

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
2016-2020 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016 AT 6:00 PM
IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT: Mayor Ruttan, Councillors McLean, Minions, Paulson, Sauve and Washington

REGRETS: Councillor Alemany

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

B. DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

***NOTE: ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE INCLUDED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT
www.portalberni.ca**

Departmental Budget Presentations were provided by the following.

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES (Parks, Rec., Heritage) – Theresa Kingston, Director of Community Services

Ms. Kingston provided an overview of the services provided by Community Services, including: management and reception services; building and facilities; playgrounds, parks and trails; heritage and culture; recreation programs and services; and community development. It was noted that the department provides stewardship of over \$30,000,000 in City assets.

Ms. Kingston explained that customer service initiatives and revenue generation are two significant areas of focus for 2016. She then reviewed the detailed budget figures for each major service area.

In response to questions from Council, the following was confirmed:

- The department is working to address minor maintenance issues at the Papermill Dam Caretaker Facility.
- The Canada 150 funding application for the Harbour Quay Clocktower was unsuccessful but a decision regarding the grant for Mill Stone Site Park is still pending.

- The Harbour Quay Clock tower is unsightly but not a safety concern. \$25,000 allotted in 2015 to have an engineering consultant investigate the structural issues has not been spent.
- The department employed five summer students last year and received supporting grants for these positions.
- The non-resident rate is still active however due to the funding received from the regional district it mainly applies to individuals who live outside the Alberni Valley.
- There have not been any significant conflicts or issues with the location of the skate park and the high profile location is viewed positively.
- Harbour Quay upgrades i.e. window, doors etc. have not been included in the draft budget.
- The City does not have any more planter boxes in inventory and more will have to be ordered if Council wishes to deploy additional ones. It was also confirmed that it takes approximately 8 weeks to receive the boxes, once ordered, so Council may wish to decide on that matter soon.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Community Services committed to providing additional information regarding the installation of a fundraising thermometer for a new aquatic centre and the cost savings from the past energy retrofits at City facilities.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services also committed to investigate the impact of sport tourism on the community.

The Mayor invited questions and comments from the public.

Penny Cote expressed a desire to see more planter boxes near Harbour Quay and suggested that the City could be contracted by local businesses to provide this additional service.

In response to a question from Malcolm Menninga, the Director of Community Services confirmed that the BC Arts Council Grant is an annual grant that goes towards the operation of the Alberni Valley Museum. In response to a further question regarding waterfront recreation, she also confirmed that there are proposed improvements in the budget for Canal Beach and River Road Park.

Don Dunbar expressed concerned regarding inequitable funding of City recreation programs and facilities by the regional district and encouraged Council to more aggressively pursue this issue.

Penny Cote outlined her role as Director of the Sproat Lake rural area and advised that they have parks that are heavily utilized by City residents as well.

Councillor McLeman outlined his desire to see better support and encouragement for sport tourism through the Chamber of Commerce, City of Port Alberni and other groups.

2. WESTERN VANCOUVER ISLAND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE SOCIETY –
Hugh Grist, President

Mr. Grist provided an overview of the work the Industrial Heritage Society in preserving and promoting the community's heritage through the operation of the McLean Mill and Alberni Pacific Railway. He confirmed that visitor attendance for 2015 was 10,860.

Mr. Grist outlined their budget request of \$225,000 for 2016 and requested Council's consideration of providing a \$50,000 advance.

It was moved and seconded:

That Council for the City of Port Alberni authorize an advance of \$50,000 to the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society as part of the contract arrangement for operation of the McLean Mill and Alberni Pacific Railway.

CARRIED

The Mayor invited questions and comments from the public. There were none.

C. COUNCIL REVIEW

There were no further questions or direction.

D. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor

Clerk