

Nanaimo Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicle Bylaw: Proposed Notice of Motion

Submitted by C. Geselbracht
July 3, 2020

Proposed Notice of Motion:

“That staff prepare a report with options for the timely implementation of a bylaw to allow the operation of Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicles in Nanaimo.”

Background:

Low Speed Neighborhood zero emission vehicles are small electric powered utility vehicles with a maximum speed of 40km/hr. These vehicles are approved and regulated by Transport Canada¹. The permitted use of these vehicles in British Columbia is regulated under the BC Motor Vehicle Act². Within the BC Motor Vehicle Act, the final usage of these vehicles on local roads requires the further adoption of a municipal bylaw³. To date, over 34 British Columbian municipalities have passed local bylaws to allow these types of vehicles, including Qualicum, Victoria, Vancouver and Kelowna.

Discussion:

Neighborhood zero emission vehicles are very useful for commercial and industrial applications. They allow for certain tasks to be completed efficiently in smaller confined urban spaces. Their electric battery powered engines allow for quiet operation, and most importantly help fleets reduce carbon emissions in the global effort to avoid catastrophic changes in climate. The transport Canada designation as a low speed vehicle allows for the production of these vehicles by smaller manufacturers. We are fortunate to have one such manufacturer within the Nanaimo Regional district⁴. Thus, not only are there commercial and environmental benefits for the use of these vehicles, their ability to be used in Nanaimo has a regional economic development benefit by allowing a local market for a local manufacturer. Green manufacturing technology companies are some of the most sought out businesses and it is important to reduce barriers in supporting their growth within our region. Jurisdictions in BC that have passed the Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicle bylaw have been receiving the benefits of the use of this class of vehicle safely without incident and in some places for over 10 years. It is important that Nanaimo follow suit, expeditiously.

¹ See Attached Transport Canada “Technical Standards Document No. 500, Revision 2, Low-Speed Vehicles”

² See “Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 24 – Vehicles of Unusual Size, Weight or operating Characteristics; Section 24.06 “Neighbourhood zero emission vehicles”

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/26_58_07

³ See attached municipal bylaw from the town of Qualicum

⁴ Canadian Electric Vehicles Ltd. <https://canev.com>

Reference Material in Appendix or as Attachments:

A: List of British Columbia municipalities that have legalized LSVs with some Bylaw numbers for reference

B: Town of Qualicum Neighbourhood Zero Emission Vehicle Bylaw

C: Template Bylaw for the City of Nanaimo

D: Transport Canada “Technical Standards Document No. 500, Revision 2, Low-Speed Vehicles”

C: Link to Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, Division 24 – Vehicles of Unusual Size, Weight or operating Characteristics; Section 24.06 “Neighbourhood zero emission vehicles”

http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/26_58_07

That staff prepare a report for how a bylaw for the operation of Neighborhood Zero Emission Vehicles in Nanaimo could be brought into play.

APPENDIX

A: List of British Columbia municipalities have legalized LSVs

(LSVs: Low Speed Vehicles of which Neighborhood Zero Emission vehicles are a sub category).

Alert Bay

Burnaby

Campbell River

Colwood Bylaw 1090

Comox

Coquitlam - Bylaw 4036

Chase

Delta - Bylaw 6922

Esquimalt

Hope

Kelowna

Maple Ridge Bylaw 6704 - Look for clause 9.3

New Westminster Bylaw 7440

North Vancouver (As of 2009.04.06, with two streets excepted, and vehicle owners require a municipal permit as well as provincial vehicle licence)

City of North Vancouver

Oak Bay

Oliver

Port Coquitlam

Port Hardy

Port Moody

Qualicum Beach

Richmond Bylaw 8536

Sooke

Schelte

Summerland

Tofino Bylaw 1130

Ucluelet Ucluelet's NZEV brochure

Vancouver

Vernon

Victoria Bylaw 10-037

West Vancouver

Whistler

