

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017 AT 4:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Ruttan; Councillors Alemany, McLeman, Minions, Paulson, Sauvé and Washington

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS

1. Jan Lavertu – Chamber of Commerce

Jan Lavertu representing the Chamber of Commerce attended to further discuss their proposal for Council to set aside business licence revenues (approx \$130,000 per year) currently going into general revenue for major projects. They feel this would also give the ability to leverage provincial/federal funding and would have the potential to create something more impactful for the community as a whole.

Mr. Lavertu commented that people don't see where their fees are going and felt that many businesses who don't have licences would be more willing to pay if they see their funds going to community initiatives.

In response to questions the CAO responded that in 2016 the City brought in just over \$130,000 in revenue through 904 business licences.

The Mayor also commented on the amount of money that has gone into the Façade Improvement program over the past two years - \$50,000 in each year from the City plus \$100,000 from Community Futures.

Discussion was held regarding the estimated 200 rural businesses operating in the City not currently paying for a business licence and the need for enforcement as well as education around the requirement to actually have a business licence.

The members generally liked the concept of setting funds aside for major projects and in response to a question regarding ramifications, the CAO responded that a reduction in approximately \$130,000 from general revenue (which equates to approximately 1% of budget) would mean either an increase in other revenues; decreased operations or a reduction in capital projects.

The Committee of the Whole allowed Jim del Rio to speak. He stated that he's been in a number of communities and done business in all of them and has been shut down for not having a business licence. He also commented on the limited bylaw resources in our community compared to others.

The Director of Development Services confirmed that Mr. del Rio is correct and that a licence – or inter-municipal licence - is required in order for any contractor or organization to do business in the City of Port Alberni. Inter-municipal business licences provide an additional \$150 to the City in which the licence is purchased.

In conclusion, Mr. Lavertu reiterated the business community's strong support of this initiative and believes this is the next direction Council should be taking. He said that the goal is to make the community strong and viable.

C. STAFF REPORTS

1. Draft Business Licence Bylaw

Staff presented the proposed new Business Licence Regulation Bylaw for input by Committee of the Whole. Discussion was held regarding fees with some suggestion that the fee for medical marijuana facilities should be at least as high as pawn brokers or financial institutions. Discussion was also held regarding home based businesses and whether those fees should be higher.

Staff advised the Bylaw will be brought forward to the next regular council meeting for introduction and three readings.

O. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting adjourn at 5:14 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor

Dorena Hartwell
Clerk