



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 11, 2023, 4:30 P.M.
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC

Members: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. Armstrong
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht *
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly
Councillor J. Perrino
Councillor I. Thorpe

Absent: Councillor T. Brown

Staff: R. Harding, Acting CAO/General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Developmental Services/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
B. Corsan, Director, Corporate and Business Development
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
D. Laberge, Director, Bylaw Services
L. Mercer, Director, Finance
D. Osborne, Director, Recreation & Culture
K. Gonzales, Manager, Aquatics
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
L. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
M. Duerksen, Assistant Manager, Aquatics
C. Wood, Social Planner
A. Daly, Recreation Coordinator
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services

* Denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by "Council Procedure Bylaw 2018 No. 7272"

N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
J. Tonella, Steno, Legislative Services
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Add - *Community Charter* Sections 90(1)(a)(c) and (g)

3. PROCEDURAL MOTION:

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

Section 90(1) A part of a Council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
- (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity;
- (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;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting 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; and,

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 4:31 p.m.

Council moved out of In Camera at 6:15 p.m.

Council recessed the Open Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS: (Continued)

- (a) Add Agenda Item 14(a) Councillor Armstrong – Notice of Motion re: Hobby Farms Operating within the City of Nanaimo.

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:

Mayor Krog advised of the following:

- During the 2023-AUG-28 Council meeting, Council supported a motion to expedite timelines regarding the implementation of the Province's Zero Carbon Step Code and BC Energy Step Code requirements
- The City has commenced an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) to gain permission from residents to remove parkland dedication on 502 Howard Avenue as part of the Te'tuxwtun Project. The process begins 2023-SEP-06 and runs until 2023-OCT-10
- The City is seeking input regarding initiatives around housing in Nanaimo and housing needs. A public survey is now available online (until 2023-SEP-29) and an open house is scheduled for 2023-SEP-12 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Beban Park Social Centre
- Invited the public to attend the Phase 1 Nanaimo Operation Centre open house information session 2023-OCT-13 from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Beban Park Social Centre
- Recognized 2023-SEP-10 as Firefighter's National Memorial Day and over the weekend the Canadian flag was lowered to half-mast out of respect for fallen firefighters

6. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Community Recreation Summer 2023

Introduced by Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

Damon Johnston, Manager, Recreation Services, and Amanda Daly, Recreation Coordinator, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- Provided a video collage of photos from the 2023 summer events
- Noted the many camps, programs and events hosted through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
- Summer camps are designed based on feedback from the community and are open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Camps are intended to introduce children to activities they might not otherwise experience
- 4,441 registrations this year for camps
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) funds programs for children with diverse abilities and provides one on one supervision
- Hired and trained 50 summer camp leaders and volunteers. Most attend the Leaders in Training (LIT) and Quest programs
- Events supported by the recreation coordinator team include: Canada Day, Free Family Fun Nights, Commercial Street Night Market
- Looking ahead to Fall, the Recreation Department is working on the new recreation and culture programs

b. 2023 Quest Pursuit of Excellence Award

Mayor Krog presented Aidan Madsen with the 2023 Quest Pursuit of Excellence Award.

c. Aquatics Update

Introduced by Darcie Osborne, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

Kathy Gonzales, Manager, Aquatics, provided a presentation. Highlights included:

- Staffing shortages have had a significant impact on the aquatics department this year
- Focusing on lifeguard shortages through ongoing recruitment, focus on advanced aquatic courses and reduced costs for training and recruitment programs

- Recruited 43 new lifeguards since January with a goal to hire 20 more through September/October
- Staff focused on advanced aquatics classes in order to increase the number of people in the community with these skill levels
- Rescue Program and School District 68 (SD68) Training provided high school students with skills to become lifeguards
- The number of swimming lessons are increasing over last year and staff are working toward a full swim schedule
- Hosted seven aquatic competitions with four more scheduled for the Fall
- Provided statistics for swimming lesson programs
- Noted some of the upcoming facility upgrades and repairs planned

7. REPORTS:

a. Bylaw Regulation of Controlled Substances

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

Dave LaBerge, Director, Bylaw Services, spoke regarding the regulation of controlled substances and actions taken in other municipalities following decriminalization.

b. Rent Supplement Program Review

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

Presentation:

1. Christy Wood, Social Planner, provided a presentation. Highlights included:
 - Explained the difference between a rent bank loan and rent supplement payments
 - Rent supplement programs prevent homelessness, enable stable housing in market rental units, and reduce impacts of poverty
 - Noted the number of rent supplement payments provided in Nanaimo during 2023. Further details are available in Attachment A of the report
 - Areas of key housing needs: rental housing, special needs housing, housing for seniors, housing for families, housing

for youth, housing for indigenous people, housing and shelter for people experiencing homelessness

- The Province provided Online Accommodation Platform (OAP) funds and expanded the option for municipalities to use those funds toward affordable housing initiatives which can include rent supplement programs
- The City currently has \$693,355 available in OAP funds and Staff are recommending that \$150,000 of that be used to expand supports to rent supplement programs to increase the amount available and expand the scope of criteria to include key areas of housing need and to increase the flexibility of rent supplements to use with other types of financial assistance

c. Nanaimo Region Rent Bank Review

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

Presentation:

1. Christy Wood, Social Planner, continued the presentation.
Highlights included:
 - Rent banks provide eviction prevention and housing stability service, interest free loans, support to renter households facing eviction or help paying utilities, connections to government benefits and community-based services
 - In 2020 City staff and the former Nanaimo Homeless Coalition worked to create a local rent bank in Nanaimo which is operated by Connective Society
 - The Nanaimo Rent Bank region is supported by BC Rent Bank which is a project of the Van City Community Foundation with funding provided by the Province
 - Between January 2021 and March 2023 BC Rent Bank provided Connective Society with \$178,617 for operating expenses and \$40,000 for rent bank loan capital. In January 2021 Council directed that \$90,603 from the OAP funds be allocated to the Nanaimo Rent Bank
 - 165 loans were allocated to the region during the past two years
 - Connective Society has renewed its contract with BC Rent Bank until 2024

- Connective Society is requesting \$75,000 for bridge funding until 2024-MAR-31 for rent bank capital for City of Nanaimo residents

It was moved and seconded that Council direct \$150,000 from the Online Accommodation Platform fund to be used to support rent supplement programs in Nanaimo, targeting key areas of housing need identified in the "Housing Needs Report", as attached to the Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda dated 2023-JUN-12, and that the funds be distributed to service agencies through a Request for Proposal or Expression of Interest process. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Council:

1. allocate \$75,000 from the Online Accommodation Platform fund to the Nanaimo Region Rent Bank program, administered by Connective Society, as bridge funding for rent bank loan capital for City of Nanaimo residents, until 2024-MAR-31; and,
2. direct Staff to work with BC Rent Bank to further review the program and to ensure rent bank loans are being directed to key areas of housing need as identified in the "Nanaimo Housing Needs Report 2023".

The motion carried unanimously.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION:

- a. Councillor Armstrong - Notice of Motion re: Hobby Farms Operating within the City of Nanaimo

Councillor Armstrong advised that she would be bringing forward the following notice of motion for consideration at a future Council Meeting:

"That Council direct Staff to complete a review of the provisions of the Animal Control Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw that regulate the keeping of poultry on large residential properties and provide options to further support the City's goals of food security."

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Councillor Eastmure FCM Non-Board Committee Member Resolution

Introduced by Councillor Eastmure.

It was moved and seconded that:

Whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of member municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction; and

Whereas FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the united voice required to carry the municipal message to the federal government;

Be it resolved that Council of the City of Nanaimo endorse Councillor Eastmure to serve as a committee member on committees of FCM's Board of Directors for the period starting in September 2023 and ending June 2025; and,

Be it further resolved that Council assumes all costs associated with Councillor Eastmure attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:35 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER