

TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday August 11, 2021

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

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

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 standing on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS:

a. Introduction of Late Items

Late Items

That the Agenda be amended to include an item for discussion on the upcoming Party in the Parks event.

(2021.300) -- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

That the August 11, 2021 Regular Council Meeting agenda be adopted as amended.

(2021.301) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Cory Vanderhorst (MNP Assurance Services) - 2020 Financial Statements

2020 Audit

Cory Vanderhorst summarized the 2020 audit findings for the Town of Comox, including financial statement highlights, the draft audit report and audit findings report. He advised that the audit went well and thanked staff and Council for their assistance. He identified that it was a clean audit, with no irregularities and no conflicts of interest. Mr. Vanderhorst stated that financial sustainability is healthy and has continued to trend in a positive direction. He stated that flexibility is also strong and continues to trend down as assets age.

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 July 14, 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.302) -- CARRIED

b. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing Minutes

That the Minutes of the Public Hearing, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday July 14, 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.303) -- 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:*

1. *July 9, 2021 email from Julian Benedict regarding Beckton Drive parking.*
2. *July 12, 2021 letter from Dennis Strand of Brook Place Strata at 1537 Noel Avenue regarding the condition of Brooklyn Creek.*
3. *July 15, 2021 email from Stefan Szkwarek of Comox Valley United Soccer Club regarding the lack of facilities.*
4. *July 19, 2021 email from Maurita Prato of LUSH Valley Food Action Society regarding the Coalition for Healthy School Food.*
5. *July 21, 2021 email from Jamie Bowman regarding preserving the St. Joseph's building.*
6. *July 21, 2021 email from Laurel Nash of the Government of BC (Environmental Protection Division) regarding the Rodenticide Ban.*
7. *July 29, 2021 letter from Fred Horne of Providence Living regarding the new name for the building replacing the Views.*
8. *August 3, 2021 email from Bruce Gibbons of Merville Water Guardians regarding banning water bottling of groundwater.*
9. *August 3, 2021 email from Council of Canadians regarding support for Fish Farms.*
10. *August 4, 2021 email from Michael Raymont regarding the speed zone at Lazo Road and Knight Road.*
11. *August 5, 2021 email from Karin Kratz regarding the letdown of sidewalks.*
12. *Comox Valley Regional District Board meeting minutes held Monday July 16 and Tuesday July 27, 2021.*

(2021.304) -- CARRIED

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

2. *That the July 9, 2021 email from Julian Benedict regarding Beckton Drive parking be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*
(2021.305) -- CARRIED

3. *That the July 19, 2021 email from Maurita Prato of LUSH Valley Food Action Society regarding the Coalition for Healthy School Food be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*
(2021.306) -- CARRIED

4. *That the Town of Comox endorse the efforts of the Coalition for Healthy School Food to advocate for a universal, cost-shared healthy school food program; and further,*

That the Town of Comox write to the Prime Minister of Canada to request the implementation of a universal, cost-shared, healthy school food program for all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students in the country.
(2021.307) -- CARRIED

5. *That the August 5, 2021 email from Karin Kratz regarding the letdown of sidewalks be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*
(2021.308) -- CARRIED

6. *That the July 12, 2021 letter from Dennis Strand of Brook Place Strata at 1537 Noel Avenue regarding the condition of Brooklyn Creek be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*
(2021.309) -- CARRIED

7. *That the August 3, 2021 email from Bruce Gibbons of Merville Water Guardians regarding banning water bottling of groundwater be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.*
(2021.310) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Strategic Priorities and Action Items Report - August 11, 2021

Strategic Priorities and Action Items

1. *That the Strategic Priorities and Action Items Report for August 11, 2021 be received and filed for information.*
(2021.311) -- CARRIED

2. *That a letter be provided to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management board advising of concerns with respect to the capacity of the Comox Return It Centre.*
(2021.312) -- CARRIED

b. Council Motion 2021-274 Regarding the Northeast Comox Storm Water Management Plan Implementation Bylaws

NE Comox Storm Water Management Plan

THAT the Town prepare a policy for Council consideration to provide staff direction and encourage Approving Officer consideration of securing long term retention and protection or replanting for a target minimum of 25% of existing trees taking into account site and development specific opportunities and constraints including in relation to number of existing trees retained vs replacement plantings, tree species, habitat value and community significance.
(2021.313) -- CARRIED
[Opposed: Councillors SMcGowan NMinions]

- c. **Proposed Road Closure at Comox Avenue: Road Allowance Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 1982 (2137 Comox Avenue)**

2137 Comox Avenue

That Road Allowance Closure and Dedication Removal Bylaw 1982 be Adopted.

(2021.314) -- CARRIED

8. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS: NIL

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **2020 Annual Financial Statements**

Annual Financial Statements

That Council receives and approves the 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

(2021.315) -- CARRIED

- b. **Attendance of the Public at Council Meetings and Public Hearings**

Public Attendance at Meetings

That, effective September 9, 2021, Council allow members of the public to attend Council meetings and public hearings, to a maximum of the greater of 50 people or 50% seating capacity, excluding Council members and staff.

(2021.316) -- CARRIED

- c. **Budget Timeline Policy**

Budget Timeline Policy

That Council adopts Budget Timeline Policy No. CCL-066

(2021.317) -- CARRIED

- d. **Development Variance Permit Application: DVP 21-2 (96 Jane Street)**

96 Jane Street

That Development Variance Permit DVP 21-2 be issued, subject to the Development Variance Permit Conditions listed in Schedule 1 of the August 11, 2021, Planning Report on DVP 21-2.

(2021.318) -- CARRIED

- e. **Proclamation Request: International Overdose Awareness Day**

International Overdose Awareness

THAT Council approve the Proclamation Request to recognize August 31, 2021 as the International Overdoes Awareness Day in Comox.

(2021.319) -- CARRIED

- f. **Party in the Park Funding**

Party in the Park

That up to \$10,000 be provided to hold three musical events in Comox parks on September 5, 2021 as part of the Party in the Parks event held in conjunction with the City of Courtenay and the Village of Cumberland.

(2021.320) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION:

a. Notice of Motion: Street Parking on Beckton Road (Councillor Bissinger)

Notice of Motion

Councillor Bissinger provided a notice of motion as follows:

"THAT the street parking area on the north side of Beckton closest to the intersection of Beckton Drive and Silversmith, be increased from approximately 45 feet to approximately 90 feet."

b. OCP and Rezoning Application OCP RZ 20-5 / Development Permit Application DP 20-9 (1153 Tara Road)

1153 Tara Road

1. *That Council's July 14, 2021 decision regarding OCP and Rezoning Application at 1153 Tara Road be brought back to Council for reconsideration, in accordance with s. 131(1) of the Community Charter.*

(2021.321) -- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. *That, in accordance with section 475 of the Local Government Act:*

1. *Notice of proposed OCP Amendment, as contained in Attachment 1 to the July 14, 2021 Planning Introductory Report OCP RZ 20-5 and DP 20-9, be placed on the Town's bulletin board, website, and Facebook and Twitter social media channels, until replaced by a notice of Public Hearing; and*

2. *The April 21, 2021 Planning Report OCP RZ 20-5 and DP 20-9 and the July 14, 2021 Planning Introductory Report OCP RZ 20-5 and DP 20-9 be posted on the Town's website.*

(2021.322) -- REFERRED TO SEPT 8, 2021 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
[Opposed: Councillors ABissinger KGrant NMinions]

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Nicole Rempel (Hegus/Chief), K'omoks First Nation: Formal acknowledgement of Cultural Heritage Policy

KFN Cultural Policy

That the June 1, 2021 letter and policy from Nicole Remple, Hegus/Chief of the K'omoks First Nation, requesting formal acknowledgement of their Cultural Heritage Policy, be received and referred to staff for comment.

(2021.323) -- CARRIED

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift advised that she attended the:

- CVRD sewer commission meeting,
- CVRD water committee meeting,
- CVRD board meeting, and
- Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association meeting.

b. Councillor McGowan

Councillor McGowan advised that she:

- attended a BC Health Communities Affordable Housing Land Acquisition Strategy seminar,
- attended a Substance Use Committee meeting,
- met with some representatives of the Comox Youth Climate Council, and
- attended a Food Policy Council meeting.

c. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended the CVRD sewer commission and water committee meetings.

d. Councillor Bissinger

Councillor Bissinger advised that she:

- walked through Beckton Estates with a resident,
- observed the new dog park, and
- attended the grant funding announcement for the sidewalk and bike lanes along Comox Avenue.

e. Councillor McKenna

Mayor Arnott thanked Councillor McKenna, on behalf of all of Council and the residents of Comox, for his service to Comox.

Councillor McKenna advised that he will attend one last Community Justice Centre meeting next week. He thanked Council and congratulated those who have served for so long, mentioning that it is not an easy job. He advised that he met with Jonathan Kerr. He also thanked the Town staff and residents of Comox, which he said is a special place.

f. Councillor Minions

Councillor Minions advised that she:

- met with residents of Beckton Estates,
- attended the announcement of the grant funding for sidewalks and bike lanes along Comox Avenue,
- met with Jonathan Kerr,
- attended the CVRD sewer commission meeting,
- participated in a couple of Tara Road visits plus one phone conversation, and
- discussed single use plastics bans with other communities.

g. Mayor Arnott

Mayor Arnott advised that he:

- participated in the infrastructure announcement regarding the grant funding for Comox Avenue,
- along with the CAO and Councillor Bissinger participated in a Zoom meeting with Andrew Gower regarding engineering concerns, and
- along with the CAO, met with the RCMP regarding traffic concerns.

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 July 14, 2021 pursuant to the following sub-sections of section 90 of the Community Charter:

(1)(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality; 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.

(2021.324) -- CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 6:34 P.M.

THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:41 P.M.

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

CARRIED

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER