

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Monday, March 8, 2021 @ 2:00 PM
Via Video-Conference

PRESENT: Mayor S. Minions
Councillor R. Corbeil
Councillor D. Haggard
Councillor R. Paulson
Councillor H. Poon
Councillor C. Solda
Councillor D. Washington

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the agenda be amended to add item M.3 under New Business regarding AVICC Emergency Resolution submission. The agenda was then approved as amended.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting held at 10:30 am, Regular Council Meeting held at 2:00 pm on February 22, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

C. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

D. DELEGATIONS

1. Marcie DeWitt

Ms. DeWitt provided Council with a project overview of the 2021 Port Alberni Homelessness Count taking place on April 7, 2021. This count serves to capture the scope and scale of homelessness, provide a comparison to past counts and increase public awareness and knowledge of people experiencing homelessness.

2. Rotary Club of Port Alberni

President, Crystal Knudsen provided information regarding plans for a community wide clean-up day on Saturday, April 17, 2021 to coincide with Earth Day (Wednesday, April 22, 2021).

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council support the Rotary Club of Port Alberni community wide clean-up day scheduled Saturday, April 17, 2021 on the condition that all activities proposed meet Island Health requirements and recommendations in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

CARRIED I Res. No. 21-53

3. Randy Fraser – Build the Pool Society

Mr. Fraser presented Council with a petition of citizens in support of a new Aquatic Centre.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage – Follow-up to Correspondence Received at the January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage provided a verbal report to Council's inquiry regarding the City's usage of Rodenticides. At present the City continues to use Rodenticides in lieu of a comparable method to effectively manage pest control. The City will continue to monitor developments in the pest control market and consult with Vancouver Island municipalities regarding their methods and best practices.

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Accounts

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the certification of the Director of Finance dated March 8, 2021, be received and the cheques numbered 148094 to 148169 inclusive, in payment of accounts totalling \$652,021.58, be approved.

CARRIED

2. Director of Corporate Services – Appointment of Approving Officer

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni appoint Scott Smith, Director of Development Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, as the City's Statutory Approving Officer effective immediately in accordance with the requirements of the Land Title Act.

CARRIED I Res. No. 21-54

3. Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage – Ammonia Safety Awareness Program
Report dated March 1, 2021 from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Heritage advising Council of the City's participation with Technical Safety BC in the creation of an Ammonia Safety Awareness Program.

4. Chief Administrative Officer – Grant Opportunities – March 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to prepare and submit an application for funding to Island Coastal Economic Trust 'Rural Business and Community Recovery Program' for support of a program that will provide funding for temporary employment to support business and community economic recovery and resilience in advance of the application deadline of March 12, 2021.

CARRIED I Res. No. 21-55

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to prepare and submit an application for funding to Government of Canada 'Healthy Communities Initiative' for improvements that will create a safe and vibrant public space at Harbour Quay in Port Alberni in advance of the application deadline of March 9, 2021.

CARRIED I Res. No. 21-56

FURTHER, that Council direct staff to develop applications for additional funding opportunities as follows:

Union of BC Municipalities 'Strengthening Communities' Services' seeking funding related to minor Public Safety Building renovations, Bylaw Services operating costs and the contribution of City services for temporary low-barrier housing solutions in the way of neighbourhood and facility garbage collection.

Tourism Vancouver Island 'Targeted Regional Tourism Development Services' funding opportunity for the purposes of supporting the creation of a Trail Steering Group to implement a signage and wayfinding system for trails within the Region.

CARRIED I Res. No. 21-57

G. BYLAWS

H. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

Councillor Paulson declared a conflict of interest stating he is a Director on the Alberni Valley Low Energy Housing Society Board and left the meeting at 3:28 pm.

1. **Alberni Valley Low Energy Housing Society [Maitland Street Village Project]**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council provide a letter of support to the Alberni Low Energy Housing Society to accompany their grant application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the Maitland Street Village project.
CARRIED I Res. No. 21-58

Councillor Paulson returned to the meeting at 3:30 pm.

I. PROCLAMATIONS

1. **Alberni Valley Hospice Society**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the letter dated March 1, 2021 from the Alberni Valley Hospice Society requesting that Council proclaim the month of May, 2021 as "Hospice Palliative Care Month" be proclaimed as requested.
CARRIED I Res. No. 21-59

J. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. The Director of Corporate Services summarized correspondence to Council as reflected in the Correspondence Summary dated March 8, 2021.

K. REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA

L. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. **Council and Regional District Reports**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Council reports outlining recent meetings and events related to the City's business, be received.

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Echo Aquatic Centre [Notice of motion provided February 22, 2021]**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council for the City of Port Alberni direct staff to amend the "City of Port Alberni 2021–2025 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 5023" to establish a contingency fund for the purpose of reserving monies for the future replacement of Echo Aquatic Centre [pool].
CARRIED /Res. No. 21-60

2. **Special Meeting of Council**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council schedule a Special meeting of Council at 2:00 pm on Monday, March 29, 2021 for the purpose of receiving the results of the Public Hearing held March 23, 2021 regarding the McLean Mill Agricultural Land Commission Exclusion Application and to consider providing a resolution to forward or not forward the application to the Agricultural Land Commission for consideration.
CARRIED /Res. No. 21-61

3. **AVICC - Emergency Resolution Submission**
MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council defer the request of an emergency resolution submission to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities [AVICC] for consideration by delegates at the Annual General Meeting and Convention taking place virtually May 28, 2021 relating to 'Public Access to Waterways on Private Land' to the March 22, 2021 Regular meeting.
CARRIED /Res. No. 21-62

N. QUESTION PERIOD

Roland Smith

Q1: What are the costs related to the oil spill incident at McLean Mill to date, including but not limited to costs for contractors, City staff and bargaining unit employee time, fees for inspections and site attendance by government regulators, and so on?

Q2: Are there other expenses expected? If so, what are the estimated totals for those expenses?

Q3: Has the City received any financial assistance from its insurance provider that would help pay for the oil spill clean up? If so, how much financial assistance was received from the insurer?

Q4: An email message was sent by the City to the Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, on December 23, 2020. That email message is referred to in the copy of a February 15, 2021 letter to Minister Wilkinson that appears in today's agenda. May I have a copy of the email message sent to the Minister on December 23, 2020?

Q5: Has the City explored any of the other government funding opportunities that would help pay for the oil spill at McLean Mill which were identified to the City during a conversation with the Acting National Historic Sites Manager? Would the City please identify which

opportunities were explored, and if any of those exploratory routes have resulted in any actual or anticipated financial assistance for the oil spill clean up costs?

Q6: It was July 6, 2020, or 8 months ago, that the Audit Committee last met. There are no dates scheduled for this committee to meet in the near term, according to the City's website. Good internal governance of any corporation includes oversight by a financial audit committee. Why has there been such a lapse by Council for this important function of public oversight of City expenditures, and when will the Audit Committee next meet?

Q7: When could the public expect to receive detailed fiscal 2020 financial data for McLean Mill operations?

Q8: The 2020 financial data should be presented by reports generated from accounting software. It was Council's requirement that the previous contractor at McLean Mill would report McLean Mill financial data for each fiscal year in this manner. Does Council intend to hold the current contractor to the same standard?

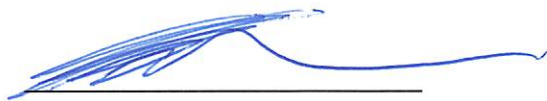
A: Staff will be providing a report to Council at a future meeting responding to Mr. Smith's questions.

O. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:04 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT



Mayor

Corporate Officer