

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2023-FEB-06, AT 3:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. Armstrong
Councillor T. Brown (entered the Shaw Auditorium at 4:26 p.m.)
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor P. Manly (joined electronically)
Councillor J. Perrino (joined electronically at 3:50 p.m., and in person at 5:39 p.m.)
Councillor I. Thorpe

Absent: Councillor E. Hemmens

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
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
T. Doyle, Fire Chief
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
L. Mercer, Director, Finance
D. LaBerge, Manager, Bylaw Services
E. Lloyd, Manager, Emergency Program
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
C. Wood, Social Planner
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
S. Snelgrove, Steno Coordinator
E. Bassett, Steno, Legislative Services
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. PROCEDURAL MOTION TO PROCEED IN CAMERA:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

Community Charter Section 90(1):

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held public;

Community Charter Section 90(2):

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council moved In Camera at 3:01 p.m.

Council moved out of In Camera at 6:28 p.m.

Council recessed the Open Meeting 6:28 p.m.

Council reconvened the Open Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 12(c) – Add report titled Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 12(k) – BC Destination Development Fund.
- (c) Add Agenda Item 14(b) Councillor Manly – Notice of Motion re: Addiction & Mental Health Crisis and replace wording.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday 2023-JAN-16 at 7:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Krog advised of the following:

- The deadline to apply to be a member of the Board of Variance has been extended until February 10th, and there is one vacancy open for a three-year term
- Applications are now being accepted online until March 6th for the 2023 Concerts in the Park series which takes place between May and August at various locations around the City
- A release has been issued between the Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo launching a new Climate Action Program called Acting for Climate Change Together (ACCT) which aims to inspire, educate and empower individuals and community groups to work together to reduce our climate impact
- The ACCT program has been partially funded with a \$15,000 Canada Agents of Change grant from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives to compliment regional programs in place to support 2050 greenhouse gas emissions targets, and local groups are invited to apply to the ACCT initiative by February 10, 2023
- The City is funding additional warming services during cold weather, with further services provided the weekend of January 29, and can be accessed at the 7-10 Club Society at St. Paul's Anglican Church, the Unitarian Shelter and Risebridge
- With the Downtown Safety Action Plan and increased resourcing committed by Council, 12 new Community Safety Officers (CSOs) were hired last year to provide additional supports downtown for issues such as public disorder, homelessness, addictions, and mental health challenges
- They conduct highly visible day and night patrols, including bike patrols, throughout the community, with emphasis on the downtown area, and provide nearly 20 hours of coverage per day
- Additionally, a second clean team is being added to provide cleaning services seven days a week to support the CSOs
- The Mayor highlighted three instances where CSO's had saved lives and offered a sincere thank you on behalf of Council for the work the CSOs are doing to make the streets safer and offer their assistance to vulnerable individuals who require access to services.
- The Mayor recognized Sky Snelgrove of the Legislative Services team on her last meeting with the City of Nanaimo. He thanked her for her service and dedication to the City over the past eleven years and wished her well on her new position.

7. RISE AND REPORT:

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services advised that a report presented at the In Camera portion of the February 6, 2023 meeting, re: Warming Centre Services Update would be released via a news release very soon.

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

The following Committee Minutes were received:

- Minutes of the Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2022-NOV-24 at 9:00 a.m.
- Minutes of the Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2022-DEC-01 at 2:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Monday, 2023-JAN-09 at 1:00 p.m.

9. DELEGATIONS:

(a) Water Stewardship and Community Engagement Award in Honour of Rob Lawrance

Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Nanaimo Area Land Trust and Nick Leone provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining an award created in honour of Rob Lawrance, that will be presented annually to a water stewardship and community engagement champion in BC. Highlights included:

- Rob Lawrance was a former Environmental Planner with the City of Nanaimo who passed away suddenly, shortly into his retirement
- He was a valued friend in the community and achieved important watershed conservation milestones
- The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC operates on a Provincial scale and the first recipient of the Watershed Moments Award is Kate Miller, Environmental Services Manager with Cowichan Valley Regional District

(b) Warmreach Warming Centre Operations

Jovan Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation updating Council on the success of Warmreach and the need to continue operations. Highlights included:

- Risebridge is a new non-profit society run by action-oriented community members and professionals
- They provide low-barrier services for vulnerable and marginalized populations and aim to minimize the gap in social service offerings
- They operate under a community collaborative framework that thrives on relationships with other existing organizations
- Over 4000 hours of services were offered in the first year open and over 700 community members received supports
- Risebridge began offering supports and advocacy to the community in Summer 2021

- They secured funding in October 2021 to operate programming through the fall and winter seasons, including warming shelter & outreach services
- Program highlights include: Risebridge Separation, Risebridge Youth Empowerment, Parksville Overnight Shelter, and Warmreach Survive to Rise
- They are now operating a four-month seasonal shelter, day and/or night
- An average of 300 people were seen over a period of two weeks

(c) Broombusters Invasive Plant Society

Joanne Sales provided a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of Broombusters Invasive Plant Society requesting support for the Town of Qualicum Beach's resolution regarding Scotch Broom at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Convention. Highlights included:

- The Town of Qualicum Beach is presenting a resolution at the AVICC convention in April on Scotch Broom
- Climate change brings dryer, longer summers, and broom is a flash fuel that increases the risk of fire danger and makes fires more difficult to fight
- Millions of dollars have been lost in timber sales due to broom growth taking over forests
- Broom grows 2-3 feet a year and smothers trees and native plants
- Broom is worst offender of biodiversity and does more harm to at-risk species than any other invasive species
- It is toxic to animals, changes soil chemistry, and it is hard to reclaim farmland when it takes over
- Last year volunteers spent 2436 hours cutting broom in Nanaimo
- More support is needed by the City's Parks Department to remove cut broom piles quicker

10. REPORTS:

(a) In-Camera Reporting Policy

Introduced by Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk.

It was moved and seconded that Council repeal Council Policy COU-194 (Routine Release of In-Camera Agendas) and replace it with Council Policy COU-232 (Release of In-Camera Decisions) as attached to the February 6, 2023, report by the Deputy City Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Public Hearing Process Policy Amendment

Introduced by Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk.

Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, provided Council with an overview of the Public Hearing Process Policy Amendment report.

It was moved and seconded that Council endorse Council Policy 233 – Public Hearing Process Policy as attached to the 2023-FEB-06 report by the Deputy City Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities Resolutions

Introduced by Shelia Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to submit the following resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration at their 2023 Annual General Meeting:

Resolution 1:

WHEREAS the current Agriculture Land Reserve housing rules limit permitted housing to three residential dwelling units on a farm;

AND WHEREAS increased flexibility in the Agriculture Land Reserve's rules would permit increased food production and training for future farmers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agricultural Land Commission be requested to seek ways to permit more housing on Agriculture Land Reserve land linked to increased farm activity and food production, subject to control by regulations to guarantee that any new housing could only be occupied by farmers working on the land.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong, Perrino and Thorpe*

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to submit the following resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) for consideration at their 2023 Annual General Meeting:

Resolution 2:

WHEREAS the Province, through BC Housing and EMCR, supports year round emergency shelters, temporary winter shelters (operational from November 1st to March 31st);

AND WHEREAS since 2022 extreme weather response warming/cooling centres to support vulnerable populations which often tend to be for those with acute mental health and substance use disorders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that BC Housing, EMCR and Island Health enter into an agreement with UBCM to ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Licence to Nanaimo Amateur Football Association – 6706 Dover Road

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

It was moved and seconded that Council:

1. Approve the Licence of Use Agreement with Nanaimo Amateur Football Association for a portion of City park property known as May Richards Bennett Pioneer location at 6700 Dover Road for a term of 20 years;
2. Direct Staff to proceed with public notice as required by the *Community Charter*, and,
3. Authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Licence of Use Agreement.

The motion carried unanimously.

(e) Development Permit Application No. DP1242 – 540 Kennedy Street

Introduced by Jeremy Holm, Director, Development Approvals.

It was moved and seconded that Council issue Development Permit No. DP1242 for a mixed-use development at 540 Kennedy Street with variances as outlined in the “Proposed Variances” section of the staff report dated 2023-FEB-06. The motion carried unanimously.

(f) Liquor Licence Application No. LA147 – 1630 East Wellington Road

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO.

It was moved and seconded that Council recommend the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch approve the application to amend the existing liquor primary licence for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 256 located at 1630 East Wellington Road to allow liquor service from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., seven days a week. The motion carried unanimously.

(g) Liquor Licence Application No. LA151 – 940 Old Victoria Road

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO.

It was moved and seconded that Council recommend the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch approve the liquor licence amendment application for 940 Old Victoria Road (Wolf Brewing Company) to permit a permanent 56.1m² extension to the existing outdoor patio area. The motion carried unanimously.

(h) BC Hydro Sustainable Communities Fund – Step Code and Carbon Pollution Standard Implementation Strategy

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO, informed Council of the opportunity to apply for a grant to assist in moving forward with step code implementation.

(i) Application For In-Kind Facility Rental

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

It was moved and seconded that Council approve an In-Kind Facility Rental for the Nanaimo Volunteer & Information Centre Society for the use of the Beban Social Centre for the organization's Annual Appreciation Luncheon for 2023 through 2026 (inclusive), with funding to come from the 'Other Grants' operating budget in each year. The motion carried unanimously.

(j) 2022-2026 Financial Plan Amendment

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

It was moved and seconded that "Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 7337.02" (To amend the 2022-2026 Financial Plan), pass first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that "Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 7337.02" pass second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that "Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 7337.02" pass third reading. The motion carried unanimously.

(k) B.C. Destination Development Fund

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

It was moved and seconded that Council provide a letter of support for an application to the B.C. Destination Development Fund Activate stream for the Stadium District Development.

11. BYLAWS:

(a) "Waterworks Rate and Regulation Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 7004.20"

It was moved and seconded that "Waterworks Rate and Regulation Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 7004.20" (A bylaw to add a bulk water rate and water hauling rate) be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

(a) Councillor Hemmens re: Emergency Basic Shelter Housing

Councillor Brown advised that Councillor Hemmens would be bringing the following Notice of Motion forward for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

“That Council direct Staff to prepare a report outlining the costs of designing, constructing and servicing (water & electric) emergency basic shelter housing for 100 people on City property.”

(b) Councillor Manly re: Addiction and Mental Health Crisis

Councillor Manly advised he would be bringing the following Notice of Motion forward for consideration at a future Council Meeting.

“That Council write a strongly worded letter to the Federal and Provincial governments stating the following:

The current policies on mental health and addiction, and the lack of proper funding to address these issues, are impacting communities and municipal governments at an unacceptable level and therefore the City of Nanaimo Council requests that:

- the Government of Canada engage in an immediate process of justice reform to create a comprehensive alternate system like the Portugal model where people with addiction and mental health challenges who break laws are steered through a court system with fully funded and functional treatment facilities, rehabilitation, and community service programs;
- the Provincial Government immediately fund the detox and treatment beds needed to assist people with addiction and mental health challenges; and
- the Federal and Provincial Governments provide the investments needed to address the homelessness crisis, which in turn has been feeding the mental health and addiction crisis.”

13. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:19 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER