

**TOWN OF COMOX**  
**Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting,**  
**held in Council Chambers on Wednesday June 17, 2020**

**Present:** Acting Mayor K. Grant  
Councillors A. Bissinger (participated electronically), S. McGowan,  
P. McKenna, N. Minions, M. Swift  
Staff J. Wall, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Russwurm, Corporate Officer  
C. Freundlich, Director of Finance  
M. Kamenz, Director of Development Services

**Absent:** R. Arnott

**Call to Order:**

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

The Agenda was Adopted.

There were 0 members of the public in attendance.

Pursuant to section 7(1) and 7(2) of the Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Ministerial Order No. 2 M139, the June 17, 2020 Regular Council Meeting was conducted by electronic means with some or all members of Council participating electronically. Further, in accordance with section 3(1) of the Ministerial Order No. 2 M139, the public was not permitted to be in attendance.

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**1. DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**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 June 3, 2020, be Approved.*

(2020.181) -- CARRIED

**3. COMMITTEE REPORTS: NIL**

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Management Report - June 17, 2020**

**Management Report**

*That the June 17, 2020 Management Report be received and filed for information.*

(2020.182) -- CARRIED

**b. National Pharmacare Program**

**National Pharmacare Program**

*That the letter calling on the Federal Government to work with the provinces and territories to develop and implement a universal public national Pharmacare program as part of the COVID-19 supports, as included in the June 17, 2020 Regular Council Meeting agenda, be forwarded to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, and all BC Municipalities.*

(2020.183) -- DEFEATED

*[Opposed: Acting Mayor Grant, Councillors ABissinger NMinions MSwift]*

**c. Planning Report PR 20-4: Extension of Comox Downtown Vitalization Program**

**Downtown Vitalization Program**

1. *That Comox Downtown Revitalization Tax Exemption Amendment Bylaw 1946 be Adopted.*  
(2020.184) -- CARRIED
2. *That Comox Planning Procedures Amendment Bylaw 1947 be Adopted.*  
(2020.185) -- CARRIED
3. *That Comox Building Amendment Bylaw 1952 be Adopted.*  
(2020.186) -- CARRIED

**AT 5:40 P.M., COUNCILLOR BISSINGER LEFT THE MEETING, DECLARING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH ITEM 4.d. ON THE AGENDA AS SHE HAS AN ACCEPTED OFFER ON PROPERTY IN WHICH THE APPLICANT'S AGENT IS THE REALTOR.**

**AT 5:40 P.M., COUNCILLOR MINIONS LEFT THE MEETING, DECLARING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH ITEM 4.d. ON THE AGENDA AS SHE IS NAMED ON AN ACCEPTED PROPERTY PURCHASE OFFER IN WHICH THE APPLICANT'S AGENT IS INVOLVED.**

**d. Planning Report PR 19-16 Non-Medical Cannabis Licence Application Review Prime Cannabis Corp. 278 Anderton Road**

**278 Anderton Road**

*The Town of Comox Council's comments on the prescribed considerations regarding the request for a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Sales Licence for Prime Cannabis at 278 Anderton Rd., Comox (Strata Lot 9, Section 53, Comox District, Strata Plan 715) are as follows:*

- a) *The location of the proposed store:*

  - i) *The subject property is located outside the Downtown area within a commercial strata building on the northeast corner of the intersection of two arterial roads, Anderton Road and Comox Avenue, in Comox and is zoned C3.1 Arterial Commercial. Permitted uses in the C3.1 zone include recreational cannabis retail sales. Surrounding uses include single-family residential uses to the north and south, commercial and multi-family residential uses to the west, and multi-family residential use to the east.*

- b) *The general impact on the community if the application is approved:*

  - i) *If the application is approved, the impact is expected to be generally positive in that it will:*
    1. *diversify services available to Comox residents, particularly as a walkable destination for surrounding residential development; and*
    2. *strengthen Comox's commercial base.*

- c) *The method the Town used to gather the views of the residents:*

  - i) *In advance of the federal legalization of the sale of cannabis, the Town of Comox amended its Zoning Bylaw and Business Regulation Bylaws to address recreational cannabis retail sales, including permitted locations. This process included the following public consultation:*

**d. Planning Report PR 19-16 Non-Medical Cannabis Licence Application Review Prime Cannabis Corp. 278 Anderton Road**

**278 Anderton Road**

1. *Open House on June 14, 2018 on draft land use and business licensing regulatory framework in respect of recreational cannabis retail sales;*
  2. *Zoning and Business Regulation Bylaw Amendments were given First & Second reading on September 5, 2018;*
  3. *Public Hearing on the Zoning Amendment Bylaw and notice of the Business Regulation Bylaw Amendment were advertised in the local newspaper;*
  4. *September 19, 2018 a Public Hearing was held and the Zoning Amendment Bylaw was adopted which included the following:*
    - a. *limiting the maximum number of cannabis retail stores to a total of three (two being possible in the Downtown and one being possible outside of Downtown but still within a commercial area);*
    - b. *minimum 250 m separation between cannabis retail stores; and*
    - c. *limiting the proximity of cannabis retail stores to retail liquor stores or gas stations.*
  5. *September 19, 2018 the Business Regulation Amendment Bylaw was adopted which includes a regulation to keep cannabis retail store frontages clear of cannabis promotion and limit the use of "cannabis" in signage to the company's name;*
- ii) *A notice of Council's consideration of a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Sales Licence, as contained in Attachment 4 of the May 6, 2020 Planning Report PR 19-16 for 278 Anderton Road was:*
1. *posted on the Town's website and Town Hall notice board;*
  2. *published in two consecutive editions of the Comox Valley Record newspaper (April 22, 2020 and April 29, 2020); and*
  3. *mailed or otherwise delivered to owners and tenants within 75 metres of the subject property.*
- iii) *Two signs, one at each street corner, advertising the Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence application were installed at the Anderton Road frontage of the subject property.*
- iv) *Written submissions from the public, have been provided to Council for Council's consideration of this application, copies of which will be forwarded to the General Manager of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch with this resolution.*
- D) *The Town of Comox Council recommends that a Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence be issued for Prime Cannabis Corp., located at Unit A 278 Anderton Road in Comox, with a limitation of the maximum hours of operation to 9 am to 9 pm, seven days a week, in accordance with consolidated Comox Business Regulation Bylaw 1882, as the proposed retail store is in compliance with the Town's recreational cannabis retail store zoning and business licensing regulation framework, including that the subject property is zoned to permit a recreational cannabis retail store and the proposed store is located outside the Downtown commercial area, and is located at least 250 metres from other existing cannabis retail stores.*

(2020.187) -- DEFEATED

[Opposed: Acting Mayor Grant, Councillor MSwift]

**TOWN OF COMOX - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**AT 5:48 P.M., COUNCILLORS BISSINGER AND MINIONS RETURNED TO THE MEETING.**

**5. SPECIAL REPORTS: NIL**

**6. BYLAWS: NIL**

**7. NEW BUSINESS AND NOTICES OF MOTION:**

**a. Performance Review Policy for the Chief Administrative Officer**

**Performance Review for CAO**

- 1. *THAT Appendix 'A' attached to the Chief Administrative Officer's June 9, 2020 Report to Council, titled "Performance Review Policy for the Chief Administrative Officer" be adopted as the performance review policy for the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Comox.*

*That the main motion be amended to replace the text "Appendix 'A'" with the text "Appendix 'B'".*

(2020.188) -- CARRIED

- 2. *Main motion as amended:*

*THAT Appendix 'B' attached to the Chief Administrative Officer's June 9, 2020 Report to Council, titled "Performance Review Policy for the Chief Administrative Officer" be adopted as the performance review policy for the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Comox.*

(2020.189) -- CARRIED

**b. Municipal Police Funding and Detachment Strength**

**Police Funding and Detachment Strength**

*THAT the Town of Comox forward a preliminary request for funding for the 2021/2022 fiscal year to the RCMP for a municipal detachment strength at 2020/2021 levels of 11.6 Full Time Equivalents.*

(2020.190) -- CARRIED

**c. Committee of the Whole Meetings**

**Committee of the Whole Meetings**

- 1. *THAT the Comox Council Procedure Bylaw, 2009 be updated to replace Committee of the Whole Meetings with Strategic Planning Meetings.*
- 2. *THAT the scheduled September 9th, 2020 Strategic Planning Meeting be designated for a review of Council's 2020 Strategic Plan, Management Report, and Action Items list.*

(2020.191) -- CARRIED

(2020.192) -- CARRIED

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**a. Julian Benedict - Parking Lot at Community Centre**

**Community Centre Parking Lot**

*That the June 8, 2020 email from Julian Benedict, requesting that the Town consider improved lighting in the Community Centre parking lot, be received and filed for information.*

(2020.193) -- CARRIED

**9. LATE ITEMS: NIL**

**10. DELEGATIONS: NIL**

**11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

**a. Councillor McKenna**

Councillor McKenna advised that he will be attending a Community Justice Centre meeting the following day.

**b. Councillor Minions**

Councillor Minions advised that she attended the Comox Business In Action meeting in place of Mayor Arnott.

**c. Councillor Bissinger**

Councillor Bissinger advised that she attended the Regional District sewer commission meeting.

**d. Councillor McGowan**

Councillor McGowan advised that she:

- attended a Food Policy Council meeting and Food Disruption Subcommittee meeting,
- attended a Staying Resilient During Extraordinary Times webinar for small business owners,
- attended a Drug Policy Council meeting, and
- met with many community members.

**AT 6:26 P.M., COUNCILLOR BISSINGER LEFT THE MEETING.**

**e. Councillor Swift**

Councillor Swift advised that she attended the Regional District sewer commission, water committee, sports commission and regular board meetings.

**f. Acting Mayor Grant**

Acting Mayor Grant advised that he:

- attended the Regional District regular board, water committee, sewer commission and sports commission meetings;
- attended an Economic Task Force meeting,
- attended a meeting with the CAO on hydro drops,
- attended an Island Community Economic Trust board meeting, and
- attended an Economic Development Society negotiating committee meeting.

**14. EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC: NIL**

**Adjournment:**

Regularly moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at 6:31 p.m.

*CARRIED*

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

  
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MAYOR

  
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CORPORATE OFFICER