

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007 AT 7:00 PM IN THE CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor McRae, Councillors Chopra, McLeman, Mealey, Patterson, Solda and Whiteman

A moment of silence was provided in memory of Mona Colclough, Receivables Clerk who passed away on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (including introduction of late items)

Mealey/Solda

That the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of item K.1. motion by Councillor McLeman regarding the West Coast General Hospital and Vancouver Island Health Authority.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mealey/Patterson

That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 12, 2007 at 7:00 pm be received.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Recognition of Champions

Sharon Macauley introduced champions from the Alberni Valley Track Club, including Luke Bradley, Clint Haley, Darryl Pighin, Michael Cappus, Brooke Pighin and Laura Macauley.

2. Friends of Westhaven Society

Gail Starrat was in attendance to make a presentation regarding the purpose of the Society and the upcoming fundraising event on Wednesday, February 28 at 1:30 pm at Westhaven to sponsor hard surface improvements to the garden at Westhaven to improve accessibility.

3. Charlie Haggard

Charlie Haggard presented plans and a proposal for a new highway from the Alberni Valley, for the information of Council.

Chopra/McLeman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni write a letter of support for Mr. Haggard's proposal and request that the Ministry of Transportation give further consideration to this option.

Carried

4. **Dancestreams Performers**

Alesha Rata was in attendance to advise Council of the “Entre Nous, Canada Dances” in Port Alberni on March 2, 3 and 4.

D. **PROCLAMATIONS**

1. **British Columbia Paraplegic Association**

Chopra/Mealey

That the letter dated February 8, 2007 be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni proclaim June 12, 2007 as "BC Paraplegic Association Day – A World without Barriers" in Port Alberni.

Carried

2. **Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley**

Chopra/Mealey

That the letter dated February 15, 2007 be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni proclaim April 22 to 28, 2007 as "Arts and Culture Week" in Port Alberni and Council write a letter of thanks in appreciation of the Community Arts Council for the Mosaic Project, which will be holding a Walk on April 23, 2007 at 3:30 pm from North Island College to the Multiplex and the Museum.

Carried

E. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION**

1. **CUPE BC**

Chopra/Whiteman

That the letter dated February 6, 2007 regarding downsizing of seven BC Assessment Authority offices be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the request of CUPE BC and the Mayor write a letter in support of assessment services remaining in all communities and the office being reopened in Port Alberni.

Carried

2. **Tofino Bus**

McLeman/Mealey

That the letter dated February 11, 2007 be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the request of Tofino Bus and the Mayor write a letter of support for their application to the Passenger Transportation Board to reinstate the Victoria-Port Alberni-Tofino/Ucluelet bus service.

Carried

3. Pamela Finlayson

McLeman/Mealey

That the letter received February 12, 2007 requesting that the City clean up the litter around 3rd Avenue, be received and the City share with the Uptown Merchants regulations regarding responsibility for cleanup.

Carried

4. Alliance of Concerned Citizens of BC

Solda/Mealey

That the letter dated February 5, 2007 encouraging communities to monitor Manufactured Home Parks with regard to maintenance and requesting a copy of the City's Relocation Assistance Policy, be received and the writer be advised that the City of Port Alberni does not have such a policy.

Carried

5. John C. Turner, Gap Ministries Foundation

Chopra/Mealey

Email dated February 13, 2007 advising that the Foundation is a charitable organization presently in the process of founding the Corporation of Vancouver Island Charitable and Community Services, that its primary project is to develop a Vancouver Light Rail System from Victoria to Port Alberni, and requesting that the City provide the Foundation with demographic information, be received and copied to the Island Corridor Foundation.

Carried

6. City of Abashiri

Mealey/Patterson

That the letter dated February 2, 2007 requesting that the City "keep the Twinning Society" and find someone to act as a contact/liaison between Port Alberni and Abashiri, be received.

Carried

7. Timberwest

Chopra/McLeman

That the letter dated February 14, 2007 thanking the City for its January 23, 2007 letter regarding the Martin Mars and asking if the community is ready to accept the donation of a plane when they cease operation, be received and a reply provided that the City is still interested on behalf of the Alberni Valley.

Carried

8. Timberwest

Chopra/Mealey

That the letter dated January 12, 2007 be received, the City enter into the proposed Statutory Right of Way Agreement, pay the \$500.00 administration fee, and the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the Statutory Right of Way for the China Creek Water Main Replacement project.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. The International Awards for Liveable Communities

Letter dated January 2007 providing information about participation in the International Awards for Liveable Communities.

2. Economic and Trade Branch of the Ministry of Forests and Range

Email dated February 8, 2007 responding to the City's letter regarding the Dumont/Wright Log Export Review 2006 Report, and advising that the City's comments will be considered as part of the review on log export policy.

3. Abashiri – Port Alberni Sister City Society

Letter dated January 27, 2007 thanking the City and Twinning Society for their hospitality during their recent visit to Port Alberni.

4. Ministry of Environment

Letter dated February 7, 2007 advising that the document "Develop with Care", which contains recommendations for sensitive and sustainable land use planning and development to create livable environments for people, while minimizing adverse impacts to the natural environment, is now available on the Ministry's website.

5. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service

Letter dated February 9, 2007 advising the review process for the proposed Forest Communities Program and announcement of successful proponents and consequent negotiation of funding agreements has been delayed until spring 2007.

6. Port Alberni Port Authority

Letter dated February 7, 2007 proposing a 5 year renewal period for the Accord between the City and Port Authority with the Port Authority providing \$95,000 annually to the City for the purpose of promoting the use of the Port and for other projects relating to the Accord.

- 7. Union of British Columbia Municipalities**
Providing a copy of a letter from the BC Minister of Economic Development and Alberta Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations regarding the BC-Alberni Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement.
- 8. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**
Policy Directive dated February 9, 2007 regarding policies associated with the inducement provisions of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act as they relate to special prices for draught beer.
- 9. Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)**
Letter dated February 7, 2007 providing a copy of a new CFIB research report “Uneconomic Development: The Growing Property Tax Gap in British Columbia”.
- 10. Canadian Federation of Independent Business**
Email dated February 7, 2007 providing a news release entitled “BC’s Property Tax System: Increasingly Unfair to Small Business”.
- 11. City of North Vancouver**
Letter dated February 14, 2007 requesting the Provincial Government to devise a plan to preserve the mountain caribou on the basis of habitat preservation. Copy of a letter received from the Western Canada Wilderness Committee attached.
- 12. City of North Vancouver**
Providing a copy of its Council resolution dated February 12, 2007 for the Provincial government to increase minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour.
- 13. City of Powell River**
Letter dated February 19, 2007 to the RCMP objecting to the PRIME Levy and Training Costs.
- 14. Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation (CIPEC)**
Letter dated February 16, 2007 providing a copy “Delivering Results” the 2006 annual report of the Canadian Industry Program for Energy Conservation.
- 15. Union of BC Municipalities**
Release dated February 20, 2007 providing information on housing initiatives, funding to local governments and other provincial expenditures.
- 16. Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance**
Letter dated February 14, 2007 providing information on the “10 by 10 Challenge”, an initiative of the Minister’s Council on Employment for Persons with Disabilities.
- 17. City of Burnaby**
Letter dated February 8, 2007 objecting to the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILAM) – British Columbia and Alberta, due to the implications on local government’s ability to control tender processes.

18. Canadian Dental Assistants' Association

Letter dated February 15, 2007 outlining their request to the Premier to defer action on bylaws affecting their Association until the Conversation on Health is complete.

Mealey/Patterson

That Informational Correspondence items numbered 1 through 18 be received and filed.

Carried

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS NIL

(From January 22, 2007 Regular Council Meeting)

1. Director of Parks and Recreation – Carpenter Letter

Whiteman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni receive the Director of Parks and Recreation's February 7, 2007 report regarding regional trails and request that the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District consult with area residents and the City regarding any planned trails for the area of Somass and Seaton Parks.

Carried

H. BYLAWS NIL

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Mealey

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated February 26, 2007 be received and the cheques numbered 94583 to 94743 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$1,904,758.44 be approved.

Carried

2. RCMP

Solda/Mealey

That the monthly report from the OIC, Port Alberni providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

3. Manager of Human Resources and Community Development Report

Chopra/Mealey

That the monthly report from the Manager of Human Resources and Community Development providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

4. Director of Parks and Recreation

Whiteman/Mealey

That the monthly report from the Director of Parks and Recreation providing information about current departmental operations and events, be received.

Carried

5. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Patterson/Mealey

That the minutes from the meeting held February 7, 2007 be received and filed.

Carried

6. Fire Chief – Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy

Solda/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the Fire Chief's recommendation for the City to sponsor the Deputy Fire Chief to attend as a member of the validation committee and as a member of the advisory committee for the Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy.

Carried

7. Alberni Valley Museum Director – Museum Budget Comparisons

Patterson/Mealey

That the January 25, 2007 report from the Alberni Valley Museum Director regarding museum budget comparisons be received.

Carried

8. Alberni Valley Museum Director – UBCM Tourism Funding Application

Patterson/Whiteman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni approve the application (prepared jointly by the City and Chamber of Commerce) to the Union of BC Municipalities Tourism fund in the amount of \$85,000 for the purpose of implementing the community brand in the City's sign plan and tourism promotional materials.

Carried

9. Boundary Study Committee

Chopra/Mealey

That the minutes from the Boundary Study Committee meeting held February 12, 2007 be received.

Carried

10. Director of Parks and Recreation – Library Tender

Patterson/Mealey

That the report from the Director of Parks and Recreation dated February 20, 2007 be received.

Carried

Patterson/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni allocate additional funds in the amount of \$357,834 from the Land Sale Reserve account to the Library development project.

Carried

Patterson/Chopra

That Council for the City of Port Alberni approve the 2008 lease figures at the rate of \$15.28 per square foot, as noted in the February 20, 2007 report, and that VIRL pay for actual hydro costs.

Carried

Patterson/Whiteman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni award the tender to renovate and expand the Library to the low bidder CMF Construction in the amount of \$1,109,985.

Carried

11. City Engineer – Public Works Projects for Early Approval

McLeman/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni provide early approval for two public works capital projects in 2007, including a water and road resurfacing project on Bute Street between 13th and 14th Avenues for a cost of \$110,160 and a sewer and road resurfacing project within the 2400 and 2500 blocks of Hilton Avenue for a cost of \$174,620.

Carried

12. Current Status Report

Chopra/Mealey

That the Current Status Report be received.

Carried

13. Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported on recent activities and matters of current interest.

*Mealey/Patterson
That the Mayor's report be received.*

Carried

14. Councillors' Reports

The Councillors reported on recent activities related to their various portfolios.

*Mealey/Patterson
That the Councillors' reports be received.*

Carried

J. QUESTION PERIOD

The public and the press were provided the opportunity to ask questions of the Mayor and Council. There were none.

K. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. *McLeman/Chopra
That Council for the City of Port Alberni write a letter to the Vancouver Island Health Authority requesting that service in West Coast General Hospital be reinstated including the nine acute care beds and the complete stores and personnel required to function.*

Carried

L. ADJOURNMENT

*Mealey/Patterson
That the meeting adjourn at 9:10 pm.*

Carried

Mayor

Clerk