



**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LADYSMITH
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Rob Hutchins
Councillor Gord Horth
Councillor Glenda Patterson

Councillor Steve Arnett Councillor Bill Drysdale
Councillor Duck Paterson (entered later)

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councillor Jill Dashwood

STAFF PRESENT:

Ruth Malli
Sandy Bowden
Joanna Winter

Erin Anderson
Patrick Durban

Felicity Adams
John Manson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchins called the Special Council Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2012-107

It was moved, seconded and carried that the agenda for the Regular Session of Council for April 10, 2012 be approved as circulated.

**STAFF / ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2012-2016 Financial Plan Deliberations

The City Manager provided Council with a summary of deliberations to date and requested that Council confirm its previous direction to maintain its policy of no increase to the industrial tax rate and maintain any increase to the commercial tax rate at two per cent.

Councillor Paterson entered the meeting (4:15 p.m.)

The City Manager stated that in order to carry out the priorities that Council has set, the overall tax increase proposed is 2.58 per cent. This would be worked out at five per cent for the residential class, two per cent for the commercial class and no increase for the heavy industrial class.

CS 2012-108

It was moved, seconded and carried that staff be requested to research options for boulevard maintenance, including an alternative to grass, and to report back to Council.

It was agreed that the preliminary grants-in-aid recommendations as determined by Council at their meeting on March 5, 2012 will be discussed at the Council meeting on April 16, 2012.

It was further agreed that a Special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 23, 2012 for at which the Financial Plan Bylaws will be considered.

QUESTION PERIOD

P. Williams enquired whether the Town will be required to pay carbon offsets. He was advised that this is not applicable in 2012, but will be budgeted as necessary in future years.

P. Williams stated that there are errors in the calculations of the Town's greenhouse gas emissions in the community Energy Plan and was requested to communicate his concerns to staff.

P. Williams enquired whether there is any unfunded liability in the municipal pension plan that could affect the Town and was advised that any direction from the Municipal Pension Corporation in this regard will be included in future budgets.

R. Johnson read a letter outlining his concerns with respect to the Town's economy and urged Council to consider maintaining an economic developer officer position in the 2012 budget. He was advised that the provisional budget discussed by Council earlier in the meeting had included funding for the EDO position.

ADJOURNMENT

CS 2012-109

It was moved, seconded and carried that this Special Meeting of Council be adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Mayor (R. Hutchins)

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Corporate Officer (S. Bowden)