

TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday December 1, 2021

Present: Mayor R. Arnott
Councillors A. Bissinger, K. Grant, S. McGowan,
M. Swift

Absent: N. Minions

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief
T. Hagmeier, Recreation Director
S. Ashfield, Director of Operations

Call to Order:

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

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

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: NIL

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of the Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

That the December 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting agenda be Adopted.

(2021.500) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Derek Richmond (Partnership for Sustainability BC) - Ambassadors of the Partnership Presentations

Ambassadors of the Partnership

Mr. Richmond advised of the work of the Partnership and stated that, in climate change management, Comox leads by example to implement responsible water balance management, particularly in the Brooklyn Creek watershed, northeast Comox and Anderton corridor neighbourhood concept. Mr. Richmond recognized and presented certificates to Shelley Ashfield, Director of Operations, Marvin Kamenz, Director of Development Services, and the Town of Comox as Ambassadors of the Partnership for their contribution and dedication to sustainable water practices.

b. Kealy Donaldson & Jean Sarrazin (Compass Community Radio) Seeking Financial Assistance

Compass Community Radio

Ms. Donaldson and Mr. Sarrazin introduced their Compass Community Radio Station and summarized the types of local content and programming that they plan to air. They advised that they need Council's support to move their plans forward, and stated that they are looking for a location for their radio antenna as well as they have applied for funding from the Town.

- c. Stewart Goodings: Federation of Canadian Municipalities - International project to support women leadership in local government**

FCM Initiative

Mr. Goodings provided information on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) Program and encouraged the Town to submit an expression of interest.

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 November 17, 2021, be Adopted.

(2021.501) -- 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. *November 12, 2021 email from Erin Nowak of Comox Valley Conservation Partnership regarding an invitation for 2021 Green Bylaws Toolkit 101.*

2. *November 13, 2021 letter from Jaime McDowell regarding turf fields.*

3. *November 18, 2021 letter from Martin Crilly of Comox Valley Airport Commission regarding service from Comox Airport and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.*

4. *November 26 email from Luba Hazeldine requesting a crosswalk on Noel Avenue and no parking signs along Condor Street.*

(2021.502) -- CARRIED

2. *That item 1. (November 12, 2021 email from Erin Nowak of the Comox Valley Conservation Partnership, regarding an invitation for 2021 Green Bylaws Toolkit 101) be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.*

(2021.503) -- CARRIED

3. *That item 3. (November 18, 2021 letter from Martin Crilly of Comox Valley Airport Commission regarding service from Comox Airport and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico) be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion; and further,*

That a letter of support be provided encouraging the federal government to restore international flights to the Comox Valley Airport.

(2021.504) -- CARRIED

4. *That item 4. (November 26 email from Luba Hazeldine requesting a crosswalk on Noel Avenue and no parking signs along Condor Street) be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.*

(2021.505) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Strategic Planning and Action Items Report - December 1, 2021

Strategic Planning

That the Strategic Planning and Action Items Report for December 1, 2021 be received and filed for information.

(2021.506) -- CARRIED

b. Mack Laing 'Shakesides' Update

Mack Laing Shakesides Update

THAT Further to the resolutions of Council made February 1, 2017, December 6, 2017, March 6, 2016 and May 15, 2019 in relation to the Town of Comox's application to vary the trust applicable to the money held by the Town of Comox pursuant to the will of (Hamilton) Mack Laing that was probated on March 2, 1982, the Council of the Town of Comox resolves THAT:

- (a) Council approve the design modification of the proposed viewing platform to minimize disturbance to the Great Comox Midden by removing the requirement for a foundation on the viewing platform and not constructing any new trails and paths;*
- (b) Council receive the Preliminary Class D Construction Budget for the viewing platform prepared by Kinetic;*
- (c) Council authorize a Town contribution towards the budgeted costs above the trust amount, house demolition, and landscape and trail restoration if the court varies the trust applicable to the money given by Mack Laing's will to allow for the construction of the proposed viewing platform; and*
- (d) Council authorize the payment of any additional amounts towards capital costs for the project to ensure that at least \$25,000 from the Trust remains available to be transferred to the viewing platform reserve fund contemplated by the Town's proposed variation before the court.*

(2021.507) -- CARRIED

c. Speeding on Town Streets

Speeding

That Council receive this report for information.

(2021.508) -- CARRIED

[Opposed: Councillor ABissinger]

d. Recreation Access Pilot Program for Comox Valley Youth

Recreation Access Pilot Program

That Council direct Administration to participate in a one-year pilot of the regional Leisure for Everyone Accessibility Program (LEAP) offering youth (18 years and younger) in low-income families subsidized recreation access under the terms of the program.

(2021.509) -- CARRIED

e. Downtown Parking

Downtown Parking

THAT Council direct staff to amend Bylaw 1358, A bylaw to Regulate Traffic and the use of Streets within the Town of Comox, Schedule A, Parking Restrictions:

- 1) *to remove the 2 hour parking restrictions on the west side of Church Street fronting 215 and 221 Church Street and replace with 2 - 15 minute parking;*
AND,
- 2) *to remove the 2 hour parking restriction on the north side of 1700 Balmoral Avenue.*

(2021.510) -- CARRIED

f. Capital and Special Projects Budget 2022

**Capital and Special Projects
2022**

Council had a general discussion regarding the proposed Capital and Special Projects Budget for 2022.

g. Joint Working Group of the Substance Use Strategy Report: Request for staff support and funding

Substance Use Strategy

That the Town of Comox commit to providing staff support for the Joint Working Group for the Substance Use Strategy Report for 2022.

(2021.511) -- CARRIED

8. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS:

a. Comox Refuse Collection Amendment Bylaw No. 1585.10, 2021

Refuse Collection Rates

That the Comox Refuse Collection Amendment Bylaw No. 1585.10, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.512) -- CARRIED

b. Comox Water Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1991, 2021

Water Rates and Regulations

That the Comox Water Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1991, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.513) -- CARRIED

c. Comox Sewer User Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2021

Sewer User Rates

That the Comox Sewer User Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 1992, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.514) -- CARRIED

AT 6:29 P.M., MAYOR ARNOTT LEFT THE MEETING, DECLARING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA AS HE IS A MUNICIPAL MARINA TENANT. ACTING MAYOR BISSINGER ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

d. Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Bylaw No. 1993, 2021

2022 Marina Rates

That the Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Bylaw No. 1993, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.515) -- CARRIED

TOWN OF COMOX - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AT 6:30 P.M., MAYOR ARNOTT RETURNED TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

e. Comox Sanitary Sewer and Water Services Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1994, 2021

Sanitary Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Bylaw

That the Comox Sanitary Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Bylaw 1994, 2021 be Adopted.

(2021.516) -- CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. CVRD Appointment Update

CVRD Appointment Update

1. *THAT Councillor McGowan and Mayor Arnott be appointed as alternates to the Comox Valley Regional District Board and;*

THAT any Town of Comox Councillor or Mayor may serve as a replacement for a regular member who is unable to attend a Comox Valley Regional District regular board meeting.

(2021.517) -- CARRIED

2. *THAT the regular member who is unable to attend a Comox Valley Regional District initially choose who will serve as his or her alternate and;*

In the event that more than one person wishes to attend a single meeting as an alternate or Councillors object to the appointment of an alternate a final decision on who will attend will be made by the Mayor.

(2021.518) -- CARRIED

b. Federation of Canadian Municipalities - International project to support women leadership in local government

FCM Initiative

That Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide an expression of interest for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) Program

(2021.519) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

12. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift advised that she attended:

- the Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital Board meeting,
- the Comox Valley Regional District board meeting,
- a Gamechangers report and discussion regarding a poverty reduction strategy,
- the Community to Community Forum,
- the Walk With Me session,
- Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association meeting, and
- a mobility forum

b. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended:

- the mobility forum,
- the Walk With Me event,
- a Business in Action meeting,
- the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society AGM, and
- an online presentation by Toyota on hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles.

c. Councillor Bissinger

Councillor Bissinger advised that she:

- met with a representative of Fortis BC regarding hydrogen fuel cells and renewable natural gas,
- attended the Mayor's tree lighting, and
- attended the Community to Community forum.

d. Councillor McGowan

Councillor McGowan advised that she attended:

- the Community to Community event,
- a Comox Valley Food Policy Council meeting,
- the Mayor's tree lighting ceremony,
- the Walk With Me event, and
- the Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital Board meeting.

e. Mayor Arnott

Mayor Arnott advised that he attended:

- a Chamber of Commerce event,
- the Courtenay tree lighting ceremony,
- a Comox BIA meeting,
- The Community to Community event,
- the Comox Mayor's Tree Lighting ceremony,
- the Fire Hall awards ceremony, and
- the Walk With Me event.

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 December 1, 2021 pursuant to the following sub-sections of section 90 of the Community Charter:

(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations.

(2021.520) -- CARRIED

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 6:52 P.M.

THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:30 P.M.

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER