

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

An information report summarizing the Regular meeting of Council held December 11, 2023.
This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email: corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

■ DELEGATIONS

25-Year Employee Recognition Awards

City employees were recognized for 25 years of service as follows:

- Amar Giri, Waterworks Chargehand
- Rod Jungenkrueger, Solid Waste Collector
- Roman Wiatr, Water System Technician
- Louisa McMeekin, Watch Clerk, R.C.M.P
- Dawn McMurtrie, Receptionist, Aquatic Ctr.

Introduction of New City Staff Members

New City staff members Dave Arsenault, Project Manager and Sonia Lowe, Manager of Communications were introduced.

N. Wynne

Applicant, N. Wynne presented on the Development Variance Application No. 117 regarding a variance in fence height.

D. Wallace & M. Ramadan | Gaza Ceasefire

Following a presentation from D. Wallace and M. Ramadan, Council directed that staff write a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to request that the federal government call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Council further resolved to condemn all acts of anti-Palestinian racism, islamophobia and anti-semitism in our communities, which have risen since the escalation of violence this past month, and to commit to working to ensure our communities are just, safe and welcoming for all.

■ BYLAWS

City of Port Alberni 2023 – 2027 Financial Plan

Amendment Bylaw No. 5075-1, 2023 was adopted. The amendment is provided to consolidate all changes made through Council resolution in 2023 within the 2023 – 2027 Five Year Financial Plan.

“Zoning Amendment (3045, 3053, 3063 Kingsway Avenue) Bylaw No. 5096” was introduced and given first reading. The bylaw upon adoption will enable a multi-residential development at 3045, 3053 and 3063 Kingsway Avenue.

■ CORRESPONDENCE

Local Government Leadership Academy

Council authorized Councillor J. Douglas to attend the Local Government Leadership Academy Forum taking place January 31 – February 2, 2024 in Vancouver, BC.

Council also received their correspondence summary which included letters from:

- a. The City of Victoria | Installation of Speed and Red-Light Cameras
 - b. National Police Federation | Clarifying Misconceptions Regarding Surrey Transition and Policing in BC
 - c. Letters from Various Ministries in Follow-up to UBCM Meetings
 - d. City of Fort St. John | Request to Enact the *Community Safety Act* or the *Community Safety Amendment Act*
 - e. Vancouver Island Regional Library | VIRL 2024 Budget and Levies
- Council directed staff to prepare a letter to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board expressing disappointment in relation to the projected 17 percent budget increase for 2024.*
- f. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy | Provincial Phase Out of Single-Use and Plastic Items
 - g. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission | Minutes of November 1, 2023
 - h. Salvation Army | Thank you

■ REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA

Committee/Commission Appointments

Council released for public consumption the following Committee/Commission appointments:

- Reappointment of Stephanie Weber and Callan Noye to the Advisory Planning Commission for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025.
- Reappointment of Joshua Dahling, Callan Noye and Colin Schult to the Community Investment Program for a one-year term commencing January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.
- Reappointment of Colin Schult to the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025.

■ NEW BUSINESS

Community Investment Program

Council authorized the 2024 Community Investment Program Committee recommendations distributing \$13,449.42 of in-kind and cash funding across 15 local non-profit organizations.

Development Variance Permit No. 117 | 4735 and 4715 Dunbar Street

Council authorized the issuance of Development Variance Permit No. 117 granting a variance to permit an increase to the maximum permitted height of a fence in a front yard from 4 ft (1.25 m) to 6 ft (1.83 m) at 4735 and 4715 Dunbar Street.

2024 Meeting Schedules

Council approved the 2024 Meeting schedules. Meeting schedules can be found on the City website at www.portalberni.ca.

Notice of Motion | Personnel Standing Committee

Notice of Motion for the January 8, 2024 Regular meeting that Council direct staff to provide a report outlining the potentials for the Personnel Standing Committee mandate and the advantage and disadvantages of it being either a Council committee or an administrative committee.

Notice of Motion | Deputy Mayor and Council Appointments

Notice of Motion for the January 8, 2024 Regular meeting that the 2024 Deputy Mayor appointments, appointments to Committees and Council representatives to public bodies, commissions and select committees be approved as circulated.

Community to Community Grant Application

Council approved the City as an applicant to the Union of BC Municipalities 2023-24 Community to Community Grant Program to support following through on Council's directive to explore having First Nation Representatives at Council meetings.

An application was submitted to the program for funding to cover the costs of 5 meetings in 2024 between the City and the Nations to understand their different approaches to governance, explore options for non-Treaty First Nations participation and input in Council meetings, to review a legal opinion on an option (or options) selected by the three governments and adopt an approach.

Christmas Lights on Johnston Road

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update that the City of Port Alberni has received approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to install a limited light display on Johnston Road in time for the holiday season.

Somass Lands Update

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on the Somass Lands redevelopment

noting that the City will be releasing the name of the development partner on December 12th at 9 am. For more information visit the official project site at www.letsconnectpa.ca/somass-lands

■ QUESTION PERIOD

J. Leskosek

Request clarification regarding the development variance permit process.

R. Smith

Requested clarity on the *Community Charter* legislation as it relates to the designation of a councillor as the member responsible for acting in the place of the mayor when the mayor is absent or otherwise unable to act or when the office of mayor is vacant.

■ COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City of Port Alberni is now offering hybrid Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.

We encourage you to remain informed on City business and community topics through the following options:

- Attend in-person in City Hall, Council Chambers, located at 4850 Argyle Street
- Livestream @ www.portalberni.ca
- Join online or by phone using MS Teams

Regular Council meetings are held at 2:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month. All meeting recordings are posted on the City website for viewing.

Complete Council agendas including all correspondence and reports are available at portalberni.ca. Generally, these are posted the Friday before each Regular Council meeting and are archived on the site.

The Council Summary is prepared following each regular Council meeting and posted on the City's website. You can also visit the City website and sign up to receive summaries delivered directly to your inbox.

For more information related to Council meetings, including how to participate, please visit www.portalberni.ca/council. You may also contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

■ MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Thursday, December 21st

12:00 pm | Advisory Planning Commission
Council Chambers

Wednesday, January 3rd

7:00 pm | Alberni Valley Heritage Commission
Alberni Valley Museum

Monday, January 8th

2:00 pm | Regular Council
Council Chambers

Monday, January 15th

6:00 pm | Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers