

TOWN OF COMOX
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,
held in Council Chambers on Wednesday February 20, 2019

Present: Mayor R. Arnott
Councillors A. Bissinger, K. Grant, S. McGowan,
N. Minions, M. Swift

Absent: P. McKenna

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Agenda was Amended to replace pages 100 to 107 and Adopted as Amended.

There were 15 visitors in attendance.

1. DELEGATIONS:

COUNCILLOR MCGOWAN ENTERED THE MEETING AT 5:32 P.M.

a. Bruce Gibbons (Merville Water Guardians) Prohibit bottling of ground water in Zoning Bylaws

Extraction of Groundwater

Mr. Gibbons advised that he wanted to discuss the issue of groundwater protection in the Comox Valley. He advised that thousands of residents and farms rely on the local aquifer, and the Water Sustainability Act does not protect this groundwater. Mr. Gibbons is not in favour of a recent commercial licence being approved for the extraction of groundwater, and is lobbying local governments to prohibit the bottling of groundwater in zoning bylaws. He asked Council to both prohibit the bottling of groundwater in the Town of Comox, and support the Strathcona Regional District's resolution to ask the Provincial government to cease the licensing and extraction of groundwater for commercial water bottling and/or bulk water exports from aquifers.

b. Jody Macdonald and Colin Sauer (Comox Valley Community Foundation) 2018 Comox Valley Vital Signs Report

2018 Vital Signs Report

Ms. Macdonald provided a brief introduction of the Comox Valley Community Foundation and advised that the endowment based foundation provided over \$450,000 back to the community in 2018. Mr. Sauer advised of the process in building the 2018 Vital Signs Report, and stated that it measures the vitality of the community. He also advised that it provides a means to share information and hopefully inspire community engagement.

c. Jennell Ellis (Breathe Clean Air Comox Valley): Help improve air quality by addressing wood smoke

Air Quality and Woodstoves

Ms. Ellis advised that wood heating is the main source of wood smoke in the Comox Valley. She advised that relative emissions even from newer certified woodstoves are far greater than from oil or gas furnaces. Ms. Ellis stated that she would like the Town to adopt a vision to clean up the air, and then set goals and targets for clean air at the property level. She would like to immediately see woodstoves banned in new and existing construction and a bylaw that regulates how woodstoves can and can't be operated. Over time, Ms. Ellis would like to see a phase out, removal of all woodstoves and then a ban on their use except in emergencies.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

a. Regular Council Meeting Minutes

RCM Minutes

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, held in Council Chambers on Wednesday February 6, 2019, be Approved.

(2019.048) -- CARRIED

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS: NIL

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Management Report - February 20, 2019

Management Report

That the Management Report for February 20, 2019 be received and filed for information.

(2019.049) -- CARRIED

5. SPECIAL REPORTS:

a. Comox Valley Regional District Meeting Minutes

CVRD Meeting Minutes

That the following Comox Valley Regional District meeting minutes be received for information:

- *Comox Valley Regional District Board held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019;*
- *Comox Valley Regional District (Comox Strathcona Waste Management) Board held on Thursday, February 7, 2019; and*
- *Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital District Board held on Thursday, February 7, 2019.*

(2019.050) -- CARRIED

6. BYLAWS: NIL

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Banning of Single-Use Plastic Bags and Straws (January 16, 2019 Notice of Motion: Councillor Minions)

Single-Use Plastic Bags

1. *That a staff report be provided on the banning of single-use plastic bags and straws.*

That the main motion be amended to replace the text "and straws" with the text ", straws and produce bags".

(2019.051) -- CARRIED

2. *That a staff report be provided on the banning of single-use plastic bags, straws and produce bags.*

(2019.052) -- CARRIED

b. Planning Report PR 18-13: Comox Building Bylaw Amendment

Building Bylaw Amendment

That Comox Building Amendment Bylaw 1903 be given First, Second and Third Readings.

(2019.053) -- CARRIED

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Susan Toresdahl (CVAC) Director Reappointment

**CVAC Director
Reappointment**

That the January 31, 2019 letter from Susan Toresdahl of the Comox Valley Airport Commission, advising that Director Andy Frost's term is up for re-appointment on the board, be received and that Council concur with the re-appointment.

(2019.054) -- CARRIED

b. Steve Cowan (Royal Canadian Naval Association) - Permission for Battle of the Atlantic Ceremony

Battle of the Atlantic

That the February 13, 2019 letter from Steve Cowan of the Royal Canadian Naval Association, requesting permission to hold the annual Battle of the Atlantic ceremony at the Naval Memorial Cairn in Marina Park on Sunday May 5, 2019, be received and permission granted.

(2019.055) -- CARRIED

c. Bruce Gibbons & Nicole Poirier (Merville Water Guardians) Support

Merville Water Guardians

That the January 24, 2019 email from Bruce Gibbons and Nicole Poirier of the Merville Water Guardians, requesting that Council members vote at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Conference to support the Strathcona Regional District's resolution, "That the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development be requested to immediately cease the licensing and extraction of groundwater for commercial water bottling and/or bulk water exports from aquifers." be received and filed for information.

(2019.056) -- CARRIED

9. LATE ITEMS: NIL

10. DELEGATIONS: NIL

11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

a. Councillor McGowan

Councillor McGowan advised that she attended:

- the Helping Hands Benefit Concert,
- the Local Government Leadership Academy conference,
- a BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council workshop,
- the d'Esterre Seniors' Centre board meeting, and
- the Family Day at the Comox Archives and Museum Society.

b. Councillor Swift

Councillor Swift advised that she attended:

- the Helping Hands Benefit Concert,
- a liquid waste management planning committee meeting, and
- the Local Government Leadership Academy conference.

c. Councillor Bissinger

Councillor Bissinger advised that she attended:

- the Local Government Leadership Academy conference,
- the regional hospital board meeting,
- the solid waste management board meeting, and
- the Comox BIA strategic planning session.

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d. Councillor Grant

Councillor Grant advised that he attended:

- the Local Government Leadership Academy conference,
- the Comox BIA strategic planning session,
- the open house for a proposed development at 1946/1950 Comox Avenue,
- the Family Day at the Comox Community Centre,
- the Helping Hands Benefit Concert, and
- the sewer commission meeting.

e. Councillor Minions

Councillor Minions advised that she attended:

- the Helping Hands Benefit Concert,
- the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board
- the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital Board
- the Family Day at the Comox Community Centre,
- the Local Government Leadership Academy conference, and
- the Climate action and adaptation session.

f. Mayor Arnott

Councillor Arnott advised that he:

- attended the Helping Hands Benefit Concert
- attended the Local Government Leadership Academy conference,
- met with MLA Leonard,
- attended the BIA strategic planning session, and
- met with the RCMP.

14. EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC:

a. Exclude the Public

Exclude the Public

That, pursuant to section 127 of the Community Charter, notice is hereby given that the Public be Excluded from the Special In-Camera Meeting on Wednesday February 20, 2019, pursuant to the following sub-sections of the Community Charter:

90(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; and

90(1)(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report].

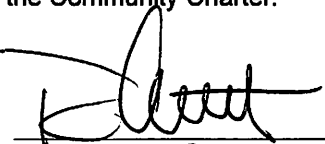
(2019.057) -- CARRIED

Adjournment:

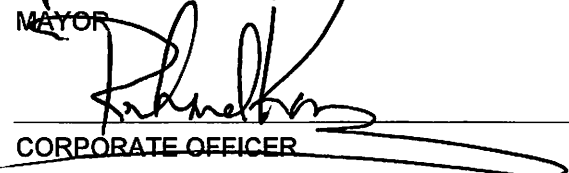
Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified correct pursuant to Section 97(1)(b) of the Community Charter.



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER