

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2023-MAR-06, AT 4:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. Armstrong
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly (joined electronically)
Councillor I. Thorpe

Absent: Councillor J. Perrino

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
Supt. L. Fletcher, Nanaimo Detachment RCMP
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 4:30 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;
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
- (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 in public;

- (n) the consideration of whether a Council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2); and

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 and a third party.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council moved In Camera at 4:30 p.m.
Council moved out of In Camera at 6:12 p.m.

Council recessed the Open Meeting 6:12 p.m.
Council reconvened the Open Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 8(a) Add presentation titled “VIU’s Strategic Plan and University Activity”

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

5. MAYOR’S REPORT:

- The City’s Midtown Gateway and Midtown Water Supply Projects will be teaming up to install critical underground infrastructure across Bowen Road and into Beban Park, which will result in the South Beban Park entrance being closed 24/7 from March 1 to 31
- Alternating lane closures will be in effect March 11-26 on Bowen Road 24 hours a day, with one lane per direction available, and transit will not be available on Rosstown Road and Pheasant Terrace during this time
- On Friday, the Province announced through the Growing Communities Fund, it will be providing a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants for all 188 BC municipalities to address community infrastructure and amenity demands
- The City will receive \$16.1 million of the funding, and the Regional District of Nanaimo will receive \$7.9 million

6. RISE AND REPORT:

Mayor Krog advised that at the In Camera portion of the 2023-FEB-27 Council meeting, Council appointed Brian Anderson as a member to the Board of Variance for a three year term ending 2026-FEB-27 or until a successor is appointed.

7. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) VIU's Strategic Plan and University Activity

Dr. Deborah Saucier, President and Vice-Chancellor, Vancouver Island University, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Vancouver Island University (VIU) is the second largest university on Vancouver Island
- Maximum class sizes of 34 students allows the faculty to get to know their students on a more personal level
- VIU is considered an inclusive university and accepts all types of students
- 12% of VIU's population is indigenous and 12% is international students
- Notable programs include four Canada Research Chairs, two BC Regional Innovation Chairs, and two Michael Smith Health Research of British Columbia awards
- Last year, VIU received nearly \$2 million in research grants, and the aim is to double that total in the next five years
- Research areas range from biodiversity to social justice, and cultural and creative research
- Smaller class sizes provides more hands on experience early on, which allows students to experience a program fully to decide if they really enjoy it
- VIU is a representative on the Nanaimo Prosperity Corporation, Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce and Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
- Elders are hired as faculty to offer different types of knowledge, apart from Western knowledge, and to provide support and counselling to faculty and students
- VIU's Strategic plan has three main components: People, Place and Potential
- VIU is looking to welcome a larger and more diverse population, and also become a more inclusive and healthier place for work and study
- VIU needs to grow to be the region's hub for research and expertise, and also build stronger partnerships with Indigenous communities
- VIU needs to become a leader in learning for new generations
- Funding was received for the expansion of Sha'aphthut (Gathering Place) to provide an indoor ritual gathering space for Elders
- Funding was also received to expand student housing, which will add 50% more beds and add an additional cafeteria

(b) 2022 Development Review

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Development in the City has changed from primarily single family homes to more mixed use areas
- 65% of new homes built in 2022 contained secondary suites
- The overall unit count was just under 1400 units added last year, with 78% being multifamily, and the remainder being single family homes and suites

- To keep up with growth, it is expected the City would need to build 1400 units a year for the next 10 years
- The overall construction value for 2022 was \$410 million
- The top five units from 2022, in terms of construction value, include:
 - 550 Brechin Road – multifamily development
 - 4831 Cedar Ridge Place – mixed use development
 - 4961 Songbird Place – multifamily development
 - 4979 Wills Road – seniors care residence
 - 6020 Linley Valley Drive – multifamily development
- 64% of units approved in Development Permits are targeted to be purpose-built rentals
- The number of rezoning applications is down compared to previous years
- Last year the Board of Variance received 10 applications, nine of which were approved
- 14 Development Variance Permit applications were received with 12 being approved
- In 2022, 23 new lots were created, compared to 218 in 2021, primarily due to new MOESS Road Standards adopted
- The number of new assets that developers are responsible for as part of construction have gone down, mainly due to smaller infill and multifamily projects
- Building Permits under review include 340 Campbell Street, 235 Wallace Street and 388 Machleary Street which will bring more residents downtown
- Development Permits issued in 2022 include two car dealerships and a 40-unit housing project on Kenworth Road
- Concept plans have been submitted for the new Loaves and Fishes building at 1861 East Wellington Road
- Two major rezoning applications under review include Sandstone and 1 Terminal Avenue

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

The following Committee Minutes were received:

- Minutes of the Design Advisory Panel Meeting, held electronically, on Thursday, 2022-APR-14, at 5:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Design Advisory Panel Meeting, held electronically, on Thursday, 2022-APR-28, at 4:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Design Advisory Panel Meeting, held electronically, on Thursday, 2022-MAY-12, at 5:00 p.m.
- Minutes of the Design Advisory Panel Meeting, held electronically, on Thursday, 2022-MAY-26, at 5:08 p.m.
- Minutes of the Design Advisory Panel Meeting, held electronically, on Thursday, 2022-JUN-23, at 5:01 p.m.

9. REPORTS:

(a) Code of Conduct Review

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, provided Council with an overview of the Code of Conduct Review.

It was moved and seconded that Council reaffirm support for “Code of Conduct Bylaw 2022 No. 7348” as adopted by Council on 2022-MAY-30 and confirm that the bylaw meets Council’s current conduct objectives. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Staff be directed to prepare a report on costs, and a proposed recruitment process or selection criteria, for appointing a formal Ethics Commissioner for Council’s consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

It was moved and seconded that Council endorse the updated terms of reference for the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness as attached to the staff report dated 2023-MAR-06. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Development Permit Application No. DP1269 – 1840 Stewart Avenue

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

It was moved and seconded that Council issue Development Permit No. DP1269 for an exterior alteration at 1840 Stewart Avenue with the variance as outlined in the “Propose Variance” section of the Staff report dated 2023-MAR-06. The motion carried unanimously.

10. BYLAWS:

(a) “Officer Designation and Delegation of Authority Bylaw, 2023 No. 7353.01”

It was moved and seconded that “Officer Designation and Delegation of Authority Bylaw, 2023 No. 7353.01” (housekeeping amendments) be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

11. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Councillor Manly Motion re: Addiction and Mental Health Crisis

Introduced by Councillor Manly.

It was moved and seconded that Council request 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.

The motion carried unanimously.

12. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:14 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER