

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

*An information report summarizing the Regular Meeting of Council held March 9, 2020.
This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the City Clerk at
250-720-2810 or e-mail: davina_hartwell@portalberni.ca*

■ PUBLIC INPUT

Hinatinyis Johnson, on behalf of the Friendship Centre and the Portal Players Dramatic Society invited Council and the public to attend the upcoming anti-casual racism play 'Divided We Fall' taking place on March 20 & 21, 2020 at the Capital Theatre – 4904 Argyle Street at 6:30 pm.

Jenny Fortin, Manager/Curator of the Alberni Aquarium and Stewardship Centre addressed Council noting that they are looking to establish themselves as a non-profit organization given the recent decision of the WestCoast Aquatic Board to close the Aquarium due to financial challenges. Ms. Fortin, noted that they have launched a 'Save the Aquarium Campaign' in addition to scheduling a number of other fund-raising initiatives including a Family Fun Day which will be held on March 22, 2020, 10 am - 5 pm. To assist the Aquarium in the transition to a non-profit organization, Ms. Fortin requested that Council consider providing them with interim financial assistance by way of Council reducing and/or waiving the Aquariums' monthly rental payment, albeit for a short period of time.

■ DELEGATIONS

Introduction of City Staff

Tim Pley, CAO, introduced Andrew McGifford, the City's new Director of Finance. Mr. McGifford formally joined the City on March 2, 2020.

Gaylene Thorogood, Manager of Community Safety introduced Dave Cusson, the City's new Manager of Community Policing.

Wilf Taekema, Director of Engineering and Public Works introduced Clinton Wright, the City's new Utilities Superintendent.

2020 Point in Time Homelessness Count

Marcie DeWitt and Maggie Hodge Kwan provided information to Council regarding the 2020 Point in Time Homelessness Count which is scheduled to take place on April 7, 2020 over a 24-hour period. The last homelessness count conducted in 2018 identified just under 150 people experiencing homelessness in the Alberni Valley. This year's count will include 13 drop sites as well as community organized events on the day of the count. In addition, the Alberni Valley has been identified as a 'pilot' site which will allow organizers to continue to collect surveys for an additional five days following the official count on April 7th. Volunteers play an integral role in this count and a mandatory training of volunteers will take place on April 2nd between 1 – 3 pm. If you are between the ages of 19 and 70, and interested in volunteering, you can access the volunteer application form here <https://form-ca.keela.co/hsabc/2020-homeless-count-port-alberni-volunteer-information-form>

Alberni Clayoquot Regional District [ACRD] Protective Services Manager

Heather Zenner, Protective Services Manager with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District [ACRD] asked that Council consider partnering with the ACRD to take advantage of two funding opportunities relating to emergency preparedness. Council agreed to partner with the ACRD who will apply for, receive, and manage grant funding on behalf of the City of Port Alberni to improve EOC operations, enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises, and develop an Alberni Valley Evacuation Route Plan.

Ms. Zenner also took this opportunity to advise Council that the ACRD was successful in receiving grant funding through the FireSmart program. The City of Port Alberni also partnered

in this funding program with the ACRD and monies available will focus on conducting wildfire risk assessments on private property and what homeowners can do to mitigate these risks as well as a rebate program where homeowners may receive up to \$500 for steps taken to mitigate the risk of wildfire on their property.

■ STAFF REPORTS

Clock Tower Refurbishment Project

Council received a report from the CAO regarding the Clock Tower Refurbishment Project. When the project was tendered in 2019, tender results substantially exceeded monies initially allocated for the project resulting in the project being placed on hold. Moving forward, Council has agreed that \$250,000 remain in the City's draft 2020 – 2024 Five Year Financial Plan for this work but directed staff to look for funding opportunities, explore options to reduce the scope of the project and/or utilize City forces to further reduce the costs of the project.

Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation

While Council previously endorsed the Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation Resolutions of Shareholder in Writing at its November 12, 2019 meeting, the Auditor listed was incorrectly identified. Therefore, Council was asked to reconsider the resolutions and proceeded to endorse the Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation Resolutions of Shareholder in Writing noting the correction.

Development Variance Permit No. 99 – 5473 Greenard Street

Council approved Development Variance Permit [DVP] No. 99 for 5473 Greenard Street to vary the rear yard setback from 9.0 m to 4.57 m, a variance of 4.43 m to accommodate a roof extension on the existing residence.

■ CORRESPONDENCE

BC Association of Farmers' Markets

Council received a letter from the BC Association of Farmers' Markets sharing results of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program and recommended Council write to the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health expressing the City's thanks for making this program available and requesting that the program continue.

Alberni Aquarium & Stewardship Centre

Council received a letter from the Alberni Aquarium & Stewardship Centre requesting a short-term reduction in rental fees at #7-5440 Argyle Street.

Further to comments provided to Council by Ms. Fortin earlier in the evening, Council, subject to receipt of a viable business plan, agreed to provide rental relief to the Aquarium for a period of three-months. Council anticipates receipt of the Aquariums' business plan the latter part of March or early April.

■ NEW BUSINESS

E-Town Hall

The Manager of Communications discussed the format of the City's E-Town Hall/Committee of the Whole meeting [Financial Plan discussions] taking place Tuesday, March 10, 2020 beginning at 7:00 pm.

Council Summary

is prepared following each Regular Council meeting. It is posted on the City's website at www.portalberni.ca and distributed by e-mail. To be placed on the distribution list, please contact: davina_hartwell@portalberni.ca

Complete Council agendas

including all correspondence and reports are available at www.portalberni.ca Generally these are posted the Friday before each Regular Council meeting and are archived on the site.

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Tues. Mar 10

7:00 pm – Committee of the Whole/E-Town Hall @ Council Chambers. Individuals are welcome to join members of the Committee in Council Chambers or from the comfort of your home as this meeting is being facilitated to receive questions from those choosing to view from home.

Mon. Mar 23

2:00 pm – Regular Meeting of Council @ Council Chambers