

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
Held Monday, April 6, 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

Gallery: In order to adhere to required social distancing protocols and protect the health and safety of citizens no public were permitted to be in attendance.

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 pm.

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the agenda be amended by adding the opportunity for Public Input prior to considering Item B. 1. The agenda was then approved as amended.

CARRIED

A1. PUBLIC INPUT

The Deputy City Clerk read a submission from Ms. Lynne Galesloot urging Council to defer any unnecessary tax items from the budget e.g., 3rd Avenue Revitalization Project and Welcome signage.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020-2024, Bylaw No. 5003

Council gave 1st Reading to the City's "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020-2024, Bylaw No. 5003" at its Regular Meeting of Council held January 13, 2020. At Council's Regular meeting held March 30, 2020, Council directed staff to conduct a review of the City's "Five Year Financial Plan 2020 – 2024 Bylaw No. 5003" for the purpose of identifying reasonable options for amendments to the proposed Bylaw in light of COVID-19.

Based on the direction provided, Council received a report from the Director of Finance identifying a number of proposed amendments Council may wish to consider. Following introductory comments from the Director of Finance, Council then proceeded as follows:

S20-85 *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council [to reflect the reduction in anticipated revenues as a result of curtailed services in the area of Parks, Recreation and Heritage facility closures/program cancellations] direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003" by increasing general taxation in the amount of 160,000.*
CARRIED

- S20-86** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council [to reflect the reduction in City expenses as a result of curtailed services in the area of Parks, Recreation and Heritage] direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003" by decreasing general taxation in the amount of \$700,000.*
CARRIED
- S20-87** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize the 3rd Avenue Revitalization Project to proceed in 2020 subject to receipt of grant funding. Further, that staff be directed to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by removing the 3rd Avenue Revitalization Project from the 2020 Operational funding stream and reassign costs associated with this project as follows: \$150,000 from the City's Capital Works Reserve fund and \$750,000 through grant funding.*
CARRIED
- S20-88** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize the Welcome Signage project to proceed in 2020 subject to receipt of grant funding. Further, that staff be directed to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by removing the funding identified for the Welcome Signage project from the City's 2020 Operational funding stream and reassign costs associated with this project as follows: \$25,000 from the City's Capital Works Reserve fund for the purpose of carrying out design work and \$125,000 through grant funding.*
CARRIED
- S20-89** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by reducing Council and staff conference/training budget in the amount of \$90,000.*
CARRIED
- S20-90** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by allocating \$70,000 for the purpose of implementing additional security measures as well as installing cameras/lighting at City facilities in an effort to reduce vandalism and theft.*
CARRIED
- S20-91** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by allocating \$200,000 to COVID-19 for the purpose of providing for response and recovery of non-EMBC [Emergency Management – Province of British Columbia] costs.*
CARRIED

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- S20-92** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize staff to reduce anticipated revenues to the City's Community Gaming projections by 25% [line item 16215], and increase general taxation in the amount of \$111,460.*
CARRIED
- S20-93** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize staff to waive anticipated revenues in interest charges [City's Residential Garbage Penalties line 15625] until September 15, 2020, and increase general taxation in the amount of \$10,000.*
CARRIED
- S20-94** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, by waiving lease fees payable by the Alberni Aquarium Association for a period of three [3] months, and increase general taxation in the amount of \$6,000.*
CARRIED
- S20-95** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, to include \$5,000 for the purpose of installing LED lighting at City Hall with funding from the Carbon Trust Reserve fund.*
CARRIED
- S20-96** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council authorize staff to amend the "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003, to include, subject to receipt of further explanation from Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society [WVIIHS], \$48,000 for the purpose of train and track repairs, and an additional \$10,000 for the purpose of WVIIHS creating a business/marketing plan that will speak to the operation of the trains beginning in the year 2021 with funding from the City's contingency reserve [total of \$58,000].*
CARRIED
- S20-97** *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the City's "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003" to include \$76,390 for the purpose of engaging the services of Marcie DeWitt Consulting and Waymark Architecture to explore the Day Care Spaces Creation Project, subject to obtaining confirmation from the consultants that their ability to move forward with this initiative/work will not be hampered by the current COVID-19 pandemic.*
CARRIED

- S20-98 *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to amend the City's "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw 2020 – 2024, Bylaw No. 5003" by reallocating \$39,000 [from City surplus] for the purpose of initiating planning work for the development of the multi-modal path between Kitsuksis Dyke and Harbour Quay [Connect the Quays] pathway project.*
CARRIED

C. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Alberni Harbour Quay Merchants

- S20-99 *MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the email dated March 30, 2020 from the merchants at the Alberni Harbour Quay requesting either partial and/or full reduction in rent for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and deferral of rent to be spread out over the remaining months on each business lease, be received and that staff to provide a report speaking to this request at the next meeting of Council.*
CARRIED

2. Peter Finch

- MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the email dated March 26, 2020 from Peter Finch requesting Council reconsider the proposed property tax increase given the current economic conditions, be received.*
CARRIED

D. QUESTION PERIOD

An opportunity for the public and the press to submit questions of Council via email – council@portalberni.ca

E. ADJOURNMENT

- MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:29 pm.*
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor



Clerk