

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018 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. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held at 4:00 pm on December 19, 2017, be adopted.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Alberni Valley Social Planning Council

Ron Jorgenson, Alberni Valley Social Planning Council member, provided material to Council for review including examples of Social Planning Councils in other communities.

Mr. Jorgenson commented as follows:

- The community has changed over the past decades. At one point community was thriving, employment was low and jobs were plentiful. Now people are struggling to make end meet.
- Social Planning Commission can act as an umbrella organization and a lead for social change and can provide a social development plan that has long term goals and the ability to advocate for funds to support the “on the ground” initiatives.

D. STAFF REPORTS

1. As background information, the report from the Director of Development Services dated February 1, 2016 regarding the creation of a City of Port Alberni Social Planning Commission was attached.

E. PUBLIC INPUT

General discussion was held and Mr. Jorgenson responded to questions from Council and the public in attendance.

In response to a question from Neil Anderson regarding unions and their role, Mr. Jorgenson responded that we live in a union driven community.

Celia Stocker-Lizney commented regarding volunteer groups and whether help was needed to find volunteers and to provide coordination. She also asked whether there was an alternative idea to Social Planning.

Mayor Ruttan asked the CAO to provide a summary of the changes that have been occurring in the community.

Tim Pley, CAO provided a summary of the steps the City has taken recently to address social issues:

- The City is working with various levels of government on many issues including supporting a harm reduction site and pending social housing sites.
- A reconciliation process that has been extremely promising and which recently engaged in a community to community forum which was very successful with 120 people in attendance.
- Community policing has elevated their activity with street patrols.
- Bylaw Services Department has received additional funding for more staff.
- Effective Nuisance Properties Working Group which has been successful in working with property owners.
- Council has designated four buildings as nuisance properties - these buildings have seen improvements.
- Supporting the newly developed Uptown Merchants Association.
- Council is considering changes to the City's purchasing policy

Ellen Frood, ACAWS supported Mr. Jorgenson's presentation and encouraged Council to think of the long term future. She advised that ACAWS would want to be involved with the Social Planning Commission.

Mark Aussem commented on the March 19th Town Hall meeting he facilitated at the Italian Hall regarding crime and economic development which was unfortunately not well attended. He commented on the public perception that nothing is being done about the crime in Port Alberni, that people rely on social media for their information and much of that information is false or misleading. Council thanked Mr. Aussem for his efforts and commented that we need to

change the perception that Port Alberni is not safe.

Mr. Anderson expressed that he feels frustrated with the lack of process within Council.

Marjory Jarrett commented that she is in support of the Social Planning Commission.

Roman Frank commented that we need to have an advocate and a clear direction. We could do a lot of wonderful things, but Council is limited to what they can do.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Jorgenson advised that he would continue to work with the groups he currently works with, but if he is called to serve on a Social Planning Commission he would.

Mayor Ruttan thanked everyone for attending the Committee of the Whole meeting.

F. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting adjourn at 5:49 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor



City Clerk

