

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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/Solda

That the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of late item E.8, Catalyst letter.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Solda/Patterson

That the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held February 23, 2009, be received.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Donna Brett – Olympic Torch Run

Donna Brett showed a DVD about the Olympic Torch Run and provided an update regarding plans for the event.

D. PROCLAMATIONS

1. British Columbia Dental Association

Solda/Whiteman

That the letter dated February 19, 2009 from the British Columbia Dental Association requesting Council to proclaim April as "Oral Health Month" in Port Alberni, be received and the month be proclaimed as requested.

Carried

2. Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley

Patterson/Chopra

That the letter dated February 23, 2009 from the Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley requesting Council to proclaim the week of April 19th – 25th, 2009 as “Arts and Culture Week” in Port Alberni, be received and the week be proclaimed as requested.

Carried

3. The Alberni Valley Hospice Society/Ty Watson House

Solda/Patterson

That the email from the Alberni Valley Hospice Society/Ty Watson House dated March 2, 2009 requesting that May 3 to 9, 2009 be proclaimed as "National Hospice Palliative Care Week" in Port Alberni, be received and the week proclaimed as requested.

Carried

4. "We Can End All Violence Against Women" BC Campaign

Chopra/Solda

That the letter from "We Can End All Violence Against Women" BC Campaign dated February 27, 2009 requesting that the third week in April (April 15 to 21, 2009) be proclaimed as "Prevention of Violence Against Women Week" in Port Alberni, be received and the week proclaimed as requested.

Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Port Alberni Folkfest Multicultural Society

McLeman/Chopra

That the letter from the Port Alberni Multicultural Folkfest Society received February 23, 2009 requesting use of City streets on July 1, 2009 for the Canada Day Parade, be received and Council concur with the request subject to notification of emergency services, consultation with all affected businesses to minimize potential conflict and traffic concerns and provision of standard liability insurance.

Carried

2. Canadian Cancer Society – Relay For Life

Whiteman/Chopra

That the letter from the Canadian Cancer Society – Relay For Life requesting an in-kind donation of use of Echo Centre for Team Captain's meetings and Bank Night, April 8th 6:30 – 8:00 pm, June 3rd 6:30 – 8:00 pm and June 18th 5:00 – 9:00 pm, be received and the request be approved.

Defeated

3. Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society

Solda/McLeman

That the letter from the Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society dated February 19, 2009 requesting Council reconsider their decision to have a member of Council appointed as liaison to the Board of Directors of the Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society, be received and Council concur with the request.

Carried

4. Ty Watson House

Whiteman/Solda

That the email from Ty Watson House dated February 18, 2009 requesting use of Blair Park on May 3, 2009 for the "Hike for Hospice" event be approved subject to provision of standard liability insurance.

Carried

5. Port Alberni and District Labour Council

Whiteman/Patterson

That the letter from the Port Alberni and District Labour Council dated March 1, 2009 requesting a grant equal to the rental fee (\$151.10) of Echo Centre for the Provincial All Candidates Meeting scheduled for May 4, 2009, be received.

Carried

6. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Chopra/McLeman

That the letter from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General dated February 9, 2009 inviting Mayor and Council to attend one of the scheduled emergency management workshops, be received and Councillor Solda be authorized to attend the workshop in Nanaimo on April 23rd, 2009.

Carried

7. Alpar Shrine Club #13

McLeman/Chopra

That the letter from the Alpar Shrine Club #13 dated March 3, 2009 requesting use of City streets on Saturday, August 8 from 10:00 am until approximately 11:30 am for a Vancouver Island Shrine Days parade, be received and Council concur with the request subject to notification of emergency services, consultation with all affected businesses to minimize potential conflict and traffic concerns and provision of standard liability insurance.

Carried

8. Catalyst letter to the Province

Chopra/Solda

That the copy of the letter from Catalyst Paper Corporation to the Minister of Community Development dated March 9, 2009 regarding property tax rates charged by Municipalities, be received.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Hospital Employees' Union

Letter received February 27, 2009 congratulating Mayor McRae on being elected as Mayor.

2. Ministry of Community Development

Copy of a letter dated February 11, 2009 responding to the District of North Cowichan's letter expressing concern over Catalyst Paper Corporation and industrial taxation and encouraging the municipality to continue to work with Catalyst and other industrial property owners.

3. **Sharon Lamontagne**
Email dated February 24, 2009 regarding Catalyst Paper Corporation and property taxes.
4. **Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA)**
Letter dated February 26, 2009 responding to the City's letter regarding VIHA's commitment to and long term plans for Ty Watson House.
5. **CUPE**
Letter dated February 17, 2009 providing excerpts of a report on Public Private Partnerships by forensic auditors Ron Parks and Rosanne Terhart.
6. **School District #70** Letter dated February 16, 2009 announcing that John Bennie will be the School District 70/City of Port Alberni liaison during his term as vice-chair until May 31, 2009.
7. **Vancouver Island Economic Alliance**
Email dated February 22, 2009 providing a summary of the recently completed study entitled *Regional Economic Analysis Report for Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast Region*.
8. **Letters regarding a potential prison being located in the Alberni Valley**
 - Cheryl Schwager, email dated February 17, 2009 (opposed)
 - Carolyn Jasken, email dated February 18, 2009 (in favour)
 - Michael Maddison, email dated February 23, 2009 (in favour)
 - Dwight Ziegmann, letter dated February 24, 2009 (opposed)
 - Chris Ashby, email dated February 26, 2009 (opposed)
9. **BC Healthy Communities**
Providing a copy of its March 2009 newsletter.
10. **Port Alberni and District Labour Council**
Letter dated March 1, 2009 supporting the United Steelworkers' Local 1-85 position that wood from the Community Forest be harvested by Union labour.
11. **Alberni Valley Citizen Advocacy Society**
Letter dated January 30, 2009 thanking the City for allocating a \$500.00 Grant-in-Aid to the Alberni Valley Citizen Advocacy Society for their client programs.
12. **Ministry of Environment**
Letter received February 25, 2009 providing a copy of a summary report on projected sea level changes for the BC coast in the 21st century.
13. **Ministry of Housing and Development (MHSD)**
Letter advising of a change of location for the local MHSD Income Assistance and Disability office to 4070 8th Avenue effective March 6, 2009.

14. City of Burnaby

Providing a copy of a report from the Director of Planning and Building with regard to a Ministry of Education Order titled "Disposal of Lands or Improvements Order".

15. Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)

- Email dated February 24, 2009 providing information regarding administration of the West Nile Virus Reduction funding initiative.
- Letter dated February 27, 2009 advising that funding has been approved in the amount of \$2,150 for the City's Community to Community Forum.
- Fax dated February 25, 2009 providing information on the Canada Green Building Council pilot project for public administration buildings.
- Letter dated February 23, 2009 providing copies of the City's resolutions at the 2008 UBCM convention and outcome of deliberations.

Chopra/Solda

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

Carried

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NIL

H. BYLAWS

1. "Council Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw, Amendment No. 1, Bylaw No. 4711"

Chopra/Solda

That "Council Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw, Amendment No. 1, Bylaw No. 4711", be now finally adopted, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the corporate seal and numbered 4711.

Carried

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Patterson

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated March 9, 2009 be received and the cheques numbered 104356 to 104722 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$935,151.49, be approved.

Carried

2. City Planner – Advisory Planning Commission

Solda/Whiteman

That the summary report of the February 19, 2009 Advisory Planning Commission meeting be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni deny the applicant's request to vary Section 5.9.2.2 of Sign Bylaw No. 4578 to permit a maximum sign background area that exceeds 3.0 m² (32.3 ft²) with respect to Lot 1, District Lot 21, Alberni District, Plan VIP83150 (PID-027-080-633) 5558 Beaver Creek Road (5700 Pierce Road) Creeks Edge.

Carried

3. Financial Plan Public Meeting, February 2, 2009 – Summary

Chopra/Patterson

That the summary of the 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan Public Meeting held February 2, 2009 be received.

Carried

4. Director of Finance – Strategic Community Investment (SCI) Funds

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni enter into the Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement and authorize the City Clerk to sign and submit the Strategic Community Investment Funds Agreement on behalf of the City of Port Alberni.

Carried

Chopra/McLeman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni set aside Strategic Community Investment Funds in the amount of \$381,151 to maintain a steady level of funding for the 2010 Financial Plan.

Carried

5. City Engineer - Snow Removal

McLeman/Solda

That the report from the City Engineer dated February 25 2009 providing a review of snow removal policies of similar sized communities, be received.

Carried

6. City Clerk – Habitat for Humanity

Solda/Patterson

That Council for the City of Port Alberni receive the City's Clerk's report dated March 4, 2009 and proceed with the notification to gift land at 4453 9th Avenue (Lot 4, Block 4, District Lot 1, Alberni District, Plan 11410, PID 005-021-006) to Habitat for Humanity, subject to rezoning of the property to a residential zone.

Solda/Patterson

That the main motion be amended to reflect the City paying the full costs of the rezoning process.

Carried

The main motion as amended was Carried

7. City Manager – Infrastructure Funding Applications for Projects

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to apply for grant funding for the Argyle Street Uptown Revitalization Project to the Build Canada Fund –Communities Component for a total project value of \$4 Million and the Council confirms that the City share of this project is available through a combination of Operating and Capital Reserve funding.

Carried

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to apply for grant funding for the Multiplex Upgrades Project to the Build Canada Fund – Communities Component for a total project value of \$2 Million and the Council confirms that the City share of this project is available through Capital Reserve funds.

Carried

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to apply for grant funding for the Harbour Quay Redevelopment Project to the Island Coastal Economic Trust and West Coast Community Adjustment Program for a total project value of \$1.5 Million and the Council confirms that the City share of this project is available through Capital Reserve funds.

Carried

Chopra/Patterson

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to apply for grant funding for the Klitsa Baseball Field Redevelopment Project to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund for a total project value of \$1 Million and the Council confirms that the City share of this project is available through Capital Reserve funds

Carried

Chopra/Whiteman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to apply for grant funding for the Wireless Infrastructure Project to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program for a total project value of \$67,400.

Carried

8. Bylaw Enforcement Officer – A. Pazitch re: Complaint Tree Removal on 1st Avenue

Solda/Whiteman

That the report from the Bylaw Enforcement Officer dated March 4, 2009 regarding a complaint received from Alexandra Pazitch of tree removal at or near 2808 1st Avenue and subsequent investigation by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer be received and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer be directed to ensure that the tree branches are removed from the site under the authority of the Property Maintenance Bylaw and the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw and that no further action be taken.

Carried

9. Current Status Report

Chopra/Solda

That the Current Status Report be received.

Carried

10. Mayor's Report

Solda/Patterson

That the Mayor's report be received.

Carried

11. Councillor Chopra

12. Councillor Douglas

13. Councillor McLeman

McLeman/Solda

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

Carried

14. Councillor Patterson

15. Councillor Solda

Solda/McLeman

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

Carried

Solda/Patterson

That the monthly report from the Fire Chief providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

16. Councillor Whiteman

J. QUESTION PERIOD

An opportunity for the public and the press to ask questions of the Mayor and Council.

Alexandra Pazitch spoke to item I.8. She shared an email from Heather Graham and stated she disagreed with various matters in the report.

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Chopra/McLeman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni write a letter of congratulations to Rob Schick, NHL referee, upon his retirement.

Carried

Solda/McLeman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni appoint Councillor Solda as a liaison to the Port Alberni Shelter.

Carried

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni write a letter to the municipality of Terrace congratulating them on being crowned Hockeyville 2009.

Carried

L. ADJOURNMENT

That the meeting adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk