



TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday March 5, 2025

Present: Mayor N. Minions
Councillors S. Blacklock, K. Grant, C. Haslett,
J. Kerr, J. Meilleur, M. Swift

Absent: Nil

Staff Present: J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer
E. Henley, Director of Finance
R. Houle, Director of Development Services
G. Schreiner, Fire Chief
T. Hagmeier, Recreation Director

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with 15 members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Minions acknowledged that the Town of Comox is standing on the unceded traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF LATE ITEMS: NIL

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

a. Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

THAT the March 5, 2025, Regular Council Meeting agenda be Adopted.

(2025.083) -- CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS:

a. Tammi Hall, Board Member (Comox Archives and Museum Society): 2025 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request

CAMS Grant in Aid Request

The Comox Archives and Museum Society (CAMS) delegation reported increased visitor engagement, expanded volunteer involvement, and outlined future plans for exhibit improvements, community collaborations, and a three-year development strategy, expressing their appreciation for the Town's continued support.

b. Alex Jegier, Executive Director (d'Esterre Seniors' Centre Association): 2025 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request

D'Esterre Seniors Centre Grant in Aid Request

The d'Esterre Seniors Centre delegation provided an update on their programs, emphasizing their role in supporting seniors' well-being and community engagement, while highlighting challenges related to facility capacity and funding, and requesting continued support from the Town of Comox to sustain and expand their offerings.

- c. Deborah Renz, General Manager (Sid Williams Theatre Society): 2025 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request**

**Sid Williams Theatre Society
Grant in Aid Request**

The Sid Williams Theatre Society delegation presented its 2023-24 annual report, highlighting increased attendance, steady bookings, and expanded programming despite rising costs and ongoing post-pandemic recovery, while launching a new 5-year capital plan to address facility needs, continuing the Superstar program to support community access, and requesting continued support from the Town of Comox.

- d. Glen Sanford, Executive Director (Comox Valley Art Gallery): 2025 Grant-in-Aid Submission Request**

The Comox Valley Art Gallery delegation provided an update on exhibitions, community engagement, and cultural activities, including the reestablishment of the Winter Art Faire, public art projects, educational tours, the "Walk With Me" program addressing the toxic drug crisis, and their commitment to reconciliation, all supported by grants and local participation, demonstrating that investing in CVAG benefits the economic and cultural health of our community.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- a. Adoption of Minutes - February 19, 2025**

Adoption of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, held in Council Chambers on February 19, 2025, be Adopted.

(2025.084) -- 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 for information:*
 1. *Miriam Piikkila: Happy with adoption of Accessibility Assessment and Action Plan.*
 2. *Heather O'Hara and Wylie Bystedt (BC Association of Farmers' Markets): Request for letter of support.*
 3. *Stephanie Korolyk (BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food): Request for a letter of support and sharing of campaign.*

(2025.085) -- CARRIED

2. *THAT Item 2. (Heather O'Hara and Wylie Bystedt (BC Association of Farmers' Markets): Request for a letter of support) be removed from the consent agenda for discussion;
AND FURTHER,*

THAT Administration be directed to provide a letter of support to the BC Minister of Health, on behalf of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets, advocating for continued investment in the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

(2025.086) -- CARRIED

a. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

3. *THAT Item 3. (Stephanie Korolyk (BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food): Request for a letter of support and sharing of campaign) be removed from the consent agenda for discussion; AND FURTHER,*

THAT Administration be directed to provide a letter to Premier Eby and the Minister of Education and Child Care, on behalf of the BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food, urging them to sign an agreement with the federal government under the National School Food Policy to ensure continued support for B.C. students during the 2024/25 school year.

(2025.087) -- CARRIED

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Tracey Clarke, Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce - Business Retention and Expansion Service Report

Chamber of Commerce BRE Service

1. *THAT Administration reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and the Comox BIA to propose a shared BRE (Business Retention and Expansion) services model, with costs to be split evenly.*

(2025.088) -- DEFEATED

*[Opposed: Mayor Minions, Councillors SBlacklock CHaslett
KGrant JKerr JMeilleur MSwift]*

2. *THAT the Town approach the Chamber of Commerce and the Comox BIA with the intention of developing a joint proposal for a shared BRE (Business Retention and Expansion) plan.*

(2025.089) -- CARRIED

b. 2025 Grant in Aid Applications

2025 Grant in Aid

1. *THAT the Coalition to End Homelessness funding within the Grant in Aid Program be funded from the Affordable Housing Reserve rather than yearly operational funds.*

(2025.090) -- CARRIED

2. *THAT the Comox Archives & Museum Society (CAMS) be awarded funding grant of \$32,500 for 2025, in accordance with the Grant in Aid Policy CCL-031.02.*

(2025.091) -- CARRIED

3. *THAT the following organizations be awarded one-time funding grants for 2025, matching their 2024 funding levels, in accordance with the Grant in Aid Policy CCL-031.02:*

- Comox Valley Art Gallery (CVAG) \$5,000
- Sid Williams Theatre \$30,000
- d'Esterre Seniors Centre \$40,000

(2025.092) -- CARRIED

c. 2025 Special Projects Budget

2025 Special Projects Budget

1. *THAT the Tree Management and Protection Bylaw and Recreation Master Plan expense be moved from the RFFE (Reserve for Future Expenditure) account to the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) grant account.*

(2025.094) -- DEFEATED

2. *THAT Administration explore funding opportunities through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) for the Tree Management and Protection Bylaw and the Recreation Master Plan, with projects proceeding using the Reserve for Future Expenditure (RFFE) account if HAF funding is not approved.*

(2025.094) -- CARRIED

3. *THAT the \$35,000 allocated for both Pop Up Parks in Village Park (Community Field) and Downtown activation (Lorne Site) be removed from the special projects budget.*

(2025.095) -- DEFEATED

[Opposed: Councillors SBlacklock JKerr JMeilleur MSwift]

4. *THAT the March 5, 2025 report from the Chief Administrative Officer, titled "2025 Special Projects Budget", be received for information.*

(2025.096) -- CARRIED

8. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL

9. BYLAW ADOPTIONS:

a. Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 2010.02

2025 Marina Rates Bylaw

THAT the Comox Municipal Marina Fees and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 2010.02 be Adopted.

(2025.097) -- CARRIED

b. Comox Reserve Funds Amendment Bylaw No. 2025.01

Reserve Funds Bylaw

1. *THAT Comox Reserve Funds Amendment Bylaw No. 2025.01 be Adopted.*

(2025.098) -- CARRIED

2. *THAT Council authorize Administration to transfer \$80,000 from the Town of Comox Reserve Fund to the City of Courtenay for the emergency shelter initiative.*

(2025.099) -- CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. PR 25-2 Liquor Licence Amendment (215 Port Augusta Street)

215 Port Augusta Street

THAT Council's comments on the request for a Manufacturers New Outdoor Patio for RAD Brewing Company at 215 Port Augusta Street be as follows:

- a) The location of the establishment:
 - i) The subject business is located within Comox Centre Mall at the corner of Comox Avenue, an arterial road, and Port Augusta Street in downtown Comox. Surrounding uses include Comox Golf Course to the west and northwest, multi-family residential to the north across Balmoral Avenue, adjacent multi-family (congregate care) to the east, and commercial development to the east and south.**
- b) The person capacity and hours of liquor service of the establishment:
 - i) The subject property is zoned C4.1 Core Commercial. Permitted uses include:
 - a. a maximum 175 seat brew pub; and*
 - b. as an accessory use, retail sale of products brewed on site.**
 - ii) The proposed new capacity of 165 is less than the Zoning Bylaw 175 seat maximum for brew pubs.*
 - iii) The proposed daily hours of liquor service for the new patio from 12:00 noon and closing at 9:00 PM Monday-Sunday are shorter and with an earlier closing time than other existing liquor licences in Town.**
- c) The impact of noise on nearby residents:
 - i) The proposed patio is immediately adjacent to the location of the existing patio but is not directly connected. The closest residential building is approximately 50 metres away from the proposed patio and partially screened by an existing residential building.*
 - ii) No concerns were raised by the RCMP regarding this new liquor licence application.**
- d) The impact on the community if the application is approved:
 - i) If the application is approved, the impact is expected to be generally positive in that it will support:
 - a. the growth in tourism and expand the capacity of an existing social venue in Downtown Comox; and*
 - b. will support local beverage manufacturing.***
- e) The method the Town used to gather the views of the residents:
 - i) A notice, inviting members of the public to provide comments to Council, was:
 - a. posted on the Town's website and Town Hall notice board;*
 - b. published in two consecutive editions of the Comox Valley Record newspaper (February 19, 2025 and February 26, 2025); and*
 - c. mailed or otherwise delivered to owners and tenants within 75 metres of the subject property.**
 - ii) Two signs advertising the Liquor Licence application were installed adjacent to the proposed patio.*
 - iii) Written submissions from the public were provided to Council, for Council's consideration of this application, copies of which will be forwarded to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch with this resolution.**

a. PR 25-2 Liquor Licence Amendment (215 Port Augusta Street)

215 Port Augusta Street

f) The Town of Comox Council recommends that the manufacturers new outdoor patio licence be issued for the RAD Brewing Company, located at 215 Port Augusta Street having a maximum person capacity of 165; AND FURTHER,

THAT Council direct Administration to forward the comments to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

(2025.100) -- CARRIED

11. NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Val Wright, Race Chairman (Snow to Surf Society): Request for permission to use Marina Park for Snow to Surf event Finish

Snow to Surf

THAT the letter from the Comox Valley Snow to Surf Society, dated February 19, 2025, requesting permission to use Marina Park on Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the finish of their 43rd Annual event, be received; AND FURTHER,

THAT permission be granted for the closure of the boat launch facilities from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the use of bleachers and traffic barricades for crowd control, and parking restrictions, with parking for volunteers and VIPs only in the designated lot by the boat ramp.

(2025.101) -- CARRIED

13. LATE ITEMS: NIL

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor Blacklock

Councillor Blacklock advised that he attended meetings with the Community Justice Centre and the Comox Valley Substance Use Strategy. He also shared that the Comox Valley Substance Use Strategy will be holding an event on April 15-16, with more details to come.

b. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift attended the Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park board meeting and reminded everyone that 2025 memberships are still available online.

c. Councillor Haslett

Councillor Haslett advised that he attended the first Nautical Days Festival Committee meeting.

d. Councillor Kerr

Councillor Kerr congratulated Councillor Haslett on his new role as Chair of the Nautical Days Festival Committee and thanked the Comox Fire Service and Firefighters Association for funding the Indigenous artwork on the new firetruck by K'ómoks artist Pamela Mitchell. He also advised that he attended the Solid Waste Committee meeting, where a City of Courtenay study showed increased organics diversion and reduced garbage. A reminder was given that one-way traffic for the sewer conveyance project starts Monday, flowing from Comox to Courtenay and returning via Ryan Road to Guthrie.

e. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended the Solid Waste Committee meeting and Comox Valley Regional District meetings.

f. Councillor Meilleur

Councillor Meilleur advised that she had nothing to report.

g. Mayor Minions

Mayor Minions provided an update on the Point in Time Homeless count taking place on Friday, March 7, organized by the Coalition to End Homelessness and other groups. Volunteers are needed, and individuals are encouraged to self-report

17. RESOLUTION TO GO IN-CAMERA: NIL

18. RISE AND REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA: NIL

Adjournment:

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:57 p.m.

CARRIED

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER