

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

An information report summarizing the Regular meeting of Council held January 22, 2024.  
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](mailto:corp_serv@portalberni.ca).

### ■ CORRESPONDENCE

#### **Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

Council directed staff to display the 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline poster in all City facilities.

#### **Council also received their correspondence summary which included letters from:**

- Vancouver Island Regional Library | 2024 Budget Increase
- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General | Follow up letter Re: 2023 UBCM Convention Meeting
- Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission Minutes | December 6, 2023
- Union of BC Municipalities Local Government RCMP Committee Appointments

Council nominated Councillor Patola [Solda as alternate] to be considered by UBCM for the Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee.

### ■ PROCLAMATIONS

#### **Kinsmen Club of Port Alberni**

Council proclaimed February 16 – 23, 2024 as 'Kinsmen and Kinetite Week' in Port Alberni and authorized flying the Kin Canada flag at City Hall in recognition.

#### **Heritage BC**

Council proclaimed the week of February 19 – 25, 2024 as 'Heritage Week' in Port Alberni.

### ■ REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA

#### **Appointments**

Council released for public consumption, the appointment of Jack Roland to the Advisory Planning Commission for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 and John McNabb to the Board of Variance for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

### ■ NEW BUSINESS

#### **Connect the Quays Pathway**

Council approved \$1,253,411 in funding from the Growing Communities Fund in the 2024-2028 Financial Plan to complete the third and final phase of the Connect the Quays Pathway along Dry Creek and Roger Creek.

#### **Western Vancouver Island Heritage Society**

Council directed the following with regards to WVHHS:

- That staff enter into negotiations for the purpose of establishing a formal agreement with the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society regarding activities at the Roundhouse and McLean Mill for Council consideration.
- Include up to \$125,000 as part of the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for the purpose of relocating the Two Spot locomotive to the Train Station with costing to be determined in conjunction with the completion of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.
- Defer action on any rail crossings, associated track, or provision grants for the operation of the Alberni Pacific Railway, until the results of the grant application to the Island Coastal Economic Trust are available to the public.
- Staff to obtain a quote from the Municipal Insurance Association of BC to add the Western Vancouver Island Heritage Society as an Associate Member to the City's current insurance policy.
- Staff to confirm with the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society any outstanding items from the third-party contractor's safety plan requirements and for the WVHHS to provide the City with a quote for infrastructure replacement at the Old Time Logging Show for Council consideration during the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan review.
- Staff to obtain a quote from Municipal Insurance Association of BC for insurance coverage for the Old Time Logging Show, and for the City to explore entering into a formal agreement with Mosaic for the purpose of accessing Mosaic's land for the Old Time Logging Show.
- That the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society prepare a community focused train operational plan for the first

season featuring a speeder use and community events.

- Staff to contact Technical Safety BC to clarify what is required to operate on the short track route as proposed by the Alberni Pacific Railway.

### **2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM & Convention Resolution Submissions**

Council directed staff to submit the following resolutions for consideration at the 2024 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] AGM & Convention:

- That AVICC & UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;  
And further, that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.
- That AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services OR alternatively, that the Province of British Columbia take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.
- That AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a municipality's mandate.

- That AVICC & UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC; And further, that the Province ensures that BC libraries receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.
- That that AVICC & UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services;  
And further, that the Province develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.

### **RCMP Contract and Administrative Services**

Council directed funding within the 2024-2028 Financial Plan related to RCMP contract and administrative services as follows:

- Fund 32 RCMP officers from general taxation and 2 from surplus to fund 34 RCMP Officers in total as per the contract commitment and as based on actual utilization;
- Allocate funds from Surplus to fund Community Policing services in 2024, and that Council consider moving to taxation for the years 2025 forward.

### **Community Action Team**

Council endorsed the establishment of a City administrative committee for the Port Alberni Community Action Team, a community-led initiative in response to the overdose crisis, and further recommended that the City obtain insurance coverage for appropriate members and volunteers.

### **Vancouver Island Regional Library**

Council to engage in further discussions prior to renewal of the lease between the City of Port Alberni and the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

### **Traffic Advisory Committee**

Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Traffic Advisory Committee.

### **Development Variance Permit | 4821 Heath Road**

Council authorized the issuance of Development Variance Permit No. 120 to permit granting the following variances to the Zoning Bylaw at 4821 Heath Road:

- Vary Section 5.10.2 RR2 Site Development Regulations to increase the Maximum Coverage from 33% to 38% for a variance of 5%.
- Vary Section 6.12.1 Projections to increase the maximum projection of an Open Porch into a required front yard from 1.85 m (6.1 ft) to 4.18 m (13.7 ft) for a variance of 2.33 m (7.6 ft).

### **5170 Argyle Street | Remedial Action**

Council imposed a remedial action order for the property located at 5170 Argyle Street.

### **UBCM Housing Summit**

Council authorized virtual attendance for interested Council members at the UBCM Housing Summit taking place February 13 & 14, 2024. The Summit will focus on the continuing crisis in housing affordability and attainability, and consider the effects of recent provincial housing legislation changes.

## ■ **QUESTION PERIOD**

### **Kim Bottman**

Asked clarifying questions related to AVICC resolution submissions and the remedial action process.

## ■ **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.portalberni.ca/council). You may also contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email [corp\\_serv@portalberni.ca](mailto:corp_serv@portalberni.ca).

## ■ **MEETINGS AT A GLANCE**

### **Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm | Committee of the Whole  
Council Chambers

### **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm | Committee of the Whole  
2024-2028 Financial Plan Overview  
Council Chambers

### **Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

2:00 pm | Regular Council  
Council Chambers