

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007 AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

1. Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda.

*Patterson/Mealey
That the agenda be adopted as circulated.*

Carried

2. Delegation – Duncan Kerr, VP Western Forest Products Ltd.

Mr. Kerr provided an outline of Western Forest Products Operations (forest lands and manufacturing). He presented the markets, distribution of timber and costs of production, including property taxes. He illustrated that Alberni Pacific Division (APD) and Somass pay the highest property taxes of any of their properties. He requested that Council reduce the tax rate applied to major industry.

3. Delegation – Ron Buchhorn, VP Catalyst Paper Inc.

Mr. Buchhorn described the company's efforts to reduce costs and compared the property taxes paid on a percentage of production costs. Port Alberni has the highest rate for the #4 Paper Machine. He encouraged Council to continue with its plans to reduce industrial taxes.

4. City Manager's Report including Summary of Public Input from February 27 Workshop.

*Mealey/Patterson
That Council reaffirms its prior direction that the 2007 – 2011 Financial Plan to accommodate a 20% reduction in taxes paid by Heavy Industry (Category 4).*

Carried

*Mealey/Chopra
That Council direct City staff to review all of the public input received at the February 27 Public Meeting and incorporate such revenue generating and cost saving measures that are currently practical.*

Carried

Mealey/Chopra

That staff schedule a Special Meeting of Council at which Council will review input provided by the Public during the February 27, 2007 Public Meeting and provide staff with specific direction regarding further implementation of Public suggestions.

Carried

5. Adjournment

Mealey/Patterson

That the meeting adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk