

TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday May 5, 2021

Present: Mayor R. Arnott
Councillors K. Grant, S. McGowan, P. McKenna (electronically),
N. Minions, M. Swift (electronically)

Absent: A. Bissinger

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
C. Freundlich, Director of Finance
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services

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. The Mayor also acknowledged that May 5, 2021 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, also known as Red Dress Day, and expressed condolences for the affected families.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS: NIL

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

That the May 5, 2021 Regular Council Meeting agenda be Adopted.

(2021.186) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Inspector Kurvers (RCMP): Quarterly RCMP Statistics for Comox

RCMP Update

Inspector Kurvers provided a summary of policing statistics comparing 2020 to 2019 as well as first quarter 2021. The Inspector also summarized calls for service and statistics for particularly challenging traffic related issues, and provided some suggestions for dealing with these.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes

RCM Minutes

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday April 21 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.187) -- CARRIED

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS: NIL

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

1. *That the Consent Agenda items as follows be received:*
 - a. *April 16, 2021 letter from the Grade 1-2 class at Gaglardi Academy regarding learning about Mayor and Council roles.*
 - b. *April 19, 2021 email from Tracey De Frane regarding homeless issues.*
 - c. *April 26, 2021 email from Lauren Lan regarding the speed on Lazo and Guthrie.*
 - d. *April 27, 2021 email from Dr. Robert Woods & Petra Tode-Woods regarding the speed limit on Kye Bay Road.*
 - e. *April 28, 2021 email from Mary Kleim regarding the 1700 Balmoral property tax exemption.*
 - f. *April 28, 2021 letter from John Milne on behalf of Friends of Strathcona Park regarding the Park access.*

(2021.188) -- CARRIED
2. *That items (c), April 26, 2021 email from Lauren Lan regarding the speed on Lazo and Guthrie, and (d), April 27, 2021 email from Dr. Robert Woods & Petra Tode-Woods regarding the speed limit on Kye Bay Road, be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.189) -- CARRIED
3. *That item (e), April 28, 2021 email from Mary Kleim regarding the 1700 Balmoral property tax exemption, be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.190) -- CARRIED
4. *That item (a), April 16, 2021 letter from the Grade 1-2 class at Gaglardi Academy regarding learning about Mayor and Council roles, be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*

(2021.191) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Strategic Planning and Action Items Report - May 5, 2021

Strategic Planning and Action Items

That the Strategic Planning and Action Items Report for May 5, 2021 be received and filed for information.

(2021.192) -- CARRIED

b. Comox Valley Marine Rescue Society - 2021 Moorage

RCM SAR Moorage

That the Comox Valley Marine Rescue Society be provided with no-cost moorage and hydro at the Comox Municipal Marina for two 38' berths and three dingy spots for the years 2021 to 2025.

(2021.193) -- CARRIED

c. Notice of Motion from April 21, 2021 RCM: Immediate Protection for All At-risk Old-growth Forests in BC - Councillor McGowan

Old Growth Forests

1. *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;

c. Notice of Motion from April 21, 2021 RCM: Immediate Protection for All At-risk Old-growth Forests in BC - Councillor McGowan

Old Growth Forests

1. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT 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 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 resolution be sent to the Union of BC Municipalities and as a late submission to AVICC.

THAT the main motion be amended to replace the text "call on the provincial government to immediately defer" in the third paragraph with the text "has concerns in regards to"

(2021.194) -- CARRIED

2. *Main motion as amended:*

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 Town of Comox has concerns in regards to 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 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 resolution be sent to the Union of BC Municipalities and as a late submission to AVICC.

(2021.195) -- CARRIED

d. Notice of Motion from April 21, 2021 RCM: Toxic Drug Supply Crisis - Councillor McGowan

Toxic Drug Supply

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.*

*(2021.196) -- CARRIED
[Opposed: Councillor KGrant]*

8. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS:

a. Water, Sewer and Refuse Fees

Water, Sewer and Refuse Fees

- 1. That the Comox Water Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1973, 2021 be Adopted.*

(2021.197) -- CARRIED

- 2. That the Comox Sewer User Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1974, 2021 be Adopted.*

(2021.198) -- CARRIED

- 3. That the Comox Refuse Collection Amendment Bylaw No. 1585.09, 2021 be Adopted.*

(2021.199) -- CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Proclamation Request: Falun Dafa Day

Proclamation Request

That Council denies the Proclamation Request to recognize May 13, 2021 as Falun Dafa Day in Comox.

(2021.200) -- CARRIED

b. LATE AGENDA ITEM: UBCM Grant Application - "Development Applications"

Late Item

1. *That the Agenda be amended to include the May 5, 2021 Report from the Director of Finance, titled "UBCM Grant Application - "Development Applications"*
(2021.201) -- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. *That Council approve Staff to apply for the Local Government Development Approvals program requesting \$500,000 in funding toward development process review and improvements.*
(2021.202) -- CARRIED

REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MEETING RECESS AT 5:52 P.M. UNTIL AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING APPLICATION RZ 20-3 (651 ANDERTON ROAD)

CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CALLED BACK TO ORDER AT 6:12 P.M.

c. Expedited Approval of 1200 Military Row Subdivision and Development

1200 Military Row

THAT the subdivision, development permits, and building permits of 1200 Military Row be given priority processing to ensure the industrial development of the western portion of the property; and further,

That Council acknowledges other Strategic Plan priorities may be delayed due to this process.

(2021.203) -- CARRIED
[Opposed: Councillor SMcGowan]

d. Recreation and Parks Youth Assessment EOI

Recreation Youth Assessment

That Council direct Administration to release the Recreation and Parks Youth Assessment consultant services Expression of Interest to the public, as attached to the May 5, 2021 Report to Mayor and Council titled "Recreation and Parks Youth Assessment EOI", and to receive and score responses and award the project; and further,

That Council direct Administration, at their discretion, to use up to \$750 of the Recreation and Parks Youth Assessment budget to award honorariums to members of the Change Maker's Initiative at the sole discretion of the successful proponent of the EOI to assist with public engagement and/or other aspects of the Assessment in meaningful and substantial ways.

(2021.204) -- CARRIED

e. 2021-2025 Financial Plan Bylaw and 2021 Tax Rates Bylaw

Financial Plan and Tax Rates Bylaws

1. *That the Comox Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1978, 2021 be given First Reading.*
(2021.205) -- CARRIED

2. *That the Comox Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1978, 2021 be given Second Reading.*
(2021.206) -- CARRIED

3. *That the Comox Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1978, 2021 be given Third Reading.*
(2021.207) -- CARRIED

4. *That the Comox Tax Rates Bylaw No. 1979, 2021 be given First Reading.*
(2021.208) -- CARRIED

e. 2021-2025 Financial Plan Bylaw and 2021 Tax Rates Bylaw

**Financial Plan and Tax Rates
Bylaws**

5. *That the Comox Tax Rates Bylaw No. 1979, 2021 be given Second Reading.*
(2021.209) -- CARRIED
6. *That the Comox Tax Rates Bylaw No. 1979, 2021 be given Third Reading.*
(2021.210) -- CARRIED

f. Water and Sewer Parcel Taxes

**Water and Sewer Parcel
Taxes**

1. *That the Comox Sanitary Sewer and Water Services Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1980, 2021 be given First Reading.*
(2021.211) -- CARRIED
2. *That the Comox Sanitary Sewer and Water Services Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1980, 2021 be given Second Reading.*
(2021.212) -- CARRIED
3. *That the Comox Sanitary Sewer and Water Services Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1980, 2021 be given Third Reading.*
(2021.213) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

12. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor McGowan

Councillor McGowan advised that she:

- attended the Comox Valley Youth Council Earth Day Story Telling,
- attended a webinar on Small and Rural Communities Climate Action Guidebook,
- attended a Social Planning Council meeting, and
- met with members of the d'Esterre Seniors' Society IT group to discuss their IT requirements.

b. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended:

- the Regional District board meeting,
- a regional sewer conveyance meeting, and
- the regional water committee meeting.

c. Councillor Minions

Councillor Minions advised that she attended:

- the Regional District sewage meetings,
- three meetings regarding Claddagh Estates,
- the regional solid waste management meeting, and
- the Comox Valley Youth Council Earth Day Story Telling.

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d. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift advised that she attended:

- the Comox Valley Youth Council Earth Day Story Telling,
- the regional sewage commission meeting, and
- the Regional District board meeting.

Councillor Swift also advised that the Filberg Summer Kitchen is now open and the Filberg's Legacy Trees Project is up and running.

e. Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna advised that he met with the Vancouver Island Regional Library team to shortlist applicants and attended a Comox Valley Coalition to End Homelessness meeting.

f. Mayor Arnott

Mayor Arnott advised that he:

- met with the new president of North Island College,
- attended 19 Wing Comox's Change of Command ceremony,
- participated in a call with Municipal Affairs Minister Osborne,
- participated in the photo opportunity with Emterra Environmental,
- attended a BC Supportive Housing discussion,
- participated in a discussion with Minister Osborne regarding broadband connectivity, and
- attended the Comox Valley Youth Council Earth Day Story Telling,

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 May 5, 2021 pursuant to the following sub-sections of section 90 of the Community Charter:

(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations; and

(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.

(2021.214) -- CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 6:44 P.M.

THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:42 P.M.

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

CARRIED

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER