

TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 21, 2021

Present: Mayor R. Arnott
Councillors A. Bissinger, K. Grant, S. McGowan,
P. McKenna, N. Minions, M. Swift
(all electronically except Councillor Grant and Councillor Minions)

Absent: Nil

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
C. Freundlich, Director of Finance (electronically)
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief (electronically)
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations (electronically)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

There were 0 members of the public in attendance.

Pursuant to Ministerial Order, the meeting was conducted by electronic means with some or all members of Council participating electronically. Further, in accordance with Ministerial Order, the public was not permitted to be in attendance. The meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's YouTube pages.

Mayor Arnott acknowledged that the Town of Comox is on traditional First Nation land.

Mayor Arnott also commented on a recent youth gathering in Comox that resulted in injuries to three youth. Mayor Arnott thanked Town firefighters for their response to the emergency and advised that he has sent a letter to the Minister of Health asking that firefighters be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccines due to them being first on the scene for many incidents such as this.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS:

a. Amendment of Agenda

Amendment of Agenda

That a resolution to exclude the public be added to the end of the April 21, 2021 Regular Council agenda.

(2021.143) -- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

That the Agenda be Adopted as Amended to include a resolution to exclude the public.

(2021.144) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Tristan Rendell, Lane Ramirez Rowes, Mitchell Mansfield & Vivian Vaillant (The Changemakers Initiative) Budget for youth in recreation

Youth in Recreation

The delegation gave some background on the Changemakers Initiative. They stated that they heard that Council was looking to engage youth, and advised that they want to apply for the contract.

- b. Ashley Mangles, Chris Gage, Clay Vanice and Scott Lewis (1200 Military Row): 2 lot subdivision**

1200 Military Row

Chris Gage and Scott Lewis advised that they are requesting the assistance of the Town in facilitating the priority subdivision of 1200 Military Row. They also advised that they are willing to help with the cost of any outsourcing needed.

- c. Kelly & Brenda Clausen (1153 Tara Road): Rezoning**

1153 Tara Road

Mr. Clausen advised that he purchased the property four years ago for an investment and to clean up the property. Since then, his kids have advised they would like to return and he and would like to subdivide the property to create two separate parcels for them.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

RCM Meeting Minutes

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 7, 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.145) -- CARRIED

- b. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**

PH Meeting Minutes

That the Minutes of the Public Hearing, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 7, 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.146) -- CARRIED

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS:

- a. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

SPC Minutes

That the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 14, 2021, be Received.

(2021.147) -- CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Marine Services Building

Marine Services Building

- 1. *That designs and costs be brought back to convert the roof to a flat design with a viewing platform.*

(2021.148) -- CARRIED

- 2. *That designs and costs be brought back to convert the roof to a living roof.*

(2021.149) -- CARRIED

- (2) 2021 Draft Strategic Plan

2021 Strategic Plan

That the draft 2021 Strategic Plan, as included in the April 14, 2021 Strategic Planning Committee meeting agenda, be adopted.

(2021.150) -- CARRIED

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

1. *That the Consent Agenda items as follows be received:*
 - a. *April 5, 2021 email from David Black (Black Press) regarding 2026 Commonwealth Games*
 - b. *April 6, 2021 email from Tim McKinnon regarding safety at Point Holmes*
 - c. *April 6, 2021 email from Lois Jarvis (Citizens for Quality Health Care) regarding North Island Hospital Labs*
 - d. *April 9, 2021 email from Joanna Verano (Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance) regarding hunting of wolves*
 - e. *April 12, 2021 letter from Dr. Annelaine Grobler regarding removal of trees at the McDonald Road development*
 - f. *April 13, 2021 email from Cheryl Hardisty (City of Penticton) letter to UBCM Provincial Paramountcy*
 - g. *April 12, 2021 email from Evan Jolicoeur (Comox Valley Arts) regarding Cultural Tourism & Marketing Report in the Comox Valley*
 - h. *Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board meeting minutes held on March 11, 2021.*
 - i. *Comox Valley Regional District Board meeting minutes held on March 9 & 30, 2021.*
 - j. *Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District Board meeting minutes held on March 18 & April 8, 2021.*

(2021.151) -- CARRIED

2. *That items (e), letter from Dr. Annelaine Grobler regarding removal of trees at the McDonald Road development, and (g), email from Evan Jolicoeur (Comox Valley Arts) regarding Cultural Tourism & Marketing Report in the Comox Valley be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.152) -- CARRIED

3. *That item (c), email from Lois Jarvis (Citizens for Quality Health Care) regarding North Island Hospital Labs, be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.153) -- CARRIED

4. *That item (d), email from Joanna Verano (Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance) regarding hunting of wolves, be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.154) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Strategic Planning and Action Items Report - April 21, 2021

Strategic Planning and Action Items

That the Strategic Planning and Action Items Report for April 21, 2021 be received and filed for information.

(2021.155) -- CARRIED

b. Rezoning Application RZ 19-9 / Development Variance Permit DVP 19-9 (425 Stewart Street)

425 Stewart Street

- 1. *That Schedule 1, Proposed Development Variance Permit Conditions, as included in the April 21, 2021 Report to Mayor and Council titled "Rezoning Application RZ 19-9 and Development Variance Permit DVP 19-9" be amended to delete Condition 2 and add the following text as Condition 2:*

"Town of Comox Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw, 1261, Schedule C.1, Appendix "C" Specifications for Highways is varied as follows:

Table C-1 (Minimum Requirements, Roadway Widths, Curbs and Sidewalks for Urban Roads):

*From:
Urban (Local) Road Allowance Width of 20.0 m
Pavement Width of 9.0 m
Type of Curb: concrete rollover curb and gutter
Number of Sidewalks: both sides*

*To:
Urban (Local) Road Allowance Width of 15.24m for Stewart Street and Dogwood Avenue
Pavement Width of 9.0m for Dogwood Avenue and 6.2m for Stewart Street
Type of Curb: asphalt water containment curb
Number of Sidewalks: no sidewalks*

(2021.156) -- CARRIED

- 2. *That Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1950 be given Third Reading.*

(2021.157) -- CARRIED

c. Notice of Motion from April 7, 2021 RCM: Point Holmes Area Traffic Calming - Councillor Bissinger

Lazo Road Traffic Calming

- 1. *That staff action speed bumps, speed reduction and traffic calming measures in the Point Holmes Area from the Cape Lazo Campground to the top of the hill at Kye Bay Road.*

(2021.158) -- DEFEATED

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

- 2. *That Council approves the installation of a dynamic radar speed sign along the Lazo Road from Simba to Kye Bay as an interim measure until designs for upgrades on the road are complete; and further, that*

That Council direct that speed mitigation be included as a primary focus of road upgrade designs on Lazo road based on Council's traffic calming policy and best engineering practices.

(2021.159) -- CARRIED

d. Notice of Motion from April 7, 2021 RCM: Naming of Parks and Streets After Notable Citizens - Mayor Arnott

Notable Citizen Recognition

That the policy preventing parks and streets to be named after notable citizens be repealed, and that procedures be established to allow such naming when suitable proposals are received.

(2021.160) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors KGrant NMinions MSwift]

8. SPECIAL REPORTS:

a. Proclamation Request: Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Lyme Disease Proclamation

That Council approve the Proclamation Request to recognize May, 2021 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month in Comox

(2021.161) -- CARRIED

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS:

a. Comox Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1975, 2021

Fees and Charges Bylaw

That the Comox Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1975, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.162) -- CARRIED

AT 6:50 P.M., COUNCILLOR MINIONS LEFT THE MEETING.

b. Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Bylaw No. 1972, 2021

Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations

That the Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Bylaw No. 1972, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.163) -- CARRIED

AT 6:53 P.M., COUNCILLOR MINIONS RETURNED TO THE MEETING.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. In-Kind, Cash and Other Contributions from the Town of Comox

In-Kind and Cash Contributions

That the April 21, 2021 Report from the Chief Administrative Officer, titled "In-Kind, Cash and Other Contributions from the Town of Comox" be received for information.

(2021.164) -- CARRIED

b. Water, Sewer and Refuse Fees

Water, Sewer and Refuse Fees

1. *That the Comox Water Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1973, 2021 be given First, Second and Third Readings.*

(2021.165) -- CARRIED

2. *That the Comox Sewer User Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1974, 2021 be given First, Second and Third Readings.*

(2021.166) -- CARRIED

3. *That the Comox Refuse Collection Amendment Bylaw No. 1585.09, 2021 be given First, Second and Third Readings.*

(2021.167) -- CARRIED

c. Official Community Plan and Rezoning Application OCP RZ 20-5 / Development Permit Application DP 20-9 (1153 Tara Road)

1153 Tara Road

1. *That Official Community Plan and Rezoning application OCP RZ 20-5 and Development Permit application DP 20-9 be denied.*

(2021.168) -- DEFEATED

[Opposed: Mayor Arnott, Councillors ABissinger SMcGowan PMcKenna]

TOWN OF COMOX - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

c. Official Community Plan and Rezoning Application OCP RZ 20-5 / Development Permit Application DP 20-9 (1153 Tara Road)

1153 Tara Road

2. That the Town proceed with further processing of Official Community Plan and Rezoning applications OCP RZ 20-5 and Development Permit application DP 20-9.

(2021.169) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors KGrant NMinions MSwift]

REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MEETING RECESS AT 7:27 P.M. FOR FIVE MINUTES.

CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 7:33 P.M.

d. Rezoning Application RZ 20-4 Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture

1. That the Town of Comox create an online urban agriculture background document and conduct an online survey based on the April 21, 2021 Planning Report on RZ 20-04.

(2021.170) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillors ABissinger SMcGowan NMinions]

2. That the Town of Comox advertise the online, urban agriculture, background document and survey on the Town's webpage and social media pages as well as in the newspaper.

(2021.171) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillor ABissinger]

e. Extension of Comox Downtown Vitalization program

Downtown Vitalization

1. That Comox Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw 1968 be given First Reading.

(2021.172) -- CARRIED

2. That having given Comox Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw 1968 First Reading, having received the April 21st, 2021 Planning Report on PR 21-5, and in accordance with Section 226(6)(b) of the Community Charter, Council has considered the bylaw in conjunction with the objectives and policies set out under Section 165(3.1)(c) {use of permissive tax exemptions} of the Community Charter in its Financial Plan.

(2021.173) -- CARRIED

3. That Comox Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw 1968 be given Second and Third Readings.

(2021.174) -- CARRIED

4. That Comox Planning Procedures Amendment Bylaw 1969 be given First, Second and Third Readings.

(2021.175) -- CARRIED

f. Rezoning Application: RZ 21-1 / Home Occupation Text Amendment (Reflexology)

Home Occupation Rezoning

1. That Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1971 be given First and Second Readings.

(2021.176) -- CARRIED

2. That in accordance with Section 464(2) of the Local Government Act, the requirement to hold a Public Hearing in respect of Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1971 be waived and staff be instructed to publish the requisite notices as required by the Local Government Act.

(2021.177) -- CARRIED

g. Priority Subdivision of 1200 Military Row

1200 Military Row

1. *That the request for priority subdivision of 1200 Military Row be added to the agenda for discussion.*

(2021.178) -- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. *That a staff report be provided on the implications of placing a high priority on the processing of a subdivision application for 1200 Military Row.*

(2021.179) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION:

a. NOTICES OF MOTION (Councillor McGowan): Protection of Old Growth Forests and Toxic Drug Supply Crisis

Notice of Motion

Councillor McGowan provided two notices of motion as follows:

1. Immediate Protection for All At-risk Old-growth Forests in BC

WHEREAS ancient high productivity (big tree) old-growth ecosystems are globally one of the most valuable climate mitigation and resiliency assets in terms of carbon storage, sequestration, protection against wildfire, storage of water and bank of biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS, of the 2.7% of the original high productivity (big tree) old-growth forests (less than 1% of BC's total current forested area), 75% are still slated to be eliminated through logging;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the the Town of Comox call on the provincial government to immediately defer logging in all high productivity, rare, oldest, and most intact old-growth forests as recommended by the Old-Growth Strategic Review, until all 14 of the panel's recommendations have been implemented; including deferrals in such at-risk old-growth forests as, the headwaters of Fairy Creek, the Upper Walbran Valley, Nahmint Valley, Eden Grove, Edinburgh Mountain, Upper Tsitika Valley, East Creek, Klaskish Valley, Nimpkish Lake and the Inland Old-Growth Temperate Rainforest;

AND THAT the the Town of Comox formally oppose the logging of at-risk old-growth forests;

AND THAT the Town of Comox call on the Government of British Columbia to allocate funding to enact deferrals in an economically just manner, in the full spirit of reconciliation and to support the economic transition of affected First Nations and non-First Nation communities from unsustainable old-growth logging for the development of long-term sustainable local economies;

AND THAT the following resolution be sent to the Union of BC Municipalities and as a late submission to AVICC.

b. NOTICES OF MOTION (Councillor McGowan): Protection of Old Growth Forests and Toxic Drug Supply Crisis

Notice of Motion

2. Toxic Drug Supply Crisis

WHEREAS the toxic drug supply crisis is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death about every two hours on average and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020);

AND WHEREAS other countries have significantly reduced drug-related fatalities with reforms such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply and decriminalization for personal use;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

AND WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests “decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use”;

AND WHEREAS the toxic drug supply crisis rages, showing few signs of abating;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request that the Government of Canada:
a) declare the toxic drug supply crisis a national public health emergency; and
b) immediately seek input from the people most affected by this crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive, Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of legal reforms that other countries have implemented to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Russell Dyson (CVRD): Regional Organics Composting Project – SWMP Targeted Amendment Letter of Support

Solid Waste Management Plan

THAT the Town of Comox Council endorses the Comox Strathcona Waste Management's targeted amendment of its 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan, and that a letter of support be provided to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

(2021.180) -- CARRIED

b. Robyn Holme (CVRD): Regional Grant Application to UBCM Strengthening Communities Services Program

CVRD Regional Homelessness Grant

That the Town of Comox supports the Comox Valley Regional District's application to the Union of BC's Strengthening Community Services Program for grant funding, in an amount up to \$1,250,000, through the Strengthening Communities Service to provide urgent and temporary support to unsheltered homeless populations and address related community impacts; and further,

That the Town of Comox provides its support for the Comox Valley Regional District to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on the Town of Comox's behalf.

(2021.181) -- CARRIED

c. Rob Peterson (Live Music Project for Seniors): Request for \$500 in support

Live Music Project

That the April 10, 2021 from Rob Peterson of the Music Joy Project, requesting support for their project in the amount of \$500, be received and filed for information.

(2021.182) -- CARRIED

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna advised that he attended a Community Justice Centre board meeting.

b. Councillor McGowan

Councillor McGowan advised that she:

- participated in an Indigenous Awareness training session,
- met with Erin Nowak of the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership,
- attended a Food Policy Council meeting,
- attended a d'Esterre Seniors Centre board meeting, and
- attended a Substance Use committee meeting.

c. Councillor Bissinger

Councillor Bissinger advised that she attended the Regional Hospital board meeting and the Regional Solid Waste Advance Technology sub-committee meeting.

d. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift advised that she attended the Regional District sewer, water and board meetings, and the Indigenous Awareness training session.

e. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended the Regional District board meeting and an Economic Development Service Review meeting.

f. Councillor Minions

Councillor Minions advised that she attended the Regional Hospital board meeting and the Regional District sewage commission meeting.

g. Mayor Arnott

Mayor Arnott advised that he attended:

- a teleconference meeting with Minister Osborne and other Island Mayors,
- two other health calls - one with the Province and one with the regional EOC,
- a meeting with the Comox BIA, and
- an Economic Development Service Review meeting.

17. RESOLUTION TO GO IN-CAMERA:

a. Exclude the Public

Exclude the Public

That the Public be Excluded from the In-Camera session of Council on Wednesday April 21, 2021 pursuant to the following sub-sections of section 90 of the Community Charter:

- (1)(k) *negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.*

(2021.183) -- CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 8:47 P.M.

TOWN OF COMOX - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED AT 10:15 P.M.

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

CARRIED

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER