mars Flying Tankers.

Carried

Mealey/Whiteman

That Informational Correspondence items numbered 1 through 15 be received and filed.

Carried

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(From March 12, 2007 Regular Council Meeting)

1. Union of British Columbia Municipalities

McLeman/Solda

That the following resolution be provided for consideration at this year's annual UBCM Convention:

WHEREAS resource communities are being impacted by extensive financial challenges to both business and local government, which is resulting in an increase in poorly maintained and run down commercial buildings that diminish the positive image and ability for a community to revitalize and improve its financial state;

WHEREAS the province has provided modest programs to local governments such as the revitalization tax exemption that are ineffective in fiscally challenged resource communities, that do not have a large enough tax base to assume the reallocation of the tax burden;

AND WHEREAS there needs to be a second look at ways for the province to partner with local governments to create effective incentives for property owners to work with government to revitalize resource communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM request that the province meet to develop effective revitalization programs for the provinces resource communities, including an investigation into tax restructuring to eliminate disincentives to upgrade buildings and reintroduction of the Downtown Revitalization Program.

Carried

H. BYLAWS

1. "5 Year Financial Plan 2007-2011, Bylaw No. 4657"

Chopra/Mealey

That the report from the City Clerk dated March 22, 2007 regarding preparation of the Budget Bylaw, be received.

Carried

Chopra/Mealey

That "5 Year Financial Plan 2007-2011, Bylaw No. 4657", be now introduced and read a first time.

Carried

Chopra/Whiteman

That "5 Year Financial Plan 2007-2011, Bylaw No. 4657", be read a second time.

Carried

Chopra/McLeman

That "5 Year Financial Plan 2007-2011, Bylaw No. 4657", be read a third time.

Carried

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Mealey

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated March 26, 2007 be received and the cheques numbered 94964 to 95155 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$760,919.84 be approved.

Carried

2. Manager of Human Resources and Community Development

Chopra/Mealey

That the monthly report from the Manager of Human Resources and Community Development providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

3. RCMP

Solda/Mealey

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

Carried

4. Alberni Valley Museum

Patterson/Mealey

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

Carried

5. Bylaw Enforcement Officer/Business License Inspector

Solda/McLeman

That the report dated March 15, 2007 from the Bylaw Enforcement Officer/Business License Inspector advising that voluntary compliance is in process and is expected to continue until the work is completed to satisfaction at the nuisance premises at 5165 Golden Street, be received.

Carried

6. City Clerk

Chopra/Solda

That the report dated March 20, 2007 regarding the status of the Fisheries Legacy Trust, be received.

Carried

7. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Patterson/Mealey

That the minutes from the meeting held March 7, 2007 be received and filed.

Carried

8. Advisory Planning Commission

Mealey/Chopra

That the minutes from the meeting held March 19, 2007 be received and the following recommendations endorsed:

- a) Vary section 6.1.4(a) Conditions of Use Side Yard Setback for the West Side Yard from 2.13 metres to 1.5 metres for 3596 Huff Drive (Lot A, District Lot 92, Alberni District, Plan VIP67182); and*
- b) That Council give notice of intent to consider the issuance of a Development Variance Permit for 3596 Huff Drive (Lot A, District Lot 92, Alberni District, Plan VIP67182)*

Carried

9. Boundary Study Committee

Chopra/Mealey

That the report from the City Clerk dated March 22, 2007 and minutes for the March 12, 2007 meeting of the committee, be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the prepared letter to property owners within and adjacent to the City watershed as outlined on the map attached to the letter and direct the committee to consult the owners and report back to Council.

Carried

10. Mayor's Report

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

Mealey/Patterson

That the Mayor's report be received.

Carried

11. Councillors' Reports

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

Mealey/McLeman

That the Councillors' reports be received.

Carried

J. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public or the press.

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

NIL

L. ADJOURNMENT

*Mealey/Patterson
That the meeting adjourn at 8:55 pm.*

Mayor

Clerk