

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL  
2013-2017 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN  
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2013 AT 6:00 PM  
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Douglas, Councillors Chopra, Kerr, McLeman, Solda and Washington

**ABSENT:** Councillor Cole

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Washington/Solda  
That the agenda be approved as circulated.*

*Carried*

**B. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**\*NOTE: ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE INCLUDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT  
[www.portalberni.ca](http://www.portalberni.ca)**

Departmental Budget Presentations were provided by the following.

**1. Economic Development – Patrick Deakin, Economic Development Manager**

The Economic Development Manager provided an overview of the selected initiatives from 2012 and identified a proposed 0.9% budget increase for 2013.

He noted a number of projects planned for 2013 and his focus to market, advertise and sell all that the community has.

The Manager explained the request for \$60,000 to continue moving forward with the City's proposed district energy project.

In response to a question from Council, the Manager advised that the debt repayment for the proposed district energy system is included in the projected annual operating costs but that there would likely be a small gap between the revenue from the project and the debt payments.

In response to other questions from Council, the Manager explained some of the challenges associated with the idea to sell City property at greatly reduced rates and also clarified that the preferred location for the district energy system is at the City Works Yard.

With regards to the proposed 0.9% budget increase, the Manager confirmed that the proposed Uptown signage program and continued work on the district energy system is included in that figure.

Diane Bodner of Beaver Creek expressed her desire to see further marketing of the McLean Mill and the steam train.

The Economic Development Manager then presented some photos of the proposed signage program from the Historic Southport Merchants Society and Council requested their attendance at an upcoming budget meeting to provide more detail.

Councillor McLeman commented on the name of Harbour Quay and the feedback he has received from some businesses in the area that would prefer it to make use of the term market as opposed to quay.

Don Dunbar expressed his desire to see the Economic Development Manager work with the Engineering Department to try and alleviate some of the garbage issues he perceives in the Uptown area.

## 2. **Engineering Department** – Guy Cicon, City Engineer

The City Engineer provided an overview of the internal and external engineering services.

Highlights/Comments:

- Proposed 3.6% increase in budget for 2013.
- Proposed capital projects include replacement of vehicles and equipment, paving projects and road construction, a waterfront industrial road and storm drain replacement.
- Other projects also identified include the plywood plant pier demolition, McLean Mill dam restoration and regional water supply plan.

In response to questions regarding the replacement of an excavator, the City Engineer explained that this smaller unit would be more effective and efficient in their operations. It was also noted that the City has more rolling stock than some other similar sized municipalities and does more construction in-house because it's the way the City has traditionally operated and Council has directed this in the past.

Councillor McLeman and Mayor Douglas expressed concern regarding the proposed plan and budget for the McLean Mill dam restoration project.

In response to a question from Council, the City Engineer explained how the Gertrude Street bridge is currently a pinch point in the road network and is needing improvements for vehicle traffic, pedestrians and cyclists.

The City Engineer also clarified that the City has received a grant for the installation of four type 2 electric vehicle charging stations.

In response to a question from the Council, the City Manager explained the proposed work at the former plywood mill site and confirmed that the planned improvements for public access to this site have been directed by Council.

Responding to a question from Council, the City Engineer explained that the proposed McLean Mill dam restoration project is being driven by the provincial Dam inspector and this is what is leading to the high project costs.

At the request of Council, Randy Fraser, Streets Superintendent provided an alternative estimate of \$100,000 for a reduced scope of improvements to the Gertrude Street bridge.

The City Engineer also explained the need for a walkway along Grandview Road to enhance safety for pedestrians.

Councillor Solda expressed her desire to see a request for funding made to the provincial government for the installation of a traffic light at River Road and Beaver Creek Road.

Councillor Chopra left the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Wayne Cheveldave, Mechanical Services Superintendent provided details on the annual service costs for the units being proposed for replacement. Council requested these figures be provided to them.

Mary Young of Beaver Creek presented the City Engineer with an alternative option for the repair of the McLean Mill dam and expressed her opinion that the creek should not be diverted.

Diane Bodner of Beaver Creek expressed that many within the Industrial Heritage Society are frustrated with the proposed plan for the McLean Mill dam.

In response to a question from Larry McGifford, Mayor Douglas explained that the development of an industrial road would allow the City to force industrial traffic to use such a route, thereby reducing this traffic from other roads such as Anderson Avenue.

David Hooper expressed his concern that access to the far side of the dam will be lost if the proposed diversion approach is implemented and confirmed that this approach is not supported by the Industrial Heritage Society.

In response to a question from Sandy McRuer, Mayor Douglas explained that he could forward his questions to the City Manager for a response.

**C. COUNCIL REVIEW**

There were no further questions or direction.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

*Washington/Kerr  
That the meeting adjourn at 9:00 pm.*

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Mayor

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Clerk