



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Mayor Ken McRae, Councillors Hira Chopra, John Douglas,
Jack McLeman, Ike Patterson, Cindy Solda and Kenn Whiteman

COUNCIL SUMMARY

An information report summarizing the Regular Meeting of Council held April 26, 2010. This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at 250-720-2810 or e-mail: russell_dyson@portalberni.ca

■ DELEGATIONS

Canada Day Parade Set for July 1

Gillian Shearwater, Port Alberni Folkfest Multicultural Society, Parade Coordinator, provided details of this year's Canada Day Parade and invited Council members to participate in the event.

Alberni Valley Community Foundation

Hugh Grist and members of the foundation provided an outline of their program and the local non profit groups they have helped. They seek donations from community members and are available with advice regarding options.

■ PROCLAMATIONS

May 16 to 22, 2010 is "**National Public Works Week**" and May is "**Falun Dafa Month**"

■ CORRESPONDENCE

Support Vanessa George

Vanessa, a student at VAST Education Centre, requests financial support towards her participation in the E-SPIRIT aboriginal youth business plan competition. View her work at www.albernicreations.yolasite.com

Walk for Health Day

Sheena Falconer has organized Walk for Health Day on May 19, 2010 at Blair Park. Sign in is at 10:30 am, come out and walk for 1 – 2 km.

Environment Assessment Office Invites City's Input

The province has invited the City to participate in a working group evaluating Compliance Coal's proposed mine and works in the Comox Valley.

■ BYLAWS

Subdivision for Upper Burde Street Receives Third Reading

Following a Public Hearing, Council provided third reading to Bylaw No. 4746 and 4747, to facilitate up to 12 lots serviced with community water and septic sewage disposal.

2010 Tax Rates

The Director of Finance provided a report outlining the requirement for establishing tax rates by May 15. The associated "Tax Rates 2010, Bylaw No. 4748" was given three readings. See the **attached press release on page three of this summary** for more details.

Soldas Restaurant Plans Relocation, Revitalization and Expansion

Council will proceed with consideration of the redevelopment of the former Batstar Restaurant at 4811 Beaver Creek Road. Soldas are proposing an expansion which includes – purchase of a portion of Stirling Field from the City, rezoning of this City land to commercial, a variance for setback requirements, and a Development Permit for the change in form and character of the building. The Public Hearing for the rezoning is set for Monday, May 10 at 1:15 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Alberni Marine Eyes Expansion

Council will consider a Development Variance Permit to apply to the setbacks and parking at 3170 1st Avenue as Alberni Marine proposes to expand their facilities.

Development at Tomswood Proceeds to Public Hearing on May 25

Bylaws 4739 and 4740 will be considered at a Public Hearing on May 25, for this residential subdivision north of AW Neil School.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Bylaw,

Council have provided three readings to the amendments to the solid waste bylaw in order to accommodate bi-weekly garbage collection. It is proposed to commence July 5, 2010.

■ REPORTS

Plywood Plant Site Lease

Chalwood Forest Products has leased a portion of the parking lot at the former Plywood Plant site for a four year term, at a rate of \$1,000 per month, plus taxes.

Lease of City owned Land on Tebo Avenue

North Island College will continue to lease City owned property at 4751 Tebo Avenue for a nine month term, at a rate of \$8,888 per month, plus taxes.

Proposed Carwash at A-1 Convenience Receives Setback Variance, New Plans needed for Development Permit

Council approved the variance of the south side setback requirement to accommodate the proposed two bay carwash. Plans are to be adjusted to ensure an existing hedge is maintained and the mechanical works are located to the north of the units.

Alberni Harbour Quay Lease Renewal

Don Martin renewed his lease of Unit #8 at Alberni Harbour Quay for Salmonberry's Emporium, effective May 1, 2010 under the same general terms and conditions as previous, and Council agreed to the assignment of the lease to Dean Bolgart and Sylvia Hart, who may be purchasing the business.

Council Summary

is prepared following each regular Council meeting. It is posted on the City's website at www.portalberni.ca and distributed by e-mail. To be placed on the distribution list, please contact:

russell_dyson@portalberni.ca

Complete Council agendas

including all correspondence and reports are available at www.portalberni.ca Generally these are posted the Friday before each regular Council meeting and are archived on the site.

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Wed. May 5

7:00 pm – Museum & Heritage Commission Meeting
@ Alberni Valley Museum

Mon. May 10

1:15 pm – Public Hearing
@ Council Chambers

2:00 pm – Regular Council Meeting
@ Council Chambers



City of Port Alberni
Press Release April 27, 2010
City Introduces Tax Rates Bylaw for 2010

Council for the City of Port Alberni introduced the 2010 Tax Rates Bylaw at its regular meeting on Monday, April 26, 2010. The City's annual tax rates must be adopted before May 15, each year. The Tax Rates Bylaw is the direct result of a Financial Plan Process including January's public consultation meetings. Council described the unprecedented revenue challenges given the industrial tax dispute in which Catalyst Paper Corp withheld \$3.5 million of its 2009 property taxes and demanded that its future tax rate be held at \$1.5 million annually. Catalyst challenged the City's 2009 Tax Rates Bylaw in BC Supreme Court. While initial rulings have been in favour of the City, Catalyst continues to challenge the legality of the City's Tax Rates Bylaw and their future tax rates.

Council's stated direction in the Financial Plan process was:

- Pursue the collection of outstanding 2009 taxes;
- Continue with planned tax reductions to industry by \$425,000 per year until 2012 and
- Assume that we will not collect full industrial taxes levied in 2010, budget accordingly.

The Financial Plan proposes \$1.6 million in service reductions for 2010 on the expense side. The Tax Rates Bylaw sets the rates for each property classification including major industry, commercial and residential. In 2010, the City proposes to:

- reduce major industry revenues by \$425,000
- maintain Commercial tax revenues at the 2009 level
- increase residential tax revenues by \$2 million.

The average single family residential taxpayer will see a 23.85% increase in the municipal portion of their property taxes. In recent years Port Alberni's residential tax rates have been 16 % lower than the average municipality in BC with a population between 10,000 and 25,000. Port Alberni will be at or slightly above the average rate for residential taxes in 2010.

Adoption of the City's Tax Rates Bylaw is set for May 10th, 2010. For further information please contact:

Ken Watson, City Manager 250 720-2824