

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
2013-2017 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013 AT 6:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Douglas, Councillors Chopra, Kerr, McLeman, Solda and Washington

ABSENT: Councillor Cole

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Solda/Washington
That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

Carried

B. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

***NOTE: ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE INCLUDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT
www.portalberni.ca**

Departmental Budget Presentations were provided by the following.

1. **Museum** – Jean McIntosh, Director, Alberni Valley Museum

The Museum Director provided an overview of the Museum and its fit with Council's Strategic Plan.

She noted the improvements to the Museum entrance which has made it more welcoming and the 25% increase in attendance.

The Director advised that BC Arts Council operating funding was just announced today including an approximate 5% increase.

In response to a question from Council, the Director advised that responsibility for the building adjacent to the Curling rink belongs to the Industrial Heritage Society. She advised they had applied for grant funding for painting the building last year but were unsuccessful. They have reapplied and have sponsors on board as they are aware of the building's appearance.

The Mayor requested the 2012 actual figure for sales from the gift shop.

Don Dunbar asked about how attendance at the Museum was monitored as well as their opening times. The Director advised that the Museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays and that an electronic ticker counts attendance. She further

advised that there is a formula in place for subtracting staff coming in and out. The Director also confirmed that the McLean Mill figures includes events such as Christmas craft fair, car shows.

Vern Barnett asked whether McLean Mill and the Museum are looking at provincial/federal cuts. The Director responded that although federal programs have been cut, today's announcement by the BC Arts Council was a good sign.

Sandy McRuer had questions about McLean Mill revenues and was advised that the City will hear further about their revenues as part of the Annual Operations report to be submitted by the IHS.

Don Dunbar was advised that the dam work at the McLean Mill will be covered in the Engineer's Capital Plan presentation.

2. **Parks & Recreation** – Scott Kenny, Director of Parks & Recreation

The Director of Parks & Recreation provided an overview of his Department outlining the facilities, programs and parks.

Highlights/Comments:

- Majority of budget is labour; 10.7% increase in 2013 not nearly enough
- Proposing 5.5% increase on Parks side
- Problems with pool in the past year – maintenance issues need to be addressed in coming year. Proposed 4 week shutdown
- Plan includes line in 2017 to show that a new pool is on the books – will be \$20m or more
- If pool tank fails, pool will be out of service indefinitely
- Multiplex revenues stable
- Echo well maintained but showing its age
- Proposing to add two additional summer staff for youth programs; increase recreation programmer from ¾ time to FT
- Clocktower repairs – some structural repairs budgeted. Repair or clocks not included
- Stadium an issue – need to post signs warning of uneven surfaces. Needs to be replaced – have reapplied for grant, hoping for 50%. If no grant, will be looking for money from reserves
- Done a number of energy audits – a number of things we can do mostly related to mechanical systems – payback on \$531k is 5 years
- Will be requesting early approval for Museum, Library and Pool HVAC system controls
- Harbour Quay entry sign has received funding from Port Authority

In response to a question from Council about other options to resurface the track, Mr. Kenny advised that if it had been top coated 10 years ago it might have been OK but it can't be done now. The track was built in 1991 for the 1992 Summer Games.

In response to a question, Mr. Kenny advised that we do have a partnership with VIHA for use of our facilities (as well as other partnerships). VIHA partnership is in the \$8,000 range.

Mr. Kenny noted Aquatic Centre numbers are pretty steady and have actually been creeping up slightly.

In response to a question, the City Manager explained that the Port Authority wants to increase the number of floats at Clutesi Haven Marina from 2 to 4. Two need replaced and they would like to install an additional two. They are looking for the City to partner with them.

Discussion was held regarding the costs to repair the clock tower. The quoted cost of \$30,000 is for structural repairs only. Repair or replacement of the clocks would be an additional \$30,000 not included in the budget. Mr. Kenny advised he has not looked for outside sponsorship.

In response to a question from Council regarding the expense costs for the Multiplex, Mr. Kenny advised it is an expensive facility to maintain – ice cleaning, general maintenance, plexi glass cleaning. He noted the facility has an approximate 60% recovery as compared to the pool at 30%.

Mr. Kenny noted fruit/nut trees are not appropriate for lower 3rd Avenue, however, flowering trees are planted in the right places.

It was noted that rent for the caretakers located at various parks is \$250 per month, however, at the end of the year tenants receive a tax statement for market rent.

Don Dunbar brought up the concept of regional recreation noting ACRD residents want to use facilities such as the pool, but don't want to pay. Mr. Kenny advised meetings have been held with the ACRD CAO but this is a stumbling block for ACRD Directors. It was noted the non-resident fees for the pool is \$12 per capita, compared to \$175 for City resident.

Vern Barnett asked about the condition of Echo Centre and Mr. Kenny responded that Echo itself is fine and is being well maintained. Mr. Barnett suggested a fundraising lottery similar to what the Hospital Foundation does could be considered for a new pool. He also suggested the Clocktower clock was donated to the City by the Duncan family.

Sandy McRuer asked why there was such a large ask for building maintenance. He was advised that for the last 20 years only minimal maintenance has been done. Mr. McRuer suggested it was time to look at other ways of funding parks and recreation and suggested the City divest itself of its three regional parks. He asked about boiler replacements and how this would fit with a community energy program. Mr. Kenny advised District Energy would reduce the loads on boilers thereby assisting the facilities.

With regards to grants, Mr. Kenny advised we have no-one to steer them to completion, someone on the ground is needed to seek out and apply for grants. Vern Barnett suggested HR could train someone on staff to write grants. The response was that we don't have the resources.

Penny Cote advised she owns a commercial building in Port Alberni and asked whether business owners could adopt a flower bed. Mr. Kenny advised we only have a few large planters which are not suitable for deployment and suggested this is a sensitive issue due to staff laid off when planters were removed. He also said it is not easy to get sponsors for hanging baskets – there were very few last year.

C. COUNCIL REVIEW

There were no further questions or direction.

D. ADJOURNMENT

*Chopra/Solda
That the meeting adjourn at 8:30 pm.*

Mayor

Clerk