

# A G E N D A

## SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 2009-2013 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 AT 2:00 PM IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda

### B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Special Council Meeting minutes from the February 9, 2009 meeting at 2:00 pm and the February 16, 2009 meeting at 7:00 pm.

### C. COUNCIL REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council to provide direction and request information for the next budget meeting on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:00 pm regarding the budget as presented Monday, February 16, 2009:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Administration/Finance | 4. Economic Development |
| 2. Human Resources        | 5. Planning             |
| 3. Information Technology | 6. Museum/McLean Mill   |

### D. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

The public will be provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment after each of the departmental budget presentations.

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| 1. Fire Department | 2. RCMP |
|--------------------|---------|

### E. COUNCIL REVIEW

Council to provide direction or request information for the next budget meeting regarding the budgets presented this afternoon.

### F. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Richard Berg.

### G. REPORTS

1. **Input from the Financial Plan Meeting on February 2, 2009**

Summary of additional input tabulated from the 26 completed questionnaires received up to February 17, 2009.

### H. ADJOURNMENT

*That the meeting adjourn at     pm.*

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009 AT 2:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

*Solda/Patterson  
That the agenda be approved.*

*Carried*

**B. DISCUSSION**

Theresa Kingston, Manager of Human Resources and Community Development, facilitated Council's discussion of the February 2, 2009 Public Input Meeting regarding the 2009-2013 Five Year Financial Plan

Council reviewed the input they received from the public and shared the comments and ideas that they heard in response to the various questions posed at the event.

**C. QUESTION PERIOD**

An opportunity for the public and the press to ask questions of the Mayor and Council. There were none.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

*Whiteman/Solda  
That the meeting adjourn at 3:30 pm.*

*Carried*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
2009-2013 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN  
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2009 AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Patterson/Solda*

*That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

*Carried*

**B. FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL OVERVIEW - CITY MANAGER**

City Manager, Ken Watson, provided an overview of the Five Year Financial Plan process and outlined the City's tax rates for commercial, residential and industrial classifications compared to other communities.

**C. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Departmental Budget Presentations were provided for the following departments.

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Administration/Finance | 4. Economic Development |
| 2. Human Resources        | 5. Planning             |
| 3. Information Technology | 6. Museum/McLean Mill   |

Each manager outlined the role of the department, the proposed work plan and relevant expenditures. Questions were answered from the Mayor and Council as well the Mayor provided opportunity for questions and comments from the public after each presentation.

The presentations are to be copied and distributed to Council and will be available from the City's website within 2 days.

**D. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

Council received a summary of public input from the February 2, 2009 meeting survey results as well as 3 completed surveys.

**E. COUNCIL REVIEW**

Council decided to review the budgets presented at this meeting and provide any questions or direction at the next budget meeting on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chambers. At the meeting the Fire Department and RCMP budgets will be presented.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

*Patterson/Solda*  
*That the meeting adjourn at 10:40 pm.*

*Carried*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**Input from February 2, 2009 Financial Plan Public Meeting**

The following additional input has been tabulated from the 26 completed questionnaires received from the public up to February 17.

Respondents first choice in answer to the question *"In general how would you prefer the City of Port Alberni pay for service improvements"* is evenly split between the three options of:

- o reduction of other services
- o reduced spending on capital projects and facilities, and
- o increased user fees.

There was no preference for increased property taxes or for increased borrowing.

In response to the question *"In the case of a budget shortfall how would you prefer that the City of Port Alberni address the issue?"* respondent's first choices were:

- o one third preferred reduced spending on capital projects and facilities
- o one third preferred increased user fees and charges.
- o 19% prefer reduction of services
- o 10% prefer increased borrowing and
- o 5% prefer increase in property taxes

The 26 survey results are outlined with their ranking shown on a scale of 1 to 5:

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Agree
- 4 Strongly Agree
- 5 Don't Know

The tabulated responses are shown below.

In general how would you prefer the City of Port Alberni to pay for service improvements?

SURVEY #																											Totals	Avg. Rank	% #1
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
Reduce other services	2	1	2	4	2	4	1	2	5		2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	5			2	1	4	5	53	1	35%
Increase property taxes	4	5	5	2	4	3	5	5	5		3	2	5	5	3	4	3	5	2	4			3	4	5	4	90	5	0%
Increase user fees and charges	1	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	5		1	4	3	3	4	2	4	2	5	2			5	3	2	1	61	3	30%
Increase borrowing	5	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	4		4	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	3			4	5		2	90	4	0%
Reduce spending on capital project or facilities	3	2	3	5	3	2	2	1	1		5	3	1	2	1	3	1	3	3	1			1	2		3	48	2	32%

In the case of a budget shortfall how would you prefer that the City of Port Alberni address the issue?

SURVEY #																											Totals	Avg. Rank	% #1
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
Reduce other services	2	3	2	4	2	3	1		5		3	4	2	1	4	1	4	3	1	5			2	2		5	59	3	19%
Increase property taxes	4	5	5	2	4	4	5		5		4	1	5	5	3	4	3	5	3	4			3	5		4	83	5	5%
Increase user fees and charges	1	4	1	1	1	1	3		5		2	5	3	2	2	2	2	1	5	2			5	3		1	52	2	33%
Increase borrowing	5	1	4	4	5	5	4		4		1	2	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	3			4	4		2	79	4	10%
Reduce spending on capital project or facilities	3	2	3	5	3	2	2		1		5	3	1	3	1	3	1	2	2	1			1	1		3	48	1	33%

Richard Berg  
<dreyerbg@telus.net>

02/18/2009 02:04 PM

To ken\_mcrae@city.port-alberni.bc.ca, ken\_watson@city.port-alberni.bc.ca, ikepatterson@telus.net, john@johndouglasportalberni.ca, jmcln@shaw.ca, russell\_dyson@city.port-alberni.bc.ca, ann\_hopkins@city.port-alberni.bc.ca, patrick\_deakin@city.port-alberni.bc.ca, "Gameau, Richard (Richmond)" <Richard.Gameau@catalystpaper.com>, Tex Enemark <tex.enemark@shaw.ca>

cc

Subje City 5-Year Plan  
ct

To all: I've been reliably informed that Catalyst Paper does not anticipate significant revenue from any land sale(s), has no concrete offers, and that any possible tax reductions from any such land sales are unknown.

The provincial government budget yesterday slashed the budget of the Ministry of Economic Development, meaning no bridging grants to the municipalities affected by Catalyst's decision to pay only \$1.5 million in city taxes this year. There was, however, very modest relief in the increase in the industrial tax credit from 50 to 60% (a saving of \$11 million to industry province-wide).

In Campbell River, city council anticipates a 30% increase in the residential tax rate this year. We can reasonably assume a similar case in Port Alberni, plus the tax increase previously scheduled in the now totally OBSOLETE FIVE-YEAR PLAN WHICH I SUGGEST THE CITY SHOULD REVISE IMMEDIATELY IN LIGHT OF REALITY.

As part of the new reality, the city should have a hiring freeze, a freeze on expenses (relinquish the 2% annual increases in wages and departmental budgets), and impose a nine-day paid fortnight on all city employees, meaning that the 10th day would be unpaid, not worked, and would result in a 10% decrease in wages, salaries, and benefits.

Sincerely, Richard (Berg)