

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009 AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

Patterson/Whiteman

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Solda/Patterson

That the minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 12, 2009 at 7:00 pm, be received.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Canada World Youth

The Economic Development Manager introduced Bonnie Boyd and Andrew Glivinskyi, two of the Canada World Youth currently assisting him.

2. Scott Fraser, MLA (Alberni-Qualicum)

Scott Fraser (MLA (Alberni-Qualicum) was in attendance discussing issues and priorities. He outlined various means to bring forward the interests of the community, discussed his position on an Old Growth Strategy and asked for support for the "Pink Wing" and Ty Watson House.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

1. BUY-A-NET Malaria Prevention Group

Solda/Patterson

That the letter from BUY-A-NET Malaria Prevention Group dated December 30, 2008 requesting that April 25, 2009 be proclaimed as "World Malaria Day" be received and the day proclaimed as requested.

Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Celebrate Canada Program

Whiteman/Solda

That the letter received January 14, 2009 from the Celebrate Canada Program regarding community-based celebrations and Canada Day Youth, be received and referred to programming staff at Parks and Recreation.

Carried

2. Recycling Council of British Columbia

McLeman/Chopra

That the letter dated January 15, 2009 from the Recycling Council of British Columbia inviting municipal membership in the amount of \$290 annually to help offset costs of running their Recycling Hotline and advising of their "Zero Waste Conference" to be held in May, 2009 at the Whistler Chateau Fairmont, be received.

Carried

3. Western Canada Wilderness Committee

Douglas/McLeman

That the letter dated January 8, 2009 from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee inviting purchase of their 2009 calendars for \$5.00 each, be received.

Carried

4. Centre for Civic Governance at Columbia Institute

Chopra/Patterson

That the e-mail dated January 16, 2009 from the Centre for Civic Governance at Columbia Institute, be received and Councillor John Douglas be authorized attendance at the annual forum for progressive governance, called "From the Ground Up" on March 6 and 7, 2009 in Harrison Hot Springs at a cost of \$275 for registration.

Carried

5. Charley Beresford, Columbia Institute

Solda/Patterson

That the e-mail dated January 16, 2009 from Charley Beresford of the Columbia Institute inviting Council to add their name to an Open Letter to all political parties to commit to legislating targets and timelines to reduce homelessness and poverty in BC, be received.

Carried

McLeman/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni sign the Open Letter to support legislating targets and timelines to reduce homelessness and poverty in BC as provided by the Columbia Institute.

Carried

6. CivicInfoBC

Chopra/Solda

That the letter dated January 5, 2009 from CivicInfoBC be received and membership be renewed in the amount of \$928.20.

Carried

7. The Truck Loggers Association

McLeman/Chopra

That the letter dated December 31, 2008 from The Truck Loggers Association be received and the book entitled "Forestry A-Z" be forwarded to School District 70 and the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for consideration.

Carried

8. Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

Chopra/Whiteman

That the Member Notice dated January 19, 2009 from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) regarding the "Municipal Pension Retirees Group Health Benefit" be received and the information be forwarded to the Municipal Pension Retirees Association, Branch 24.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. BC Healthy Communities

E-mail dated January 15, 2009 attaching "People. Place. Potential", a joint publication of BC Healthy Communities and the BC Healthy Living Alliance.

2. Premier Gordon Campbell

Letter dated January 12, 2009 responding to the Mayor's letter dated December 9, 2008 expressing support for the Island Corridor Foundation's initiative to revitalize rail on Vancouver Island.

3. BC Assessment

Letter dated January 5, 2009 advising of highlights of the 2009 Property Assessment Roll.

4. World Flag Headquarters

Letter dated January 1, 2009 advising of their "Welcome to the World" flag and enclosing sample pins and flag.

5. Ombudsman

Letter dated January 5, 2009 congratulating the Mayor on being reappointed and enclosing their 2007/08 Annual Report.

6. Honours and Awards Secretariat

E-mail dated January 12, 2009 providing information and a nomination form for the Order of British Columbia, the Province's highest award for excellence and outstanding achievement.

7. Vancouver Island Health Authority

News Release providing information regarding a Norovirus-like illness on the Island.

8. David Suzuki Foundation

Letter dated January 12, 2009 advising of a new publication "Doing Business in a New Climate: A guide to Measuring, Reducing and Offsetting Greenhouse Gas Emissions".

9. Marc Duquette

E-mail dated January 17, 2009 regarding Catalyst taxes.

10. Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Letter dated January 16, 2009 responding to the Mayor's letter dated September 30, 2008 regarding the cruise ship industry in Port Alberni.

Chopra/Patterson

That "Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2007, Amendment No. 1, Bylaw 4710" be introduced and read a second time.

Carried

Chopra/Whiteman

That "Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2007, Amendment No. 1, Bylaw 4710" be introduced and read a third time.

Carried

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Solda

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated January 26, 2009 be received and the cheques numbered 103917 to 104108 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$919,194.08 be approved.

Carried

2. Director of Finance - Tangible Capital Assets (TCA) Policy

Chopra/Solda

That the report dated January 19, 2009 from the Director of Finance advising of a new accounting standard, "Tangible Capital Assets" (TCA) and providing guidelines for the recording of all capital assets, be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni adopt the "Tangible Capital Assets" policy.

Carried

3. Director of Finance - 2009 Assessment Roll Freeze Announced by the Province

Chopra/Patterson

That the report dated January 15, 2009 from the Director of Finance providing information regarding the 2009 Assessment Roll freeze, be received.

Carried

4. Economic Development Manager - MV Lady Rose

Whiteman/McLeman

That the report dated January 22, 2009 from the Economic Development Manager advising that the owner of the MV Lady Rose has advised it is no longer feasible to operate the vessel and offering to gift the vessel to the community to be developed as a static display, be received and Council agree to conduct a public meeting to discuss the future of the MV Lady Rose as a static public display.

Carried

5. Economic Development Manager - Cruise Ship Coordination

Whiteman/Patterson

That the report dated January 16, 2009 from the Economic Development Manager providing an update on the contract services budget allocated to cruise ship shore excursion coordination. be received.

Carried

6. City Manager - Update on Climate Change and Sustainability Initiatives Progress

Douglas/McLeman

That the report dated January 21, 2009 from the City Manager regarding progress on the Climate Change and Sustainability Initiatives, be received.

Carried

7. City Clerk and City Engineer - Enforcement of Snow Removal Standards

A report dated January 20, 2009 was reviewed. Councillor McLeman circulated resolutions for the consideration of Council:

McLeman/Whiteman

That City staff prepare an amendment of the Traffic Bylaw to enable the issuance of Municipal Tickets for non-compliant business required to shovel snow from sidewalks adjacent to and bordering their properties and upon implementation, the Commissionaires be authorized to issue these tickets.

Defeated

McLeman/Chopra

That City staff be instructed to prepare a bylaw requiring citizens with driveway access to keep their vehicles in the driveway when there is snow, with fines for non-compliance phased in over two years starting with warning tickets.

Defeated

*For the Motion: Councillors Chopra, Whiteman, McLeman
Against the Motion: Mayor McRae, Councillors Douglas, Patterson, Solda*

Patterson/Solda

That the report dated January 20, 2009 from the City Clerk and the City Engineer regarding Enforcement of Snow Removal Standards, be received and the City undertake an annual public education program prior to and during snowfall events encouraging residents to remove their vehicles from the street to permit effective snowplowing and encouraging residents and businesses to clear the snow and ice from sidewalks in front of their premises to increase pedestrian safety.

Carried

8. City Planner - Bear Smart Program

Patterson/Solda

That the report dated January 20, 2009 from the City Planner to consider an application and funding for the 2009 Bear Aware Program be received, and Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to forward the application to the Regional District and commit the City's support for our share of the cost for the BC Conservation Foundation Bear Aware Program for 2009.

Carried

9. Fire Chief - Response to UBCM - Fire Services Model

Solda/Patterson

That the report dated January 20, 2009 from the Fire Chief be received and the information regarding a Fire Services Model Project draft be provided to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and all stakeholder groups in which the City has representation.

Carried

10. City Clerk - 2624 5th Avenue - House Collapse

Solda/McLeman

That the report dated January 21, 2009 from the City Clerk providing information regarding the collapse of a residence at 2624 5th Avenue, be received.

Carried

11. City Manager and Director of Finance - 2009-2013 Draft Five Year Financial Plan

The Draft 2009-2013 Five Year Financial Plan was circulated. A Public Input Session will be held at Echo Centre on Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Chopra/Solda

That Council conduct a Special Meeting of Council in the Council Chambers at 9:00 am Wednesday, January 28, 2009 to review the Draft 2009-2013 Five Year Financial Plan.

Carried

12. City Clerk - Public Hearing Report - January 12, 2009

Solda/Patterson

That the Public Hearing Report of January 12, 2009 regarding Bylaw No. 4708, be received and filed.

Carried

13. City Manager - Requested Donation to Alberni Athletic Association in Support of the Junior All Native Provincial Basketball Tournament from March 15 to 22, 2009

Whiteman/Solda

That the report dated January 19, 2009 from the City Manager responding to a letter from the Alberni Athletic Association requesting financial support to aid in hosting the Junior All Native Provincial Basketball Tournament from March 15 to 22, 2009 be received, and that Council for the City of Port Alberni directs staff to provide the requested in-kind services valued at approximately \$400 and further provide direct financial assistance of \$500 to the Alberni Athletic Association to be used for Athletic Hall upgrades required as part of hosting of the Junior All Native Provincial Basketball Tournament.

Carried

14. Current Status Report

*Chopra/Patterson
That the Current Status Report be received.*

Carried

15. Mayor's Report

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

Carried

16. Councillor Chopra - General Government Services Report

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

Carried

17. Councillor McLeman - Transportation, Utilities and Forestry Report

18. Councillor Douglas - Environmental Services and Library Report

19. Councillor Patterson - Heritage, Culture and Education Report

*Patterson/Solda
That the monthly report from the Director of the Alberni Valley Museum
providing information about current departmental operations and the
minutes from the Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission held
January 7, 2009, be received.*

Carried

20. Councillor Solda - Planning, Health and Protective Services Report

*Solda/Chopra
That the monthly reports (November and December, 2008) from the
RCMP OIC providing information about current departmental operations,
be received.*

Carried

*Solda/Whiteman
That Council for the City of Port Alberni write to the Health Minister and
the Vancouver Island Health Authority to reiterate its support for continued
funding for Ty Watson House and the "Pink Wing" at Echo Village.*

Carried

21. Councillor Whiteman - Community Services, Economic Development & Tourism Report

Whiteman/Patterson

That the monthly report from the Director of Parks and Recreation providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

Whiteman/McLeman

That the monthly report from the Economic Development Manager providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

J. QUESTION PERIOD

An opportunity for the public and the press to ask questions of the Mayor and Council. Scott Fraser, MLA (Alberni-Qualicum), asked Council to clarify their position regarding lands surrounding the City's drinking supply (watershed). The Mayor confirmed that the City's interest is to secure the land or a form of Forest Tenure over the lands in the interest of better managing the City's water resource.

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

L. ADJOURNMENT

Patterson/Solda

That the meeting adjourn at 9:40 pm.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk