

**MINUTES**  
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
WEDNESDAY, 2022-MAY-18, AT 9:00 A.M.

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Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair  
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (joined electronically)  
Councillor D. Bonner  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor Z. Maartman  
Councillor I. W. Thorpe (arrived 9:01 a.m.)  
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor T. Brown

Staff: D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer  
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
A. Groot, Director, Facilities and Parks Operations  
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals  
L. Mercer, Director, Finance  
D. Bailey, Manager, Accounting Services  
T. Pan, Manager, Sustainability  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
A. Mac Coll, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Finance and Audit Committee Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2022-APR-20, at 9:00 a.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Thorpe entered the Shaw Auditorium at 9:01 a.m.

4. REPORTS:

(a) 2021 Statements of Financial Information

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

- Each year the Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) is required to be prepared and made public
- The SOFI report contains Council and Staff wages, goods and services, and several other items providing transparency to the community
- The City of Nanaimo (the City) currently has 49.5 million in debt with 11.2 million attributed from borrowing funds for Fire Station #1

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- In the SOFI report, firefighters receiving retro pay due to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) remuneration showed higher than normal wages
- Staff and all of the hard work they have done during Covid-19
- First responders and their hard work in the City with limited staffing resources

It was moved and seconded that that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council accept the 2021 Statement of Financial Information for filing with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program Continuation

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

- Staff have requested an additional \$100,000 be transferred from the Climate Action Reserve Fund to be used for the CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program
- Rebates in this program have been well received by the community with funds slated to run out by summer 2022 if the additional \$100,000 is not approved

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Transferring \$100,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund has no implication to the tax rate
- Increase of the rebate amount and the potential to increase public uptake on the program

It was moved and seconded that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council allocate \$100,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund to support the City of Nanaimo's continued participation in the Province of British Columbia's CleanBC Better Homes Rebate Program. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival Funding 2022

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- The Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival Society (NDBFS) has dissolved and the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club has taken on the responsibility of the event
- City guidelines mention that funds are supposed to go to local groups, but the NDBFS is dissolved and the event would not continue without the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club taking on the organization of the event

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The number of days the Dragon Boat Festival will be and the beer gardens lengthy application process
- Local charities and opportunity for the money raised to stay in Nanaimo
- Concerns regarding the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club not being local and the extra revenue not going to a local not-for-profit
- Capacity, volunteers, and Covid-19 creating issues when holding events in Nanaimo
- Organizations to run this event would need knowledge of the sport and have experience in running a similar event leaving very few options for local organizations to take it on
- Economic benefits from sporting events can be good for the community and if the event is not held in Nanaimo the City could lose the event altogether

It was moved and seconded that that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve reallocation of \$12,000 in Downtown Event Revitalization grant monies returned by the Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival Society to the Fairway Gorge Paddling Club Society. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Neck Point Park Washroom Project

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- Inflation and the market have increased the total cost of the project since the project costs were calculated two years ago
- Amenities are needed for Neck Point Park
- A changing area on the side of the washrooms was added after budgeting for the project due to feedback from the community from the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
- Costs of washrooms are high to facilitate accessibility for all and vandalism prevention

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Staff resources to build the City's own projects
- Bidding by contractors and price points that are higher than the value of the projects
- The City has carpenters on Staff, but they are completely booked with other projects and are unable to help with the Neck Point Park washroom project

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

The public was not in attendance to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:30 a.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER