

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
held in d'Esterre Seniors Centre
on Wednesday November 3, 2021**

Present: Mayor R. Arnott

Councillors K. Grant, A. Bissinger
S. McGowan, N. Minions, M. Swift

Staff J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services

Absent: Nil

Call to Order:

The Public Hearing Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

There were 29 members of the public in attendance.

The Public Hearing was conducted both in-person and through Zoom Video Conferencing. It was also live-streamed on the Town's YouTube pages.

PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT

Mayor R. Arnott 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 in property is affected by the proposed:

1. Rezoning application RZ 20-4 Urban Agriculture:

a. Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1987

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, copies of the proposed bylaw, supporting documentation and any submissions to Council received from the public have been available for inspection at comox.ca as required by the Local Government Act. Pursuant to Ministerial Order, this Public Hearing is being conducted virtually and in-person. All persons who believe their interest is affected by the proposed rezoning will be given the opportunity to be heard this evening.

To maintain order and to ensure everyone a reasonable opportunity to be heard, I ask that each person in the room wishing to speak first sign the Speaker's List, located at the desk of the Clerk. For Zoom Meeting Link users, hover over 'Reactions' in the

bottom footer of the Zoom screen and click the 'Raise Hand' icon, or press *9 on your phone, and wait to be asked to speak by the Chair. All speakers will be asked to speak by the Chair.

Once called by the Chair, please begin your presentation to Council by clearly stating your name and address (virtual presenters first click the 'unmute' button or press *6 on your phone). You may then begin your presentation to Council. 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 or "raise their hand".

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.

In addition, if you wish to provide a written submission during this Public Hearing, you may do so by sending an email to council@comox.ca. Note that written submissions must be received before the end of the Public Hearing.

1. Rezoning Application RZ 20-4 Urban Agriculture

Application Summary Public

Mayor Arnott advised that the Public Hearing was regarding Rezoning Application RZ 20-4 Urban Agriculture, a summary of which was contained in the Public Hearing agenda.

Public Hearing Submissions:

Mayor Arnott made the following statement:

Written – To ensure that written submissions are included in the minutes of the meeting, please ensure that all are submitted via email to council@comox.ca before the end of the meeting.

Verbal – The proposed bylaw is now open for discussion.

Cheryl Blacklock, Comox BC – expressed strong opposition to urban hens, citing too many issues with smells and escapes, it being a rural community issue and it takes away her right to not live near animals. She also advised she has no issues with produce stands.

Art Meyers, 659 Jubilee Court – expressed opposition to chickens, citing concerns of interference from rural areas as well as smell and rats.

Linda Meyers, 659 Jubilee Court – expressed strong opposition to the proposed, citing concerns with rats, racoons, smell and noise, as well as a lack of ability to control.

Laila Yuile, Comox BC – expressed support for produce, beekeeping and hen-keeping, citing the success of programs in other areas. She also advised she is disappointed to see a minimum lot size of 1500 square metres and asked Council to consider reducing the minimum lot size or delay a decision until after the by-election.

Dianna Talbot, 532 Deerwood Place – expressed support for the proposal, citing misunderstanding with rats, and food security and fairness issues. She also asked that Council reduce the lot size as it is currently limited to the very few wealthy, and consider flock size to lot size.

Vivian Vaillant, 392 Church Street – expressed support for the proposal, citing the enjoyment of having them and tricks for managing concerns. Ms. Vaillant also expressed concern for the proposed lot size and advised that the rats were here before the chickens.

Kerry Ann Griffiths, 306 Church Street – expressed support the proposal, citing her desire to produce food on her property and share with others. She advised that chickens in rural areas are not the same as chickens in urban areas.

Maurita Prato, 520 Butchers Road – expressed support for the proposal. She also advised that she would like to see greenhouses in front yards and hens on smaller lots. She also advised that the limitations might put up barriers for those who are already have this.

Jenn Meilleur, Comox BC – expressed support for the proposal, citing current food and supply issues. She also asked Council to support hens on any size lot and greenhouses in front yards as that's where the sun is for some.

Hil Benesch, 1595 Dogwood Avenue – expressed support for the proposal, advising that she has kept chickens on two properties in Comox. She asked why neighbours can't grow food for each other, and advised that it brings communities together.

Megan Cowling, 517 Deerwood Place – expressed absolute support for the proposal, advising that it is a 4-day wait to have groceries delivered, and that racoons and rats are already in yards without chickens. She asked Council to consider changing the lot size.

Aleia Cuker, 353 Pritchard Road – expressed support for the proposal, advising hen keeping can be done if done responsibly, and there are already lots of things in back yards that attract rats. She asked Council to reconsider lot sizes and greenhouses in front yards.

Vivian Vaillant, Comox BC – read a statement from a neighbour who supported the proposal, citing the benefits that chickens provide in breaking down organic matter.

Close of Public Hearing:

There being no speakers wishing to make representation, Mayor Arnott 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 bylaws. I am going to allow 15 seconds between each call in order to allow those viewing on YouTube to catch up to the opportunity to speak.

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

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

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

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

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:12 p.m.

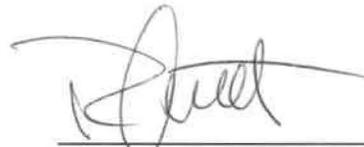
CARRIED

Submissions received at the Public Hearing are attached to these Minutes:

- Michael Clark, 386 Church Street – in favour of chickens if regulated properly
- Linda and Art Meyers, 659 Jubilee Court – strongly opposed to allowing chickens (both also spoke in opposition).

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

Certified fair and accurate pursuant to Section 890(7) of the Local Government Act.



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Re: Proposed Chicken by-law - Comox

Michael Clarke owner: 386 Church St, Comox

Good day, I am a farmer managing the largest dairy in the Valley. I've had chicken and thousands of cows I hold farming certificates.

I am in favour of chickens in Comox provided that they are regulated properly. It can be done with strict regulations.

I use the Dairy Code of Practice for example. I support the changes with policies.

Animal rights are very important as are home owner rights. The urban hen must be regulated to control rodents. Other cities have found a way to succeed.

Thank-You for your consideration
Michael Clarke

Art and Linda Meyers
659 Jubilee Court
Comox, BC
V9M 4G8

November 3, 2021

TO: COMOX COUNCIL

RE: HENS WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS OF COMOX

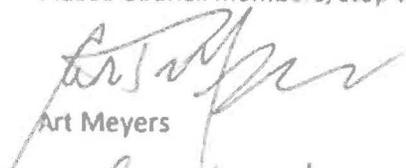
Please be advised that I am strongly opposed to allowing chickens within the Town boundaries of Comox for the following reasons:

1. Chickens belong in the country and not in an urban setting.
2. Chicken feed attracts mice, rats and racoons.
3. Chickens and eggs attract racoons, mice and rats.
4. Chickens defecate.
5. If neighbours who have chickens and they do not clean up their manure then the stench will drift into my yard and home.
6. Hens make noise and not just roosters. Some breeds of chickens are noisier than others. They make noise when they don't like each other and if I could demonstrate the sound of a hen when it is cheesed off I would but I can't. Believe me, it is noisy, unkind and unpleasant.
7. It is on record that Councillors McGowan, Bessinger and Minions wish to proceed with modifying this bylaw to allow chickens on any sized lot throughout Comox.

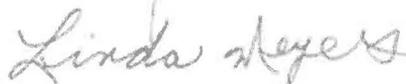
It takes approximately 15 – 18 hours of daylight for a chicken to produce one egg. In the summer a chicken will produce one egg per day but in the winter a chicken will produce one egg every third day. How does this provide food security?

If this bylaw passes, how does Council propose that I will be able to control the infestation of mice, rats and racoons when poisoning is not a safe solution nor are bullets to shoot rodents within the Town boundaries?

Please Council members, stop this nonsense.



Art Meyers



Linda Meyers