

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018 AT 4:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Minions; Councillors Corbeil, Haggard, Poon, Solda, Washington

LATE: Councillor Paulson (4:06 pm)

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held at 4:00 pm on November 19, 2018, be adopted.

CARRIED

C. DISCUSSION

Mayor Minions welcomed candidates and the public to the meeting and invited input following the recent election around what candidates heard from the public during the election campaign specifically:

- a) What were the top 3 community issues/challenges heard from the public during the election?
- b) What were the top 3 opportunities heard from the public during the election?
- c) If you had been elected what would be the one initiative you would hope to accomplish by the end of your term?

Issues/Challenges:

Michael Moore:

- Disconnect from how government works
- No real world engagement
- Once turn off Johnston Road, Port Alberni looks run down
- Difficult to engage with Council standing at podium

Todd Patola:

- What is the mandate of Council? Council elected to do a job – time to get on with it
- Three things heard: less crime; more housing; lower taxes

Aaron Brevick

- Housing #1 issue
- Everyone wants lower crime/taxes
- Trust issue – not understanding processes; how to do stuff.

Kevin Wright

- Economic stagnation
- 3rd generation unemployment
- Advocate for business models/planning for future

Chris Alemany

- Homelessness; opioid addiction crisis
- Economic transition – in between place from traditional resource based economy to something else
- McLean Mill

John Douglas

- Accessibility to participating with Council – meetings too formal, people don't feel comfortable
- Healthy community always in transition; need to be flexible
- Housing #1 issue – low end and seniors
- Economic development in different sectors – people voicing that forestry is gone – move on to other sectors

Dan Washington

- Affordable housing; crime; McLean Mill
- Better livability

Deb Haggard

- Affordable housing; unemployment; crime
- 3rd Avenue vacant buildings

Ron Paulson

- Maintaining/growing economy
- How do we attract entrepreneurs
- People are tired of hearing “stinky old mill town”; change comes from within
- Housing

Cindy Solda

- Affordable housing for all ages
- McLean Mill

Ron Corbeil

- Housing; crime; addiction
- Unemployment
- McLean Mill
- Livability; empty lots/buildings

Helen Poon

- Housing; economy; addiction

Sharie Minions

- Housing; seniors care; young families
- Engaging with Council – need other ways to engage ie. social media
- Opportunity to educate regarding processes
- Economic diversification
- Reconciliation – need to improve relationships with First Nations – build real relationships
- Beautification – hold ourselves to higher standards

Comments from Public:

Neil Anderson

- Affordable housing – difficulty finding good tenants discourages people from making good quality housing available
- Premature marketing Port Alberni as a retirement destination – supports not available
- Taxes

Andy Callicum (elected Vice-President for Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council)

- Of their 10,000 members, approximately 3,000 live off-reserve in Port Alberni
- Worked with former Mayor in trying to be proactive to address issues; potential to work together
- Rental cost increases in recent years challenging on low income
- NTC would like to be part of solution

Ian Thomas

- Look at inventory of skills in our community

Jim del Rio

- Housing issues not on Council – hit the property owners
- Developers should be required to build certain amount of lower cost homes as in other communities – rein in developers
- Opioid crisis is not council issue – people won't change until they want to. Sometimes if you leave something alone it will fix itself
- McLean Mill going to cost a lot of money

Mayor Minions

- City has place at the table – knowing what the issues are even if they are not our issues – can advocate

Opportunities:

Michael Moore:

- Cultural experiences
- Community engagement
- Some form of Council liaison for volunteers
- Housing – be aggressively creative; put together info package with bylaws, permit info, etc.
- Branding – no sign for Port Alberni

Kevin Wright:

- Safety for renters (owners)
- Being prepared for business models and open to new, novel ideas

Peter Rueschmann:

- Be open-minded to diversification
- Work as a team

Chris Alemany:

- Opportunities stem from challenges
- Untapped potential in the waterfront
- Invest in our natural assets

John Douglas:

- Developing industrial core outside urban core
- Waterfront development; bypass road; development of Port
- Industrial growth compatible with how we grow in the future

Todd Patola:

- Get on with making things better
- Things we can't do – change provincial legislation
- Create new truck route (only where we can)
- Advertise City; promotion
- Use of appropriate metrics
- Danger in talking about things and not doing them

Aaron Brevick:

- Many issues brought forward are not Council issues
- Re housing and rentals - can Council meet with Rental/Housing Boards and lobby them – landlord/tenancy Act a mess
- Meet with social development people – Council's voice carries weight

Dan Washington:

- Stop people before they leave town
- Beautification extended past Johnston Road
- Crime reduction/livability

Deb Haggard:

- Tourism – positive marketing
- Trails – lack of signage and promotion
- Waterfront (more industrial development/less industrial development)

Ron Paulson:

- First Nations cultural development
- Alberni Valley Learning Council opportunity – trying to be proactive to community needs

Cindy Solda:

- Port Alberni best kept secret
- Amazing education opportunities; arts programs; sports; services
- Lifestyle
- Partnerships with First Nations governments
- People don't understand Council's mandate as defined by the Community Charter
- Need to be more self-promoting

Ron Corbeil:

- Industrial park – catalogue of what is available
- Somass Mill site a huge opportunity
- Community Forest
- Time to connect the town – infill empty lots; walkways
- Bylaws to deal with empty buildings/lots

Helen Poon:

- Tourism – Port Alberni can be a destination; doesn't need to be a stop on the way to somewhere else
- Promote City and culture; enough here to sustain people
- Look within the town for opportunities; don't need urban sprawl; infill

Initiatives:

Michael Moore:

- Work towards business development
- Be active in community; hands-on
- Listen to what people want; people don't want to hear "I can't"
- Create project list of what's being worked on

Kevin Wright:

- Tourism
- Opportunity to build the community the way we want
- Communities like Cumberland, Tofino, Salmon Arm – building a culture
- Educate business owners as much as employees
- Share ourselves regionally

Chris Alemany:

- Advocate at provincial level
- Regional transit huge opportunity
- Acknowledge firefighting model is unsustainable
- Continue to improve bike infrastructure – make more safe and secure

Todd Patola:

- UBCM is lobbying group for municipalities
- Need to be ourselves
- Make a resolution to make things better – includes things like improving economy; keeping taxes low

Aaron Brevick:

- Not look for ways to raise taxes but look for ways to expand tax base
- Council needs to listen to the public; get out in public
- Make processes simpler/smoothen

John Douglas:

- We live in a fantastic community
- People do the work – will continue to work on initiatives
- Council can open doors; help pave the way; provide guidance and support
- Advisory Planning Commission type model to coordinate/connect agencies
- Encourage competitive hotel development and bring back MRDT

Dan Washington:

- Livability; front door is decorated now time to clean up the rest of the house

Deb Haggard:

- Working with Chamber on bringing back MRDT

Ron Paulson:

- Will continue to work outside of Council; don't give ourselves enough credit

Cindy Solda:

- More work on aging infrastructure – fix it and start doing it right.
- Diversify economy; increase tax base
- Partnerships

Ron Corbeil:

- Community Forest growth; produce more local employment

Helen Poon:

- Larger tax base

Mayor Minions:

- Build strong strategic plan that Council buys into and that Council follows over next four years; check in with public.
- Don't be afraid to say No if ideas don't fit within strategic plan

Mayor Minions thanked everyone for attending to provide their input.

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting adjourn at 6:12 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT



Mayor

City Clerk

