

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

*An information report summarizing the Regular Meeting of Council held February 24, 2020.
This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at
250-720-2810 or e-mail: davina.hartwell@portalberni.ca*

■ PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Towle expressed opposition to the 3rd Avenue Revitalization Project noting sidewalks are already 5 – 6' wide, the proposal reduces the amount of parking spaces and does not identify a truck route for commercial vehicles although the proposal speaks to reducing the number of travel lanes to two [both directions]. Mr. Towle encouraged Council to address homelessness and addiction issues rather than spending monies on revitalization projects.

■ DELEGATIONS

Flandangles Kitchen & Gifts / Gibson's Fine Linens

Christine Washington, Owner of Flandangles Kitchen & Gifts/Gibson's Fine Linens speaking on behalf of the Uptown Merchants Association, addressed Council expressing overall support of the 3rd Avenue Revitalization project even though it will result in an interruption to businesses [during construction] and reduce the amount of parking. The small business community recognizes the potential for this area and encouraged Council to move forward.

Uptown Urban Market

Keith Ambrose presented Council with a petition of approximately 40 signatures representing individuals/business owners expressing their support in having Mr. Ambrose act as their liaison to the City regarding improvements to the City's business area. Mr. Ambrose also commented on the negative impact current activities in the Uptown District are having on businesses.

Kinsmen Club – Soapbox Derby

Mitch Gardner, on behalf of Mr. Hadley, addressed Council regarding the 2020 Soapbox Derby which will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2020. In order to accommodate the event, the Kinsmen are requesting road closures from Argyle & 3rd Avenue to the Industrial Road/Harbour Quay from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm., which was approved by Council.

■ STAFF REPORTS

Alberni Valley Multiplex Evaporative Condenser Replacement

Council awarded the replacement of the Alberni Valley Multiplex Evaporative Condenser to Accent Refrigeration Systems Ltd. in the amount of \$205,950.00 plus GST.

McLean Mill Society Dissolution

Council appointed the City Clerk to act for the member at the General Meeting of the McLean Mill Society scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 10:00 am for the purpose of dissolving the Society. Council took this opportunity to express their sincere appreciation to the members of the Society and all the volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time and energy to the betterment of the site/tourist destination.

Development Variance Permit [DVP] No. 98 – 6151 Russell Place

Council considered the issuance of DVP No. 98 for 6151 Russell Place, which if approved, would result in varying the maximum height/number of storeys from 3 to 5 storeys in order to accommodate a development that will provide an additional 39 units of seniors' social housing. While Council heard from the applicant's representatives, Council also heard from a number of neighbourhood residents who expressed their opposition to the variance. Other items of concern raised by residents included parking limitations/congestion, increase in vehicle traffic, rental control [restricting to 55+]; drainage, landscaping [to ensure privacy], tree retention and the loss of the previous park/play structure [green space]. After hearing from the applicant and residents, Council proceeded to issue the variance to the property owner. In addition, Council also directed staff to forward comments/concerns regarding parking, parking congestion and traffic calming considerations to the Traffic Advisory Committee for their review/input. Council also noted that they are confident that the applicant will work in

partnership with the City to address the other concerns expressed in written submissions to Council as well as by individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Reserves and Surplus Funds Overview

Council received a report from the Acting Director of Finance regarding the City's Reserve & Surplus Funds as of December 31, 2019. Council also supported staff in preparing a Financial Management Policy for the purpose of documenting long standing principles and best practices to be used by the City to assist in maintaining the City's financial stability.

Uptown District Revitalization Strategy – Project Funding & Grant Support

Council supported staff in applying for funding to the Poverty Reduction Planning & Action 2020 Stream 1 – Plans & Assessments [through UBCM], for its project titled 'Uptown District Revitalization Strategy'. The strategy is aimed at developing policies that respond to the unique demographic needs of the City's Uptown District while also attracting new investment and encouraging development.

3rd Avenue Revitalization Project – Conceptual Design Costs

Council received a report from the Deputy City Clerk providing payment information by the City to Watt Consulting Group for the preparation of conceptual design work for the 3rd Avenue Revitalization project.

■ **CORRESPONDENCE**

City of Port Moody

Council received a letter from the City of Port Moody requesting support of their resolutions to the Minister of Health Canada calling for the creation of a National Pharmacare program. Council resolved to support this request.

BC Games

Council received a letter inviting the City to consider hosting one of the upcoming BC Winter or Summer Games in 2024/2026. Council requested that staff prepare a report that speaks to the feasibility of the City hosting the games for its consideration at a future meeting.

Teresa Affleck

Council received a letter from Ms. Affleck requesting that Council consider an amendment to the City's business licence bylaw to permit the manufacturing of products in a home-based business. As a result of this request, Council directed staff to prepare a report that speaks to

the City's current practices, as well as identifying any implications and/or concerns should the City amend its business licence bylaw to permit the manufacturing of products in home-based businesses.

■ **NEW BUSINESS**

Recommendation from the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 3, 2020.

Council instructed staff to reduce the funds currently allocated to the "Welcome to Port Alberni Signage Project" in the City's Five-Year Financial Plan 2020 – 2024, to \$75,000 [from \$150,000] in 2020 and place the remaining \$75,000 in the 2021 calendar year. This item was tabled until such time as Council receives a report from staff speaking to the details of the project.

Council Summary

is prepared following each Regular Council meeting. It is posted on the City's website at www.portalberni.ca and distributed by e-mail. To be placed on the distribution list, please contact:

davina_hartwell@portalberni.ca

Complete Council agenda packages

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

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Wed. Mar 4

7:00 pm – Alberni Valley Heritage Commission @ Alberni Valley Museum

Mon. March 9

2:00 pm – Regular Council Meeting @ Council Chambers

6:00 pm – Public Hearing @ Council Chambers – 4450 Maitland St. – Alberni Low Energy Housing

Tues. March 10

7:00 pm – Committee of the Whole Meeting @ Council Chambers – Financial/Budget Discussions. While individuals are welcome to join members of the Committee in Council Chambers, this meeting will also allow comments/questions from those choosing to view from home [e-Town Hall format].