

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

An information report summarizing the Regular meeting of Council held June 26, 2023.
This is not the official minutes. For more information, please contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email: corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

Introductory Remarks from Mayor Minions

Mayor Minions acknowledged fires within the City were under control and offered thanks to members of BC Wildfire, ACRD, EOC, essential workers, and all those involved in assisting with the Cameron Lake Bluffs fire.

Mayor Minions congratulated Alberni District Secondary School, 8th Avenue Learning Centre and North Island College 2023 graduating class.

■ **BYLAWS**

Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 5086, 2023 was introduced and given three readings. The bylaw upon adoption will allow Council the opportunity to align the City's reserve funds with strategic objectives and provide for a better understanding of funds available to the City for use in financial planning.

Growing Communities Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 5087, 2023 was introduced and given three readings. As per provincial requirements, the bylaw upon adoption will establish a reserve fund for monies granted to the City under the Provincial GCF program.

Zoning Bylaw No. 5074, 2023 was introduced and given first reading. The bylaw upon adoption will modernize the current Zoning Bylaw enabling accessory dwelling units, updating residential zones, incorporating new legislation, and providing clarity on the interpretation and application of the bylaw.

Official Community Plan Amendment (2846 4th Avenue) Bylaw No. 5078 and Zoning Amendment (2846 4th Avenue) Bylaw No. 5079, 2023 were read a third time and adopted. The application resulted in the establishment of a new Townhouse Multi-family Zone that, in addition to enabling construction of a four-unit townhouse development at 2846 4th Avenue, will assist in additional housing infill development aligning with the Government of BC's *Homes for People* action plan and forthcoming housing legislation.

■ **CORRESPONDENCE**

2023 UBCM Convention | Meeting Requests

Council directed staff to begin the process of setting up meetings with Provincial Ministries, Agencies, Commissions, and Corporations during the UBCM Convention scheduled for September 18-22, 2023 in Vancouver.

Alberni Pacific Railway | #7 Steam Locomotive Festival

Council supported the #7 Steam Locomotive Festival taking place on August 6, 2023 at Alberni Pacific Railway Roundhouse from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, subject to conditions being met.

Council also received their correspondence summary which included letters from:

- Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard | Responding to the City's letter of February 8, 2023 regarding Ghost Gear
- N. van Viegen | Public Safety Building [City response dated June 15th included]
- S. Recksiedler | Alternate Highway Route
- V. & D. McConnell | Alternate Highway Route

■ **REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

Alberni Harbour Quay | Grassroots Café

Council released for public consumption a Notice of its Intent to lease Unit 16 to C. Dupas and G. Gorton for the expanded operation of Grassroots Café at the Alberni Harbour Quay for a five-year term.

Annual Report 2022

Council released for public consumption the draft 2022 Annual Municipal Report as amended.

■ **NEW BUSINESS**

2022 Annual Municipal Report

Council approved the 2022 Annual Municipal Report. The Report is available to the public on the City's website at portalberni.ca/annual-reports or via City Hall in hardcopy.

Statement of Financial Information

Council approved the statements and schedules included in the Statement of Financial Information for 2022, prepared to comply with the *Financial Information Act*.

BC Transit Annual Operating Agreement Amendment

Council authorized the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the amended BC Transit | 2023 – 2024 Annual Operating Agreement between the City of Port Alberni and British Columbia Transit to reflect the changes required for Umo, the new electronic fare collection system.

Kitsuksis Dyke Renewal | Financial Plan Amendment

Council amended the "City of Port Alberni 2023-2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 5075, 2023" by allocating \$55,000 from the Canada Community-Building Fund to repair, resurface and renew sections of the Kitsuksis Dyke Walkway.

Boundary Extension | Johnston Road

Council authorized staff to engage Urban Systems to conduct Phase 1 of the proposed boundary extension process for 3386, 3376, 3344, 3330 and 3310 Johnston Road; 4930 John Street and 4935 Broughton Street as reflected in the proposal dated May 19, 2023, subject to the applicants funding 100% of the costs of the report on a pro rata basis as determined between the applicants.

Bylaw Enforcement Policy

Council approved Policy 3008-1 "Bylaw Enforcement". The policy, aligned with the *Corporate Strategic Plan*, provides Council direction guiding the Bylaw Enforcement team to achieve voluntary compliance through education and reasonable progressive enforcement.

Sports Fields

Council directed staff to obtain preliminary costs for the recommended capital projects for City-owned sports fields for Council consideration at a future Regular meeting, and further directed staff to utilize a portion of the awarded Growing Communities Fund to complete a Parks, Recreation and Heritage master plan.

Growing Communities Fund | Grant Priorities Plan

Council directed staff to allocate Growing Communities funds in the amount of \$5,269,000 as follows:

- 20% of the funding to address information gaps in populating long-term financial planning for community growth and the City's major assets.
- 80% of funding to set specific capital priorities based on the results of the long-term financial planning.

Permissive Tax Exemptions

Council directed staff to proceed with establishing new Permissive Tax and Places of Public Worship Bylaws for the years 2024 to 2027 based on the current Permissive Tax Exemption Policy.

Tseshah First Nation | Draft Letter in Support of an Alternative Access Road

Council supported the letter provided by Tseshah First Nation addressed to the Prime Minister and Premier Eby requesting the establishment of an alternative access road in response to the Cameron Lake Bluffs Fire and associated closure of Highway 4.

Recruitment and Retention of Medical Staff

Council directed staff to work with the Regional District to determine who is best suited to lead a joint Task Force as it relates to the recruitment and retention of medical staff in the Alberni Valley.

Community Action Team | Poisoned Drug Crisis

Council received the information presented at the June 19th Committee of the Whole meeting related to the poisoned drug crisis and will continue to advocate services for the community.

2022 Surplus Funds

Council allocated the 2022 surplus equally between the R.C.M.P, Parks, Recreation and Heritage, and Aquatic Centre Replacement Reserve funds.

Prohibit Illicit Drugs in Public Spaces

Council directed staff to prepare a report exploring the community implications of decriminalization, and options to keep our public spaces safe for use of all community members.

Council Meeting Leave Policy

[Notice of Motion] for the July 17th Committee of the Whole meeting for Council to establish a policy related to leave from City Council meetings.

BCEHS Ambulance Shortage

[Notice of Motion] for the July 10th Regular meeting for Council's consideration to direct staff to prepare a letter requesting additional ambulance coverage and higher levels of training for Port Alberni Station No. 124.

Alternative Route to Highway 4

[Notice of Motion] for the July 10th Regular meeting for Council's consideration to direct staff to prepare a letter to the Province in relation to securing a second access road into the City of Port Alberni.

Tree Removal Policy

[Notice of Motion] for the July 10th Regular meeting for Council to establish a policy related to tree removal.

■ QUESTION PERIOD

D. Stevens

Queried regarding question period and property taxes.

W. Kerr

Requested Council consider writing a letter to the federal government requesting unvaccinated staff members be permitted to return to work in health fields.

M. Ahlroos

Queried regarding the train service in the Valley, and the location of the emergency operations centre.

■ COUNCIL MEETINGS

We encourage you to remain informed on City business and community topics by following meetings of Council which are live-streamed on the City website, portalberni.ca, at 2:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month. All meeting recordings are posted on the City website for viewing.

Complete Council agendas including all correspondence and reports are available at portalberni.ca. Generally, these are posted the Friday before each Regular Council meeting and are archived on the site.

The Council Summary is prepared following each regular Council meeting and posted on the City's website. You can also visit the City website and sign up to receive summaries delivered directly to your inbox.

For more information related to Council meetings please visit www.portalberni.ca/council. You may also contact the Corporate Services department at 250.723.2146 or email corp_serv@portalberni.ca.

■ MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

Monday, July 10th

2:00 pm | Regular Council
Council Chambers

Monday, July 17th

6:00 pm | Committee of the Whole
Council Chambers