

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held Monday, April 27, 2020 @ 2 PM

Via Video Conferencing

PRESENT: Mayor S. Minions
Councillor R. Corbeil
Councillor D. Haggard
Councillor R. Paulson
Councillor H. Poon
Councillor C. Solda
Councillor D. Washington

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the agenda be approved as printed and circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the minutes of Special Meeting held at 11:30 am and Regular Council Meeting held at 2:00 pm on April 14, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

C. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

The Deputy City Clerk read the following submission from Roland Smith - "Reading today's agenda, the proposed resolution to my inquiry is for staff to respond in writing. Mayor and Council are the decision makers, and staff carry out the directive. While some questions require detail that only staff can provide, my hope is the Council the citizens of Port Alberni elected to make decisions, will also be the ones to provide answers to any questions of those decisions."

D. DELEGATIONS

1. Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

Bill Collette, President of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce participated via zoom and provided Council with an overview/presentation of other 'welcome signs' both on and off the island.

R20-116

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report identifying two to three signage concepts [based on designs similar to that established by Huu-ay-aht, the City of Parksville/Terrace and Nanoose Bay [as outlined in Mr. Collette's presentation] including cost estimates for Council's consideration at a subsequent meeting of Council.

CARRIED

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS NIL

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Accounts

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the certification of the Director of Finance dated April 27, 2020, be received and the cheques numbered 146050 to 146115 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$785,357.69, be approved.

CARRIED

2. RCMP Department

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the 1st Quarter report from Acting Officer in Charge, Sgt. Peter Dionne, RCMP dated April 20, 2020 providing information about current department operations, be received.

CARRIED

3. Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage – Hosting BC Games in 2024 or 2026

R20-117

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the report dated April 15, 2020 from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage dated April 15, 2020 providing information about the City hosting future BC Games be received, and that Council supports staff participation on a conference call with BC Games representatives on June 10, 2020 to obtain further information regarding the hosting of the Games.

CARRIED

4. Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage – Carved Sign

R20-118

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to explore reinstalling the former carved sign [previously located at the CC Visitor Centre] and prior to moving forward with installation, seek public input on a prominent/appropriate location.

CARRIED

5. Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage – Alberni Aquarium and Stewardship Centre – Leasable Area

R20-119

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the report from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage dated April 20, 2020 providing information about the feasibility of separating the space leased by the Alberni Aquarium and Stewardship Centre be received. Further, that Council direct staff to move forward with creating two individual/separate spaces within the current footprint, resulting in the Alberni Aquarium Association leasing the ground floor, including an \$800 monthly reduction in rent, and that the City undertakes a process to determine best use and suitable tenant for the second floor.

CARRIED

6. **Director of Finance – Municipal Solid Waste Volumes – COVID-19 Impacts**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the report from the Director of Finance regarding municipal solid waste volumes dated April 20, 2020, be received.
CARRIED

- R20-120 7. **Manager of Community Safety – Nuisance List Review**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council rescind the motion resolved at Council's Regular meeting held November 27, 2017, declaring the property located at 3110 2nd Avenue and legally described as Lot 1, District Lot 1, Alberni District, Plan VIP6800 [the "Property"] a nuisance property, thereby removing the subject property from the City's Nuisance Property listing.

8. **Manager of Community Safety – Enhanced Security Initiative Program [ESIP]**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the report dated April 21, 2020 from the Manager of Community Safety advising Council that the City's Enhanced Security Initiative Program which previously applied to business owners is now being expanded to include residential properties, be received.
CARRIED

- R20-121 9. **Director of Engineering and Public Works – Mutual Aid Agreement for Water Services**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT City Council authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Agreement between the City of Port Alberni and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District entitled 'Water Services Agreement' effective May 1, 2020 and expiring on December 31, 2025.
CARRIED

G. **BYLAWS**

1. **Director of Finance – "Five Year Financial Plan 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003"**
MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003" by removing \$40,000 from the contingency fund that had been allocated for McLean Mill"
DEFEATED

- R20-122 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 - 2024, Bylaw No. 5003", be read a third time.*
CARRIED

- R20-123 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003", be now finally adopted, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the corporate seal and numbered 5003.*
CARRIED

2. Director of Finance – “Tax Rates 2020, Bylaw No. 5008”

R20-124 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT “Tax Rates 2020, Bylaw No. 5008” be now introduced and read a first time.*

CARRIED

R20-125 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT “Tax Rates 2020, Bylaw No. 5008” be read a second time.*

CARRIED

R20-126 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT “Tax Rates 2020, Bylaw No. 5008” be read a third time.*

CARRIED

R20-127 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT “Tax Rates 2020, Bylaw No. 5008” be now finally adopted, signed by the Mayor & Clerk, sealed with the corporate seal and numbered 5008.*

CARRIED

R20-128 *MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni sets the penalty for late payment of taxes in two stages for Class 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 as follows:*

- *5% immediately after the due date on October 1, 2020; and*
- *an additional 5% on December 1, 2020.*

CARRIED

H. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Alberni Valley Transition Town Society [AVTTS]

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter dated April 16, 2020 from the AVTTS inviting Council’s consideration of implementing a few low or no-cost strategies relating to food security and resilience during COVID-19 be received.

CARRIED

2. Rebecca Terepocki

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the emails dated April 20 & 21, 2020 from R. Terepocki encouraging Council to address other community issues rather than the 3rd Avenue Revitalization Project be received.

CARRIED

3. Vancouver Island Construction Association [VICA] & the Canadian Home Builders’ Association VI [CHBA]

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter dated April 20, 2020 from VICA & CHBA VI asking that fairness and consideration be a guiding principle when dealing with schedule and cost impacts experienced by contractors on municipal contracts be received.

CARRIED

4. The Corporation of the District of Saanich

R20-129

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter from the Mayor of the District of Saanich to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting the reinstatement of the financial hardship property tax deferment program be received, and that Council direct staff to send a similar letter to the Ministry.

CARRIED

5. Roland Smith

R20-130

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter from Roland Smith requesting information/clarification regarding City processes and the contractual relationships between the City of Port Alberni and the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce regarding the McLean Mill National Historical Site be received and that Council direct staff to respond to Mr. Smith's questions in writing including how to access in-camera information.

CARRIED

6. United Steelworkers, Local 1-1937

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter dated April 22, 2020 advising that due to COVID-19 the United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 will not be hosting the Day of Mourning Ceremony this year and requesting that the City fly the National Day of Mourning Flag at half-mast on April 28th and throughout the following week and observe a minute of silence on April 28th, be received and Council direct staff fly the National Day of Mourning Flag and observe a minute of silence on April 28th.

CARRIED

I. PROCLAMATIONS NIL

J. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

News Release dated April 16, 2020 advising the Province is providing enhanced relief for businesses by reducing most commercial property tax bills by an average of 25%, along with new measures to support local governments facing temporary revenue shortfalls as a result of COVID-19.

2. Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Letter dated April 8, 2020 advising that the resolutions Council provided to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities will be brought to the 2020 UBCM Convention in September for consideration.

3. Diabetes Canada

Correspondence received April 20, 2020 requesting municipalities to clear garbage and soiled textiles from their donation bin sites as they have temporarily laid off their workers due to COVID-19.

4. Alberni District Fall Fair Association

Letter dated April 21, 2020 announcing that the 2020 Alberni District Fall Fair slated for September 10 - 13, 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19.

K. REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA NIL

L. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Council and Regional District Reports

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Council reports outlining recent meetings and events related to the City's business, be received.

CARRIED

- a. **Social Procurement** [flowing from Council Reports], Council considered the following motion:

R20-131

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to commence work on implementing a social procurement policy for consideration by Council at a future meeting.

CARRIED

M. NEW BUSINESS NIL

N. QUESTION PERIOD

The City Clerk read the following submissions:

Q - John Adams wrote "Madam Mayor and Council, a month ago you decided to contact the Federal Government to see if they had jurisdiction at McLean Mill. In particular, if they had jurisdiction that would trump or void the BC Agricultural Land Commissions mandate to enforce its regulations. Have you got an answer from the Federal Government and if so, can you elaborate on this issue? Secondly, when is the City going to take action on the dam issue at McLean Mill? Will there be a new offering of contract for bids? Is there a timeline in which you hope to complete this project?"

The CAO advised that the City has not reached out to the federal government but has obtained legal advice of which Council is aware. Following receipt of the advice, Council directed that staff make an application to the ALC for non-farm use to permit those activities currently carried out at the site. Regarding dam work, the City's financial plan includes

funding in the budget for this project and now that the plan has been adopted, the City will be moving ahead with tendering this project.

Councillor Poon left the meeting at 4:45 pm, declaring a conflict of interest, noting she is a corporate owner of 3202 Kingsway Avenue.

Q - Neil Anderson wrote "Would Mayor Minions and/or Council please elaborate on the reasons the City and WorkSafe BC have posted a Stop Work order on the two year renovation project at the Kingsway Hotel? This project has been ongoing for over two years. Why are the permits only being applied for now, near the end of a two-year project, and not prior to the start of the renovation project?"

The CAO advised that a report [on this topic] was received at the last meeting of Council. When the City became aware of the issue, a city official attended the site and the owner was engaged. While COVID-19 did have an impact on inspections, etc., the City did issue a Stop Work Order following inspection. Subsequent to this, the owner has engaged a structural engineer to supervise the renovations going forward and the Stop Work Order has since been removed. The City did take steps once aware of the situation.

Councillor Poon returned to the meeting at 4:47 pm

Q - Roland Smith wrote "Fall fair cancelled, Salmon fest cancelled, PNE cancelled, and so forth. Island communities are petitioning Dr. Bonnie Henry to direct BC Ferries to further restrict travel. If this City supports the petition to have Dr. Bonnie Henry restrict travel on BC Ferries, and McLean Mill needs people to travel, and gather for events, how will people get here? And how does it continue to make sense to fund McLean Mill with \$190,000 this season? Secondly, does it still make sense to fund the travel and visitor information centre for the full amount of \$87,000 this season, when we don't want people to travel to the island?"

The CAO noted that the City has agreements in place with the Chamber of which the City is bound. The City is and will remain engaged with the Chamber, regarding the impact COVID-19 is having at both sites, with conversations focused on recovery mechanisms when COVID-19 restrictions/orders are relaxed.

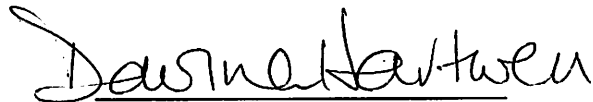
O. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:50 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor



Clerk