

**TOWN OF COMOX**  
**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,**  
**held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 15, 2020**

**Present:** Mayor R. Arnott  
Councillors A. Bissinger, K. Grant, S. McGowan, P. McKenna, N. Minions, M. Swift  
(all participated electronically)  
Staff A. Kenning, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer  
C. Freundlich, Director of Finance  
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services  
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief  
T. Hagmeier, Recreation Director  
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations

**Absent:** Nil

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Agenda was Adopted.

There were 0 members of the public in attendance.

Pursuant to section 6(1) and 6(2) of the Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Ministerial Order No. M083, the April 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was conducted by electronic means with some or all members of Council participating electronically. Further, in accordance with section 3(1) of the Ministerial Order No. M083, the public was not permitted to be in attendance.

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**1. DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:**

**a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**RCM Minutes**

*That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 1, 2020, be Approved.*

(2020.109) -- CARRIED

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS: NIL**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Management Report - April 15, 2020**

**Management Report**

*That the Management Report for April 15, 2020 be received and filed for information.*

(2020.110) -- CARRIED

**b. 2020-2024 Financial Plan: Tax Rate Options - COVID-19 Response**

**2020-2024 Financial Plan**

1. *That the overall municipal tax revenue increase be set at 2.0% for 2020.*

*That the main motion be amended to replace the text "2.0%" with the text "3.0%".*

(2020.111) -- DEFEATED

*[Opposed: Councillors KGrant NMinions SMcGowan PMcKenna MSwift]*

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**b. 2020-2024 Financial Plan: Tax Rate Options - COVID-19 Response**

**2020-2024 Financial Plan**

- 2. *That the overall municipal tax revenue increase be set at 2.0% for 2020.*  
(2020.112) -- CARRIED  
[Opposed: Councillor KGrant]
  
- 3. *That Council retain the existing tax payment date consistent with the CVRD, Courtenay, and Cumberland.*  
(2020.113) -- CARRIED

**5. SPECIAL REPORTS:**

**a. Comox Valley Regional District Meeting Minutes**

**CVRD Meeting Minutes**

- That the following Comox Valley Regional District meeting minutes be received for information:*
- *Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board held on Thursday, March 12, 2020;*
  - *Comox Valley Regional District Board held on Thursday, March 19, 2020 & Tuesday, March 31, 2020.*
- (2020.114) -- CARRIED

**6. BYLAWS:**

**a. Downtown Comox Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 1928, 2020**

**Downtown Comox BIA**

- That the Downtown Comox Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 1928, 2020 be Adopted.*  
(2020.115) -- CARRIED

**7. NEW BUSINESS AND NOTICES OF MOTION:**

**a. Garbage Collection and Recycling Services Agreement - Two-year Extension**

**Solid Waste Collection**

- 1. *That the Garbage Collection and Recycling Services Agreement with Halton Recycling Ltd. dba Emterra Environmental, dated April 1, 2015, be extended until April 30, 2022, with the following changes:*
  - a. *Include a further option to extend the agreement for an additional six months, on the same terms and conditions, with the agreement of both parties.*
  - b. *Total increase for all services, as follows:*
    - o beginning April 1, 2020 – 7.5%;*
    - o beginning April 1, 2021 – 5.0%; and*
    - o beginning April 1, 2022 – 4.0%.*
  - c. *Free-of-charge collection of office paper at all Town facilities broadened to include free-of-charge collection of all garbage and recyclables at all Town facilities.*
  - d. *Collection of garbage from residential customers with curbside service reduced from not less than once in each week to not less than once every second week, at a date to be determined by the Town, and with a corresponding decrease in collection fees. The Town will provide at least two months’ notice of this change.*  
(2020.116) -- CARRIED  
[Opposed: Councillors KGrant NMinions]

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### **a. Garbage Collection and Recycling Services Agreement - Two-year Extension**

#### **Solid Waste Collection**

2. *That the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Garbage Collection and Recycling Services Agreement Extension with Emterra Environmental, effective April 1, 2020, and as attached to the Corporate Officer's April 6, 2020 Report to Mayor and Council.*

(2020.117) -- CARRIED

### **b. Chimo Gymnastics and Compass Adventure - Licence to Use**

#### **Town Fee Waivers**

*That Council approve the following:*

1. *Waive 33% of the monthly rent of Surf S.U.P. Stand Up Paddle Boarding Inc. (DBA Compass Adventure) for three months, April – June, 2020; and*
2. *Waive 100% of the monthly rent of Chimo Gymnastics starting April 1, 2020. Rent resumes when the Community Centre reopens to the public for recreation business;*

*and further, that Council revisit the rent waivers if provincial or federal aid is offered to help businesses pay rent and offset other fixed costs.*

(2020.118) -- CARRIED

### **c. NOTICE OF MOTION: National Pharmacare Program - Councillor McGowan**

#### **National Pharmacare Program**

Councillor McGowan provided a notice of motion as follows:

*"That the Town of Comox write a letter calling on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a universal public national Pharmacare program as part of the COVID-19 supports."*

### **d. Urban Food Production**

#### **Urban Food Production**

*That Council support urban agricultural opportunities and increase food security by directing staff to receive and consider feed back from the Planning department, the Comox Valley Food Policy Council, community associations, and residents, and develop options in a report to Council to allow small-scale commercial urban food production, including but not limited to chickens (not roosters), bees and urban farmstands on all residential property within the town of Comox.*

(2020.119) -- CARRIED

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**a. Frank Denton (Comox Bay Sailing Club): 2020 moorage fees**

**Comox Bay Sailing Moorage**

1. *That the letter received March 30, 2020 from James Volkens of the Comox Bay Sailing Club, requesting that moorage fees for 2020 be reduced by 50%, be received and the request granted.*

*That the main motion be amended to read "That the letter received March 30, 2020 from James Volkens of the Comox Bay Sailing Club, requesting that moorage fees for 2020 be reduced by 50%, be received and that Council waive 33% of the monthly moorage fees for April to June 2020."*

(2020.120) -- DEFEATED

[Opposed: Mayor Arnott, Councillors ABissinger KGrant NMinions SMcGowan PMcKenna MSwift]

2. *That the letter received March 30, 2020 from James Volkens of the Comox Bay Sailing Club, requesting that moorage fees for 2020 be reduced by 50%, be received and the request granted.*

*That the main motion be amended to read "That the letter received March 30, 2020 from James Volkens of the Comox Bay Sailing Club, requesting that moorage fees for 2020 be reduced by 50%, be received; that moorage fees for April 2020 be waived; and that staff provide a report to Council on their request as well as other potential requests for relaxation of Town fees during COVID-19."*

(2020.121) -- CARRIED

3. *Main motion as amended:*

*That the letter received March 30, 2020 from James Volkens of the Comox Bay Sailing Club, requesting that moorage fees for 2020 be reduced by 50%, be received; that moorage fees for April 2020 be waived; and that staff provide a report to Council on their request as well as other potential requests for relaxation of Town fees during COVID-19.*

(2020.122) -- CARRIED

**b. Andrea Cupelli (Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness): Request for Funding for Habitat for Humanity**

**CV Coalition to End Homelessness**

The letter from the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness was tabled until the end of the meeting.

**9. LATE ITEMS: NIL**

**10. DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

**a. Councillor McKenna**

Councillor McKenna advised that he was encouraged to see the social distancing rules being respected during his daily walks around Town.

**b. Councillor McGowan**

Councillor McGowan advised that she wanted to pass on the great work of the Food Policy Council, with food deliveries to those in need.

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**c. Councillor Minions**

Councillor Minions advised that she attended a Vancouver Island Regional Board meeting, and acknowledged the efforts taken by the libraries to increase live-streamed storey-telling and help others learn how to go digital.

**d. Councillor Swift**

Councillor Swift advised that she has been attending the daily teleconference updates with the Emergency Operations Centre and gave a summary of today's update.

**AT 6:47 P.M., COUNCILLOR MCKENNA LEFT THE MEETING, DECLARING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA, AS HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.**

**12. TABLED ITEM:**

**b. Andrea Cupelli (Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness): Request for Funding for Habitat for Humanity**

**CV Coalition to End Homelessness**

*That the April 8, 2020 letter from Andrea Cupelli of the Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, requesting that the Town of Comox designate its 2020 homelessness grant of \$30,000, as well redirect its 2019 homelessness grant that was not provided, to the Habitat for Humanity in order to continue their Lake Trail project, be received and the request granted.*

*(2020.123) -- CARRIED*

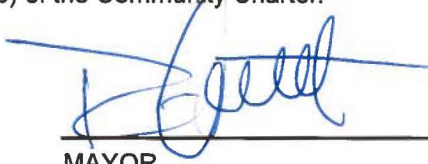
**14. EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC: NIL**

**Adjournment:**

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

*CARRIED*

Certified correct pursuant to Section 97(1)(b) of the Community Charter.



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER