

**Minutes of a Public Hearing,  
held in Council Chambers, 1801B Beaufort Avenue, Comox, BC  
on Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

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Present: Mayor R. Arnott  
Councillors K. Grant; S. McGowan;  
P. McKenna; N. Minions; M. Swift

Absent: Councillor A. Bissinger

Call to Order:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

There were 23 members of the public in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT**

Mayor Arnott made the following statement:

This Public Hearing is hereby convened pursuant to Section 464 of the Local Government Act for the purpose of hearing representations from those persons who believe that their interest is affected by the proposed:

**1. Rezoning Application RZ 19-6 (Restriction of Water Bottling):**

a. Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1927

The proposed bylaw has received first and second readings, but has not passed third reading or been adopted by Council. Notices of this Public Hearing have been published in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Also, a copy of the proposed bylaw, supporting documentation and any submissions to Council received from the public have been available for inspection at Comox Town Hall as required by the Local Government Act. Copies are also available for review at the desk of the clerk.

To maintain order and to ensure everyone a reasonable opportunity to be heard, I ask that each person wishing to speak first sign the Speaker's List, located at the desk of the Clerk. Once called by the Chair, please begin your presentation to Council by clearly stating your name and address. Please make your presentation as brief as

possible. After all have had an opportunity to be heard, anyone wishing to have further input may once again sign the Speaker's List.

Council will not debate with each other or members of the public. Council will not answer questions; we are here to hear from you. Technical questions may be directed by the Chair to the staff.

Everyone will be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at this meeting. No one will be, or should feel, discouraged or prevented from making his or her views heard. Please refrain from any conduct that would intimidate others or discourage them from speaking.

## **1. Rezoning Application RZ 19-6 (Restriction of Water Bottling):**

### **Application Summary**

#### a) Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1927

In general terms, the purpose of Comox Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1927 is to amend Comox Zoning Bylaw 1850 to prohibit the bottling of water where the source of the water is other than the municipal water system supplied directly to the property on which the bottling is taking place.

***The Application Summary was received for information.***

### **Public Hearing Submissions:**

#### **Mayor Arnott made the following statement:**

Written – To ensure that written submissions are included in the minutes of the meeting, please ensure that all are submitted to the desk of the Clerk before the end of the meeting.

Verbal – The proposed bylaw is now open for discussion.

### **Speakers:**

- Bruce Gibbons of Sackville Road, Merville, expressed support for the proposal, citing climate change, longer periods of drought and the receding Glacier.
- Gordon Robertson of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Courtenay, expressed support for the proposal, citing concerns about water shortage and that profits earned don't balance out with reduced supply.

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- Gillian Anderson of Sackville Road, Merville, expressed support for the proposal, citing an inadequate Provincial decision and a need to be proactive in using water.
- Barb Berger of Queens Avenue, Comox, expressed support for the proposal, citing water as a human right. Ms. Berger advised that she submitted a petition in support of the proposal, **a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.**
- Doug Coleman of Knight Road, Comox, expressed support for the proposal, citing the quality and quantity of aquifer data, the availability of water, the monetizing of a common commodity and the abuse of resources.
- Mark de Bruijn of Fern Road, Courtenay, expressed support for the proposal, citing his dry well, a young science and basic needs of humanity.
- Scott MacKenzie (applicant) of Sackville Road, Merville, expressed opposition to the proposal, citing his business was a cottage business, no water shortage and clear science.

There being no further speakers on the speaker's list, Mayor Arnott made the following statement:

I would remind those present that legal considerations prevent the members of Council from considering any representation made after the close of this Public Hearing.

Before closing this Public Hearing, I am going to call three times for any further speakers on any of the matters contained in the proposed bylaw.

For the first time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

- Fred Muzin of 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Courtenay, expressed support for the proposal, citing extents that business will go to for profit and Council's responsibility to support democracy.
- Bruce Gibbons of Sackville Road, Merville, again expressed support for the proposal, citing lack of Ministry resources to monitor usage.

There once again being no further speakers on the speaker's list, Mayor Arnott made the following statement:

For the second time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

For the third time, is there anyone who wishes to make any further representation?

There being no further speakers, I declare this Public Hearing closed.

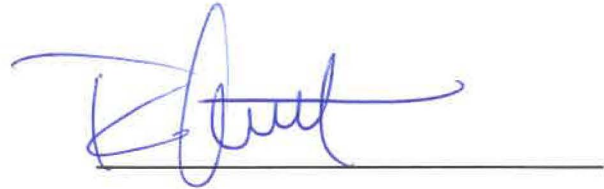
**Adjournment:**

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 7:02 pm

**Petition submitted at the meeting is attached to these Public Hearing Minutes:**

Barbara Berger, Alice de Wolff, Kim Stubblefield and Patricia Fleming – Comox, CVRD Areas A and C.

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



MAYOR



CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified fair and accurate pursuant to Section 465(6) of the *Local Government Act*.



DEPUTY CORPORATE ADMINISTRATOR