



LADYSMITH

TOWN OF LADYSMITH
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010 - 4:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mayor Rob Hutchins
Councillor Jillian Dashwood
(entered at 4:45 p.m.)

Councillor Steve Arnett
Councillor Lori Evans

Councillor Scott Bastian
Councillor Duck Paterson

ABSENT:

Councillor Bruce Whittington

STAFF PRESENT:

Ruth Malli
Patrick Durban

Sandy Bowden
Joe Friesenhan

Felicity Adams
Joanna Winter

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchins called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

2010-160

It was moved, seconded and carried that the agenda be adopted as circulated.

STAFF REPORT

2010 – 2014 Financial Plan

The City Manager outlined the objectives of this second of five meetings to review the Town of Ladysmith Financial Plan for 2010 to 2014:

- To review any proposed changes in service levels
- To provide an overview of the proposed Financial Plan
- To review the policies governing the preparation and approval of the Financial Plan
- To introduce proposed capital projects and to receive general direction on capital priorities from Council.

The City Manager reviewed the Financial Plan process with Council. In accordance with legislation, the Financial Plan must be approved before May 15 each year.

Councillor Dashwood entered the meeting.

Council reviewed the main revenue and expenditure categories in the proposed operating budget for 2010. Non property tax revenues are projected to be lower than in 2009 due mainly to a reduced level of development activity and lower interest revenues from investments.

Staff are currently conducting a complete benefit review which will be presented to Council at the next Financial Plan meeting. Staff will investigate the level of subsidy (if any) for the Fitness Studio at the Frank Jameson Community Centre and provide Council with additional information.

The City Manager reviewed proposed capital projects, which reflect direction previously set by Council.

Council agreed to write to the Cowichan Valley Regional District requesting financial assistance with the costs of providing emergency power to the official Emergency Reception Centre at the Frank Jameson Community Centre.

Mayor Hutchins requested that staff add an investigation and recommendations regarding zoning for secondary suites to the list of proposed capital projects for 2010.

Staff will report back to Council on the amount of square footage that would be made available for programming at the Frank Jameson Community Centre with the proposed installation of a stairway from the lobby to currently inaccessible area in the lower level.

It was agreed that staff would provide Council with information on capital projects from the perspective of safety and security; regulatory compliance; benefit to the taxpayer; and the risk associated with not proceeding.

Staff will provide information for Council on whether gas tax funds can be used to convert public buildings to non fossil-fuel heating, as well as on other potential initiatives the Town can undertake to reduce its carbon footprint in accordance with the goals established in the Community Energy Plan.

Staff will advise Council when Grants-in-Aid will be brought forward for review.

QUESTIONS

R. Johnson enquired and received responses about the following:

- Funding in 2010 for the operation of the Ladysmith Archives
- Allocation of contributions for the Ladysmith Trolley
- Spirit Square funding
- Terms of sale of District Lot 108
- The possibility of working with Terasen Gas to install a geothermal heating system in one or more public buildings

ADJOURNMENT

2010-161

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor (R. Hutchins)

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Corporate Officer (S. Bowden)