

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

An information report summarizing the Regular meeting of Council held March 11, 2024.
This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email: corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

■ DELEGATIONS

Introduction of Manager of Culture

W., Thorpe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture introduced the City's new Manager of Culture, J. Robinson. The new position will focus on ensuring rich offerings in heritage, music, art, placemaking and events are provided throughout the Alberni Valley.

Port Alberni Toy Run

Chairman, D. Wiwchar and member, J. Cook spoke to the recommendations outlined in the City involvement in local events report, as it relates to the Toy Run's involvement in First Night activities.

■ UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2024-2028 Financial Plan

Council received the Question and Answer Summary and approved several amendments to the Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw to be considered for 3rd Reading at the March 25th Regular Council meeting. Please visit <https://portalberni.ca/budget> to view the financial plan and to find opportunities on how to participate in the process.

■ BYLAWS

"Development Cost Charges Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 5102" was introduced and given three readings. The bylaw upon adoption will establish the following reserves:

- Water Development Cost Charges Reserve
- Sewer Development Cost Charges Reserve
- Storm Drainage Development Cost Charges Reserve
- Highway Facilities Development Cost Charges Reserve
- Parkland Development Cost Charges Reserve

"Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw, Amendment No. 1, Bylaw No. 5086-1, 2024" was adopted. The amendment permitted the inclusion of a schedule outlining the reserves and their specific purposes.

"Zoning Amendment (3045, 3053, 3063 Kingsway Avenue) Bylaw No. 5096" was introduced and given three readings. The bylaw upon adoption will enable a 25-unit multi-residential development at 3045, 3053 and 3063 Kingsway Avenue.

■ CORRESPONDENCE

Alberni Valley Community Forest

Council directed staff to inform the Alberni Valley Community Forest Board that their donation limit will remain at \$10,000 and that Council invites the Board to provide suggestions on any project they feel will benefit the community during Council's yearly budget discussions.

BC Farmers' Markets Nutrition Coupon Program

Council directed staff to prepare a letter of thanks to the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, in support of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

Lathom Corridor Traffic Petition

Council directed staff to refer the letter and petition regarding traffic safety concerns on Lathom Road to the April 17th Traffic Advisory Committee meeting.

Council also received their correspondence summary which included letters from:

- a. Department of Fisheries and Oceans | Open-Net Pen Transition Plan
- b. BC Salmon Farmers | 2024 Marine Finfish Licence Reissuance and Conditions
- c. Ministry of Forests | Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project Engagement Sessions
- d. Hupacasath First Nation | Tree Harvesting and Road Construction Notification on Dundalk Avenue South
- e. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District | Accessibility Committee Appointments
- f. UNIFOR | Forestry Worker Summit 2024
- g. Peace River Regional District | AVICC 2024 Resolution to UBCM
- h. UBCM | Provincial Response to 2023 Resolutions
- i. Sage Haven | Letter of Support for Alberni Valley Toxic Poisoned Drugs Crisis Strategy
- j. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage and Commission | February 7, 2024 Minutes

■ PROCLAMATIONS

On behalf of the Guillain-Barré Syndrome/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Foundation of Canada, Council proclaimed the month of May 2024 as 'GBS and CIDP Awareness Month' in Port Alberni.

■ NEW BUSINESS

City Involvement in Local Events

Council directed staff to contact c̓išaaʔath and Hupačasath First Nations to confirm what involvement or contribution would be most meaningful for the City of Port Alberni to provide each Nation for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Council deferred the 'City Involvement in Local Events' report to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to include additional information as requested and to provide an overview of the Community Investment Program.

Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw

Council directed staff to update recreation fees and charges as of September 1, 2024 to reflect the 2024 median of the six comparator communities: Campbell River, Courtenay, Comox, Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Powell River.

Council further directed administration to implement a fee for sports field use starting September 1, 2025 based on the median of the six comparator communities and that staff prepare a report outlining options permitting exemptions for sports field fees associated with children/youth sports and charitable events.

Council also directed staff to prepare a report outlining options that would permit City residents [including Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations] priority status for Parks, Recreation and Culture services.

Engineering & Public Works Fees and Charges

Council directed staff to increase fees for utility service connections to bring them in alignment with comparable sized municipalities on Vancouver Island and further, review the "Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2007, Bylaw No. 4665" making the necessary rate amendments to ensure full cost recovery.

Council further directed staff to review the overall utility service connection application process, and to investigate requirements to include estimates and actual costs of construction for the fees charged.

Development Cost Charges

Council directed staff to update the Development Cost Charges Bylaw and further, establish a Community Amenity Charges Bylaw in alignment and as informed by the Official Community Plan update and Master Plan process.

Revitalization Tax Exemption Programs

Council directed staff to bring forward a report to a Committee of the Whole meeting considering the repeal of bylaws related to Revitalization Tax Exemption Programs.

Ministry of Environment Air Emissions

Council directed staff to write a letter to the Ministry of Environment requesting that they reduce the air emissions permit for Catalyst Paper by 70% as per the recommendation of the Alberni Valley Air Quality Council, thereby formalizing and bringing into alignment those standards currently being realized by Catalyst Paper.

5170 Argyle Street [Port Pub] | Remedial Action Order Update

Council received the report '5170 Argyle Street [Port Pub] – Remedial Action Order Update'.

Notice of Motion | Seniors Advocacy

Notice of motion for the March 25th Regular meeting that Council direct staff to send a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities requesting provincial support of the recommendations outlined in the Office of the Seniors Advocate report titled 'Resourceful and Resilient: Challenges Facing BC's Rural Seniors' dated February 2024 and further, to request the creation of a rural seniors caucus within the UBCM membership.

Highway 4 Hole in the Wall Access and Safety

Council directed administration to request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District contact Mosaic Forest Management, with a goal for Mosaic to lead a collaborative "Hole in the Wall Trailhead" project on their new cut block south of Aspenden Road and Highway 4.

■ QUESTION PERIOD

R. Smith

Inquired regarding the land sale reserve, sewer and water projects, and Quay to Quay Pathway project totals.

L. Walerius

Inquired regarding the Official Community Plan process and regulations related to housing.

D. Wiwchar

Requested clarity regarding the outcome of Council recommendations for City involvement in local events.

■ COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City of Port Alberni is now offering hybrid Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.

We encourage you to remain informed on City business and community topics through the following options:

- Attend in-person in City Hall, Council Chambers, located at 4850 Argyle Street
- Livestream @ www.portalberni.ca
- Join online or by phone using MS Teams

Regular Council meetings are held at 2:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month. All meeting recordings are posted on the City website for viewing.

Complete Council agendas including all correspondence and reports are available at portalberni.ca. Generally, these are posted the Friday before each Regular Council meeting and are archived on the site.

The Council Summary is prepared following each regular Council meeting and posted on the City's website. You can also visit the City website and sign up to receive summaries delivered directly to your inbox.

For more information related to Council meetings, including how to participate, please visit www.portalberni.ca/council. You may also contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

■ MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Monday, March 18th

6:00 pm – Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers

Thursday, March 21st

CANCELLED | 12:00 pm – Advisory Planning
Commission
Council Chambers

Monday, March 25th

2:00 pm – Regular Council
Council Chambers

Wednesday, April 3rd

7:00 pm – Alberni Valley Heritage Commission
Alberni Valley Museum