

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Monday, October 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
In the City Hall Council Chambers & Via Video-Conference
4850 Argyle Street, Port Alberni, BC

Present: Mayor S. Minions
Councillor D. Dame
Councillor J. Douglas
Councillor D. Haggard
Councillor C. Mealey @ 6:09 pm
Councillor T. Patola
Councillor C. Solda

Staff: M. Fox, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Smith, Director of Development Services | Deputy CAO
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
A. McGifford, Director of Finance
S. Darling, Deputy Director of Corporate Services/Recording Secretary
J. Pelech, Manager of Information Services

Other: K. Learned, FRANK Planning Collaborative

Gallery: 7 & 1 [Electronically]

A. CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the agenda be amended to include an item under 'New Business' H.2 | Lower Johnston Road Pedestrian Safety. The agenda was then approved, as amended.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the meeting held at 6:00 pm on September 14, 2023 be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED

C. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

N. Anderson

Provided input relating to meeting agendas, structure and opportunities for public input.

Charlane

Commented on 15-minute cities.

D. DELEGATIONS

1. Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society [WVIIHS]

President, Ron Corbeil and Vice-President, Richard Spencer provided an update of WVIIHS activities and future plans.

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole permit the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society delegation to extend beyond the 10-minute presentation time as outlined in Section 19(4) of Council Procedures Bylaw, 2013, Bylaw No. 4830.

CARRIED

Members of the Committee commented/questioned as follows *[responses, if provided, are reflected below]*:

- Can Council assist with any of the insurance issues mentioned?
The Insurance provider requires the City to have direct supervision over operation of the train which is not logistically possible. In regards to the roundhouse, there are requirements with Technical Safety BC in order to move the train [even to clean the grease pit].
- Would it be advantageous for the City to talk to Technical Safety BC?
Some of those discussions have transpired. The Society's 5-year plan will serve to meet one of the required conditions set out by Technical Safety BC.
- Does the Society have a suggestion on where the Two Spot Locomotive should be placed?
Agree that it should be placed within the vicinity of the Train Station as requested by WVIIHS and as was recently directed by Council to have staff prepare a report outlining options for this request.
- Are there revenue streams available such as grants that could be applied for?
Society is exploring funding opportunities and recently had a call with a potential funder to discuss options.
- Is the Society not covered under the City's insurance?
CAO response: Insurance for equipment falls under the City's insurance but does not cover running of the train without the supervision of City staff.
- Will the track study include costs?
City owns part of the railway and Island Corridor Foundation owns other portions. The Society is working with the Island Corridor Foundation and Island Coastal Economic Trust to identify funding options. Society would like to collaborate with the City to work along the tracks in conjunction with the Connect the Quays Pathway project and potentially offer a shuttle service.
- Is the Society accepting new members?
Yes. Visit www.ihsportalberni.ca or stop in at Industrial Heritage Centre mornings, from Monday to Saturday.
- Does the Society's Business Plan provide the proposed routes and involvement of the railway corridor?

The Society has approached the operations as two separate initiatives. The business plan presented to the City involves the waterfront development including the train station, down to the waterfront, to Alberni Pacific Division, up to Stamp Avenue with an opportunity to stop at the Roundhouse. The second initiative speaks to the 'big picture' and would involve collaboration of relevant partners, community groups and organizations to look at the feasibility of getting service back to McLean Mill. Island Corridor is working with WVIIHS.

- The Island Corridor Foundation has a well-established rail with trail program to support both uses. The City is utilizing this program within the Connect the Quays Pathway project.
- The City's insurance provider, Municipal Insurance Association of BC, was chosen specifically because of its ability to serve local governments unique structures and needs. This is a prime example of a unique need and requires further discussions with the provider to support such an initiative.
- Further to the previous request for funding from WVIIHS to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District that resulted in a letter of support, would encourage continued requests for support of this regional service.
- Educational aspect – North Island College Learning Council could possibly come along to WVIIHS meetings?
- Has WVIIHS considered submitting a request to post secondary education centres such as B.C.I.T. to re-establish 'train' related programs and training?

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Official Community Plan [OCP] Update - Page

The Director of Development Services/Deputy CAO and FRANK Planning consultant, Kelly Learned presented on the Official Community Plan review and update process including offering Council the opportunity to answer specific questions as follows:
[Council responses noted in Italics]

1. How does Council want to be involved in the policy phase of OCP engagement?
 - *Council wishes to be involved and kept informed. Request that relevant data and information received previously over the last decade be taken in to consideration within the overall process.*
2. Do you have concerns/challenges to raise for the next phase of the OCP process?
 - *Making sure that all demographics are represented i.e youth and harder to reach populations – not just the already engaged citizens.*
 - *Community doesn't understand what an Official Community Plan is or why it matters. The beginning of the process included efforts to explain this process but given the time that has passed, it would be beneficial to do so again.*

- *Go to where the people are to engage.*
- *Examples would be great i.e. videos reflecting changes that are proposed in real time. Go to a neighbourhood and show them exactly what the changes would look like if applied in that area.*

3. Does Council support the project roles as outlined?

- *With regards to the Community Representative Team [CRT], Council would like to have a role in the process.*
- *CRT meetings are open so Council could attend.*
- *Council contact information could be provided to anyone who wants to speak with a member of Council.*
- *Staff will ensure Council are made aware of the process as it progresses.*
- *Council will make efforts to attend so as to observe and understand rather than lead.*

G. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Dame left the meeting at 7:18 pm and returned at 7:20 pm.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention**

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend Council direct staff to prepare letters in follow-up to meetings held during the Union of BC Municipalities Convention held September 11-15, 2023 with the various ministries and agencies as follows:

- *Premier David Eby*
- *Ministry of Education and Child Care*
- *Ministry of Forests*
- *Ministry of Health*
- *Ministry of Housing*
- *Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation*
- *Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions*
- *Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills*
- *Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General*
- *Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction*
- *Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*
- *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship*
- *BC Emergency Health Services*
- *Island Health*

2. **Lower Johnston Road | Pedestrian Safety**

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that concerns regarding lower Johnston Road and pedestrian safety will be discussed with the Ministry of Transportation through the Advisory Traffic Committee meetings as it relates to the previous report completed and in looking at all of Johnston Road for future improvements in conjunction with the establishment of a City Master Traffic Plan.

3. **Wālyaqit - Tiny Home Village | Response to Media Interview**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided a response, in regards to a recent media interview given by one of the project partners regarding delays and increased costs of the Wālyaqit - Tiny Home Village, noting that delays and increased costs can be attributed to several factors, including meeting the stringent requirements of the British Columbia Building Code and implementing necessary life safety measures for the well-being of future residents. These requirements, coupled with architectural specifications aimed at ensuring sustainability and durability, led to additional expenses and extended timelines.

Mayor Minions emphasized the City's commitment to supporting the Project noting that the City donated the property for the construction and allocated approximately \$140 thousand in funding and various in-kind contributions to help initiate and support the project.

4. **Solid Waste Collection Service Update**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on the recent mechanical issues that have resulted in solid waste collection service delays and cancellations, noting that two trucks are presently out of service for repairs leaving only one truck in service. Staff are working to communicate updates to residents as they become available. Service is expected to return to normal next week.

5. **Ongoing Aquatic Centre Closures**

Administration continues to work on building staff capacity through the provision of training for lifeguards at a discounted price as instructors are available. The training is rather involved and those who are interested can visit the City's website at <https://playinpa.ca/programs/> or contact the Parks, Recreation and Culture department at 250.723.2181 for more information.

I. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Neil Anderson

Inquired regarding correcting the description noted on the agenda under 'Question Period' to reflect the correct information and regarding opportunities for public input at Council meetings.

Charlane

Inquired if Council met with the Ministry of Health during the Union of BC Municipalities Convention, particularly as it relates to healthcare workers unable to work due to mandatory vaccination requirements. Also requested clarification on what active transportation options would be as referenced in the Official Community Plan update.

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED, THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:11 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT



Mayor

Corporate Officer