



MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre
80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC

Members:

- Mayor L. Krog, Chair (vacated at 7:56 p.m., returned at 7:57 p.m.)
- Councillor S. Armstrong* (joined at 7:21 p.m.)
- Councillor T. Brown
- Councillor H. Eastmure
- Councillor B. Geselbracht
- Councillor E. Hemmens
- Councillor P. Manly
- Councillor J. Perrino (vacated at 7:56 p.m., returned at 7:57 p.m.)
- Councillor I. Thorpe

Staff:

- D. Lindsay, Chief Administrative Officer
- L. Mercer, General Manager, Corporate Services
- B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
- S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
- J. Holm, Director, Planning and Development
- D. LaBerge, Director, Public Safety
- D. Burgos, Manager, Corporate Communications and Community Relation Communications
- C. Wood, Manager, Social Planning
- N. Sponaule, Communications Advisor
- A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Add New Agenda Item 8(a) King Charles III Coronation Medal Presentation to Horst Backé, and reorder subsequent agenda items.

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

- (b) Agenda Item 12(b) Development Permit Application No. DP1364 – 1960 Mountain Vista Drive – Add delegation from Darren Moss.
- (c) Add Agenda Item 16(b) Councillor Manly Request for Reconsideration of Third Reading of “Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7272.05”.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2025-FEB-20, at 7:00 p.m., be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Krog advised that the 2025 water main flushing program begins 2025-MAR-02 in select areas of the city. Water usage may see short periods of low pressure and water discoloration, which is expected to be temporary and is not considered a health hazard. He also noted that the 2025 City of Nanaimo street banner theme is “Metamorphosis and Change”. Nanaimo artist Aiyem Samay-Sampson’s design reflects the idea of change with the image of an abstract butterfly.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) King Charles III Coronation Medal Presentation

Lisa Marie Barron, Member of Parliament, Nanaimo-Ladysmith, presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal to Horst Backé, recognizing the work of Nanaimo resident and founder of Reaching Out Assisting Refugees (ROAR) in supporting resettlement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) refugees across the world.

(b) Chuck Loewen, General Manager, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, re: Vancouver Island Conference Centre 2024 Annual Results Financial and Key Performance Indicators

Chuck Loewen, General Manager, Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC), provided an on-screen presentation included in the agenda package. Highlights included:

- In 2022, the range of revenues transitioned from primarily meetings and conferences to conventions, banquets and special events
- Since 2017, VICC has reduced the City's annual investment by almost \$1.4 million
- A new price strategy was implemented for community users to allow them to hold events at the VICC at a reasonable rate

Councillor Armstrong joined the meeting electronically at 7:21 p.m.

7. 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 Wednesday, 2024-NOV-27, 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, 2024-DEC-04, 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 Friday, 2024-DEC-06, at 9:00 a.m.
- Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2024-DEC-11, at 9:01 a.m.

8. DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Joanne Sales, Executive Director, Broombusters Invasive Plant Society re: Scotch Broom Removal in Nanaimo

Joanne Sales, Executive Director, Broombusters Invasive Plant Society, provided an on-screen presentation. Highlights included:

- In 2024, 600 volunteers spent 6,000 hours cutting Scotch broom (broom)
- In January 2025, 120 new volunteers signed up for Broombusters, largely due to the recent fires in Los Angeles
- FireSmart lists broom as one of the highest risk flammable plants in BC
- Broom is a ladder fuel which carries fire vertically and can grow nine feet tall

- Broom along powerlines greatly increases the likelihood that fires could spread across Vancouver Island, as most of east Vancouver Island is connected by power lines
- A desire to re-implement the assistance of the Nanaimo Correction Centre, which previously had inmates assist in broom removal

9. REPORTS:

(a) 2024 Public Safety Committee Annual Report

Dave LaBerge, Director, Public Safety, provided an overview of the report in the agenda package, and outlined the main themes of the Public Safety Committee work plan.

Council and Staff discussion took place regarding support for prioritizing the six themes identified in the workplan.

It was moved and seconded that Council accept the following initiative themes to be prioritized by the Public Safety Committee in 2025 based on the Public Safety Committee Workplan 2024 to 2026, and that Staff be directed accordingly:

- Transportation Safety
- Crime Prevention (City)
- Homelessness, Addiction, and Community Impacts
- Health and Wellness
- Advocacy
- Education

The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Development Permit Application No. DP1364 - 1960 Mountain Vista Drive

Jeremy Holm, Director, Planning and Development, provided an overview of the report in the agenda package.

Delegation:

1. Darren Moss provided an on-screen presentation and noted the following:
 - Three rental apartment buildings, three-storeys in height, and a central amenity building are proposed for the site, with units ranging in size from studio to three-bedrooms
 - The central amenity building is intended to encourage engagement among residents and create a sense of community

- The south half of the property consists of a 1.2-hectare private forest, which is being grown as part of the site remediation
- There are two transit stops within a one-minute walk of the site, providing strong connectivity to multi-modal transportation
- Significant bike storage and electrical charging facilities are included in the proposed development
- Engagement with surrounding neighbours was conducted to ensure design concerns were mitigated

It was moved and seconded that Council issue Development Permit No. DP1364 for a multi-family residential development at 1960 Mountain Vista Drive with variances as outlined in the “Proposed Variances” section of the Staff Report titled “Development Permit Application No. DP1364 - 1960 Mountain Vista Drive”, dated 2025-MAR-03. The motion carried unanimously.

10. BYLAWS:

(a) “Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 4500.206”

It was moved and seconded that “Zoning Amendment Bylaw 2023 No. 4500.206” (to rezone 878 Park Avenue from Steep Slope Residential [R10] to Low Density Residential [R6] with site-specific density and height provisions) be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Krog vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 7:56 p.m. declaring a conflict of interest as a family member operates a short-term rental.

Councillor Perrino vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 7:56 p.m. declaring a conflict of interest as she owns a short-term rental.

Councillor Hemmens assumed the Chair at 7:56 p.m.

(b) “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 7159.23”

It was moved and seconded that “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 7159.23” (a bylaw to assign fines associated with short-term rental violations) be adopted. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong and Brown*

Mayor Krog and Councillor Perrino returned to the Shaw Auditorium at 7:57 p.m. and Mayor Krog resumed the Chair.

- (c) “Officer Designation and Delegation of Authority Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 7353.03”

It was moved and seconded that “Officer Designation and Delegation of Authority Bylaw 2025, No. 7353.03” (a housekeeping amendment to address staff title changes) be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

- (d) “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 7371.02”

It was moved and seconded that “Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 7371.02” (to amend the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan) be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (a) BC Association of Farmers' Markets re: Request for a Letter of Support for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, provide a letter of support to BC Association of Farmers’ Markets, for the BC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Request from BC Festival and Events Organizers re: Request for a Letter of Support for the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund

It was moved and seconded that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, provide a letter of support to festival and event organizers for the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- (a) Councillor Eastmure Notice of Motion re: Controlling Sale of Invasive Species

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to bring forward a report to a future Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting on options to prohibit the sale and spread of invasive species in the City of Nanaimo and options for the recovery of the cost of abatement of such invasive species. The motion carried.

Opposed: Councillor Thorpe

- (b) Councillor Manly Request for Reconsideration of Third Reading of “Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7272.05”

Councillor Manly withdrew his request to reconsider the third reading of “Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw 2025 No. 7272.05”.

13. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received three questions from the public regarding agenda items.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:05 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER