

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007 AT 7:00 PM IN THE CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

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

Mealey/Patterson

That the agenda be adopted as circulated with the addition of items D.2 - proclamation for Wrestling Week; E.5 and E.6 - letters regarding Abashiri Twinning and F.13 - letter from Port Alice.

Carried

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mealey/Whiteman

That the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held December 18, 2006 at 7:00 pm and Special Meeting held December 21, 2006 at 12:00 pm be received.

Carried

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Westcoaster

Kevin Drews, publisher/editor of the "Westcoaster" online newspaper, was in attendance to request a letter in support of an Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District resolution regarding lobbying the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to debate the inclusion of "recognized local online news services" to be part of municipal public notice requirements.

Chopra/Solda

That Council for the City of Port Alberni support the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) debating the inclusion of "recognized local online news services" to be part of municipal public notice requirements.

Carried

D. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Heart and Stroke Foundation

Solda/Chopra

That the letter dated December 18, 2006 requesting that February 2007 be declared as "Heart Month" in Port Alberni be received and the Mayor will be available for signing the proclamation with the media in attendance.

Carried

2. Alberni Valley Wrestling Club

Solda/Chopra

That the e-mail dated January 7, 2007 requesting that the week of January 29 to February 4, 2007 be declared as "Wrestling Week" in Port Alberni.

Carried

E. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

1. Literacy Alberni

Whiteman/Solda

That the letter dated December 18, 2006 requesting three City computers that have recently been replaced be donated to their organization for their ESL (English as a Secondary Language) program and literacy training, be received and that Council for the City of Port Alberni endorse the request for the donation of 3 City computers that have recently been replaced, which are surplus to City needs.

Carried

2. Scott Fraser, MLA (Alberni-Qualicum)

Chopra/Mealey

That the letter dated November 30, 2006 encouraging all local governments to support legislative changes that will allow online services like the "Westcoaster" be part of the municipal public notice system be received.

Carried

3. NEPTUNE Canada

Chopra/Patterson

That the letter dated November 20, 2006 requesting permission to enter into an agreement with the City of Port Alberni be received, Council agree to provide a Statutory Right-of-Way across the City Property located at 2160 Plywood Drive (Lot C, District Lot 1, Alberni District, Plan VIP73079) for the purpose of connecting the NEPTUNE Canada Ocean Observatory marine system to the Observatory Station located at 2180 Mallory Drive and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to the sign the Right-of-Way agreement.

Carried

4. Tsu-ma-as Transformation Society

Whiteman/Mealey

That the letter dated January 3, 2007 requesting a resolution supporting the application to the Canada British Columbia Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for the "Transformation Centre" to be built at the intersection of Johnston Road and Victoria Quay be received and the request endorsed.

Carried

5. Mayor McRae

Mealey/Patterson

That the letter from Mayor McRae to Mayor Oba of Abashiri informing of the City's curtailment of participation in its twinning relationship be endorsed.

Carried

6. Sherri McKinnon

Mealey/Chopra

That the letter dated January 6, 2007 from Sherri McKinnon requesting Council to continue with its twinning relationship with Abashiri, Japan be received.

Carried

F. INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Fax dated December 15, 2006 advising a resolution was passed offering support to have the Pacific Coast University for Workplace Sciences located in Port Alberni.

2. City of Coquitlam

Letter dated December 15, 2006 regarding the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

3. University of Victoria

Letter dated December 15, 2006 including a cheque for \$224 for the City of Port Alberni grant in lieu of property taxes.

4. 2010 Legacies Now

Letter received December 18, 2006 with a copy of the 2005/2006 annual review enclosed.

5. Ministry of Environment

Copy of a letter dated December 13, 2006 to Island Timberlands Limited Partnership regarding the unnamed tributary to China Creek Emergency Repair.

6. Softwood Lumber Agreement

Two letters in response to a letter from the Mayor expressing concern over the softwood lumber agreement with the United States.

- **Minister of Natural Resources Canada**
- **Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics**

7. Port Alberni Port Authority

Letter dated December 13, 2006 expressing their disappointment that the visit to Abashiri, Japan in February 2007 has been cancelled.

8. Tourism British Columbia

Letter dated December 15, 2006 in response to the City Clerk's letter concerning driving directions on HelloBC.com.

9. BC Progress Board

Fax dated December 15, 2006 advising the release of a discussion paper entitled "The Social Condition in British Columbia," which examines the causes and costs of low income in BC.

- 10. BC Progress Board**
Fax dated December 15, 2006 advising the Board's reports, "Building on our Progress – Striving for Excellence, Volumes I and II" are now available on their website.
- 11. Ministry of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues**
Letter dated December 27, 2006 enclosing a copy of their Community Opportunities Task Force (Task Force) Report, "Building Stronger Communities: Better Services, Economic Growth, Solutions That Work".
- 12. City of North Vancouver**
Memo dated December 14, 2006 to all Union of British Columbia (UBCM) members advising of their endorsement of a resolution regarding the report "Cage Free Eggs – Follow Up".
- 13. Letters received in support of efforts to maintain the Martin Mars Water Bombers**

 - Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District
 - District of Kent
 - District of Elkford
 - Corporation of Delta
 - District of Logan Lake
 - District of Metchosin
 - Village of Tahsis
 - City of Salmon Arm
 - Village of Sayward
 - City of Trail
 - Town of Lake Cowichan
 - District of Kitimat
 - District of Taylor (concern for loss of firefighting capacity)
 - Village of Port Alice
- 14. BC Assessment**
Letter dated December 28, 2006 advising that the total taxable value of the 2007 Assessment Roll has increased over 23 per cent from 2006 and that all property owners in British Columbia will receive the Property Assessment Notices in early January.
- 15. Beaver Creek Improvement District**
Letter dated December 21, 2006 thanking the City for providing water to them during the power outage on December 12, 2006.

- 16. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**
Letter dated November 30, 2006 announcing that Associate Deputy Minister Wes Shoemaker will oversee the new formation of Emergency Management British Columbia.
- 17. Terasen Gas**
Letter dated December 15, 2006 reminding of right-of-way safety and enclosing copy of the 2007 Terasen Gas calendar and a brochure entitled "Right of Way - your guide to Staying Safe".
- 18. Ministry of Health**
Letter dated December 18, 2006 encouraging participation in the "Conversation on Health", a year long provincial discussion with British Columbians on every facet of health care to help prepare our health system for future generations.
- 19. Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' and Women's Issues**
Letter dated December 18, 2006 announcing the official launch of the following programs: "Towns for Tomorrow", "LocalMotion" and "Spirit Squares" that encourage healthy living and physical fitness, improve sustainable environmental management and create both short and long-term jobs.
- 20. Building Policy Branch - Office of Housing and Constructions Standards -**
Letter dated December 14, 2006 advising of their assessment of seismic slope stability, the amount a building would be displaced during an earthquake, and advising that materials are being developed to guide local governments and industry.
- 21. Mental Health Foundation**
Letter dated December, 2006 inviting nominations for the "2007 Courage to Come Back" awards, a province-wide campaign that celebrates ordinary people who have demonstrated extra-ordinary courage in their recover from adversity.
- 22. City of North Vancouver**
Memorandum dated December 20, 2006 advising of their resolution to the Government of Canada to renew and expand the "National Homelessness Initiative".
- 23. Local Government Program Services**
Memorandum dated December 20, 2006 announcing that funding is available for the "Seniors in Communities Dialogues" and "Pilot Projects" in support of locally determined Seniors Housing and Support Services which deal with housing, transportation and social services for seniors.

24. Local Government Program Services

Memorandum dated December 20, 2006 advising that the deadlines for applications to the "School Community Connections Program" have been extended.

25. Local Government Program Services

Memorandum dated December 20, 2006 advising that Phase II of the "Community Tourism Fund" will begin after the evaluation of Phase I of the Program.

Mealey/Patterson

That Informational Correspondence Items numbered 1 through 25 be received and filed.

Carried

Mealey/Patterson

That Council for the City of Port Alberni send a letter of thanks to the Port Alberni Port Authority for its correspondence of December 13, 2006 regarding the cancelled visit to Abashiri and provide a copy of Mayor McRae's letter to Mayor Oba regarding the curtailment of participation in the Twinning relationship.

Carried

Chopra/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni send a copy of the Local Government Services' memo dated December 20, 2006 (item F.23) to Barb Stevenson at Alberni-Clayoquot Continuing Care Society for her information.

Carried

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS Nil

H. BYLAWS Nil

I. REPORTS

1. Accounts

Chopra/Mealey

That the certification of the Director of Finance dated January 8, 2007 be received and the cheques numbered 93866 to 94054 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$1,263,979.69 be approved.

Carried

2. Planning

Mealey/Whiteman

That the monthly report from the City Planner providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

3. Fire Department

Solda/McLeman

That the monthly report from the Fire Department providing information about current departmental operations, be received.

Carried

4. RCMP

Solda/Mealey

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

Carried

5. Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Patterson/Chopra

That the minutes from the Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission meeting of December 6, 2006, be received.

Carried

6. City Clerk - Appointment to Heritage Commission

Patterson/Mealey

That the report dated January 3, 2007 from the City Clerk be received and Council for the City of Port Alberni appoint Mr. Bill Lekich to the Heritage Commission as a member at large for a two year term ending December 2008.

Carried

7. City Manager - Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Between British Columbia and Alberta

McLeman/Solda

That the report, as requested by Council, dated January 3, 2007 providing further information concerning the potential impacts on municipalities of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Between British Columbia and Alberta, be received.

Carried

8. City Clerk - 2007 Court of Revision

Chopra/Mealey

That Council for the City of Port Alberni establish that the 2007 Arena Parcel Tax Court of Revision meet on April 2, 2007 in the Council Chambers at 4850 Argyle Street at 10:00 am.

Carried

9. Mayor's Report

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

Mealey/Whiteman

That the Mayor's report be received.

Carried

10. 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. Sunbird Ventures Inc.

Patterson/McLeman

That Council for the City of Port Alberni direct that a letter be sent to Sunbird Ventures Inc. to express their disappointment that the facility gates have been recently locked during operating hours and to state that Sunbird Ventures Inc. must operate by the terms of the agreement.

Carried

2. Pacific Rim Health Services Cooperative

*McLeman/Chopra
That Council for the City of Port Alberni grant \$350 to the Pacific Rim
Health Services Cooperative.*

Carried

L. ADJOURNMENT

*Mealey/McLeman
That the meeting adjourn at 8:25 pm.*

Carried

Mayor

Clerk