

**Minutes of a Public Hearing,
held in d'Esterre House on Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

Present: Acting Mayor S. McGowan

Councillors K. Grant, P. McKenna, N. Minions, M. Swift

Absent: R. Arnott, A. Bissinger

Call to Order:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

There were approximately 26 members of the public in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT

Acting Mayor McGowan made the following statement:

This Public Hearing is hereby convened pursuant to Section 464 of the Local Government Act for the purpose of hearing representations from those persons who believe that their interest is affected by the proposed:

1. Rezoning Application RZ 19-5 (Cannabis Production):

a. Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1926

The proposed bylaw has received first and second readings, but has not passed third reading or been adopted by Council. Notices of this Public Hearing have been published in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Also, a copy of the proposed bylaw, supporting documentation and any submissions to Council received from the public have been available for inspection at Comox Town Hall as required by the Local Government Act. Copies are also available for review at the desk of the clerk.

To maintain order and to ensure everyone a reasonable opportunity to be heard, I ask that each person wishing to speak first sign the Speaker's List, located at the desk of the Clerk. Once called by the Chair, please begin your presentation to Council by clearly stating your name and address. Please make your presentation as brief as possible. After all have had an opportunity to be heard, anyone wishing to have further input may once again sign the Speaker's List.

Council will not debate with each other or members of the public. Council will not answer questions; we are here to hear from you. Technical questions may be directed by the Chair to the staff.

Everyone will be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at this meeting. No one will be, or should feel, discouraged or prevented from making his or her views heard. Please refrain from any conduct that would intimidate others or discourage them from speaking.

1. Rezoning Application RZ 19-5 (Cannabis Production):

Application Summary

a) Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1926

In general terms, the purpose of Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1926 is to permit the production of recreational cannabis on lands zoned I2.1 Aeronautical Industrial; shown shaded on the map, and to replace references to Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations with references to the Cannabis Act throughout Comox Zoning Bylaw 1850.



The Application Summary was received for information.

Public Hearing Submissions

Acting Mayor McGowan made the following statement:

Written – To ensure that written submissions are included in the minutes of the meeting, please ensure that all are submitted to the desk of the Clerk before the end of the meeting.

Verbal – The proposed bylaw is now open for discussion.

Speakers:

- Chris Gage of 375 Megin Way, Comox, expressed his opposition to the proposal, citing he had not requested the zoning change.
- LCol Steve Gillis of 19 Wing Comox expressed grave concerns with the proposal, citing odour and quality of life impacts to the over 300 families of 19 Wing.
- Adam Ho of 978 Sand Pines Drive, Comox, expressed concerns with the proposal, citing existing and potentially increased flooding issues, odour issues, and the impact to the enjoyment and resale value of their home.
- Alex Robertson, Acting CEO of the Comox Valley Airport Commission, expressed his concerns with the proposal, citing the zoning is counter to the OCP, the loss of limited aeronautical industrial land, and the potential increase in property values that would impact CVAC's ability to purchase new lands.

There being no further speakers on the speaker's list, Acting Mayor McGowan made the following statement:

I would remind those present that legal considerations prevent the members of Council from considering any representation made after the close of this Public Hearing.

Before closing the Public Hearing, I am going to call three times for any further speakers on any of the matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

For the first time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

Speakers:

- Martin Hegg of 1150 Pritchard, Comox, expressed concerns with the proposal, citing residential property values, smell and lights.

There being no further speakers on the speaker's list once again, Acting Mayor McGowan made the following statement:

For the second time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

Speakers:

- Don McQueen of 1338 Hudson Road, Comox, expressed concerns with the proposal, citing smell, nuisance, lawsuits and since farmland can't be used for industrial, growing shouldn't be permitted on industrial land.

- Terry Fright of 1366 Hudson Road, Comox, expressed concerns with the proposal, citing lights and noise from the fans, and noting that, if profitable, all lands could go to marijuana production.

There being no further speakers on the speaker's list once again, Acting Mayor McGowan made the following statement:

For the third time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

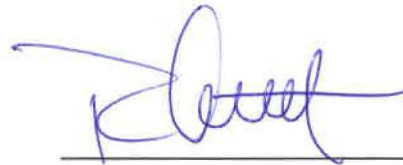
There being no further speakers, I declare this Public Hearing closed.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:54 p.m.

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified fair and accurate pursuant to Section 465(6) of the Local Government Act.



CORPORATE OFFICER