



TOWN OF LADYSMITH
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Rob Hutchins
Councillor Bill Drysdale
Councillor Glenda Patterson

Councillor Steve Arnett
Councillor Gord Horth

Councillor Jillian Dashwood
Councillor Duck Paterson

STAFF PRESENT:

Ruth Malli
John Manson

Sandy Bowden
Joanna Winter

Erin Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hutchins called this meeting of Council to order at 6:25 p.m. in order to retire immediately into Executive (Closed) Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CS 2013-71

It was moved, seconded and carried that Council retire into Executive (Closed) Session in order to consider the following items:

- personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality
- the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality

RISE AND REPORT

Council arose from Executive (Closed) Session at 6:39 p.m. without report.

AGENDA APPROVAL

The Regular Meeting of Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

CS 2013-72

It was moved, seconded and carried that the agenda for the Council Meeting of March 18, 2013 be adopted with the following amendments:

- 5.2 Rob Johnson will represent Take 5 in place of Marina Sacht as a delegation speaking to the proposed community clean-up day.
- 11.2 Government Services Committee recommendation regarding Dunsmuir Railway Car
- 12.1 Follow-up to correspondence regarding the Town-sponsored UBCM resolution for the protection of watersheds.

MINUTES

CS 2013-73

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 4, 2013 be adopted.

CS 2013-74

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held March 11, 2013 be adopted.

DELEGATIONS

Rosemary Bonanno, Adrian Maas, Vancouver Island Regional Library

Review of Strategic Plan and Budget

R. Bonanno and A. Maas gave a presentation about the Vancouver Island Regional Library Strategic Plan and budget. Discussion ensued regarding the library facility in Ladysmith and plans to expand the space. It was acknowledged that Ladysmith's population is not fully serviced by its current library branch. However it was noted that other communities are higher on a priority list for expansion of facilities. R. Bonanno encouraged Council to submit a request for facility expansion when requested to do so later in 2013.

Council thanked Ms. Bonanno and Mr. Maas for their informative presentation.

Rob Johnson, Take 5 Publications

Proposed Sponsorship of Community Clean-Up Day

R. Johnson, speaking on behalf of Marina Sacht, presented an offer from Take 5 Publications to be media sponsor of a Community Clean-Up Day in conjunction with Earth Day.

Council thanked R. Johnson for his presentation, and agreed to consider the matter later in the meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Hutchins proclaimed the month of March 2013 as "Community Social Services Awareness Month" in the Town of Ladysmith.

Mayor Hutchins proclaimed May 29, 2013 as "Day of the Honey Bee" in the Town of Ladysmith.

2013 TO 2017 FINANCIAL PLAN DELIBERATIONS

Analysis of Tax Rates

The Director of Financial Services reviewed her report analysing taxation rates in different British Columbia communities, noting that there are several variables affecting property tax rates, including levels of municipal policing, presence (or lack) of recreational facilities, and the relative size of the industrial business and residential property classes.

Council thanked Ms. Anderson for her clear and informative analysis.

C. McMahon suggested including household income for additional comparison purposes.

Water and Sewer Budget

The Director of Infrastructure Services reviewed the current state of the sewer and water treatments systems, reviewed proposed expansion and upgrade plans, and presented the proposed water and sewer budgets for the 2013 to 2017 Financial Plan.

Council thanked Mr. Manson for his informative and thorough presentation.

Council supported a recommendation for a \$10 water parcel tax in 2013 and a three percent increase in sewer rates for 2013.

Public Input and Questions

R. Johnson asked about contingency plans in the event of an interruption to water service due to an earthquake and was advised that the Town does have plans in place and will be reviewing them in refining its Emergency Preparedness Plan.

Council agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. to continue deliberations on the 2013 to 2017 Financial Plan.

STAFF REPORTS

CS 2013-75

Carbon Offset Credit Purchase

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Town of Ladysmith purchase carbon offset credits from Cowichan Energy Alternatives.

OPPOSED: COUNCILLOR HORTH

CORRESPONDENCE

CS 2013-76

Mayor Mary Sjostrom, Union of B.C. Municipalities Provincial Response to Resolution Regarding Derelict Vessels

It was moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence from the President of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, dated February 15, 2013, regarding the provincial response to the Ladysmith-sponsored resolution calling for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels be received.

CS 2013-77

David Giles, Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Request for use of Town Facilities for Auto Exvolutions Event

It was moved, seconded and carried that permission be granted for use of the upper grass area by the horseshoe pitch and the tree

line area below the horseshoe pitch at Transfer Beach Park for camping by participants of Ladysmith Auto-Exvolutions event hosted by Ladysmith Fire/Rescue from July 5th to 7th, 2013.

Councillor Paterson declared a conflict of interest with the following agenda item and excused himself from the meeting.

Duck Paterson, Ladysmith Kinsmen Club

Request for Permission to Paint Playground Equipment at Transfer Beach

CS 2013-78

It was moved, seconded and carried that the generous offer of the Ladysmith Kinsmen Club to repaint the playground equipment at Transfer Beach be accepted, and permission granted for the work to be carried out prior to the summer season.

Councillor Paterson returned to the meeting.

John Neville, BC Nature

Cat Crisis in B.C. Municipalities

CS 2013-79

It was moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence from BC Nature dated February 28, 2013, calling for municipal regulation of cats, be referred to staff for consideration in the preparation of a report on this matter.

Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Strategic Community Investment Fund

CS 2013-80

It was moved, seconded and carried that the correspondence from the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, dated March 11, 2013, confirming the amount of funds to be transferred to the Town of Ladysmith from the Small Community Grant and Traffic Fine Revenue programs, be received.

Dianna and Cliff Fisher

Emergency Preparedness in Ladysmith – Public Workshop

CS 2013-81

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Town provide appropriate space to the Ladysmith Festival of Lights Society, at no charge, for a public Emergency Preparedness Workshop, and that the Society be requested to work with the Town's Protective Services Committee on this initiative.

BYLAWS

Town of Ladysmith Building and Plumbing Bylaw 1994, No. 1119, Amendment Bylaw 2013, No. 1820

CS 2013-82

It was moved, seconded and carried that Town of Ladysmith Building and Plumbing Bylaw 1994, No. 1119, Amendment Bylaw 2013, No. 1820, be read a first, second and third time.

NEW BUSINESS	Appointment of Alternate to Cowichan Valley Regional District Community Safety Advisory Commission
CS 2013-83	It was moved, seconded and carried that Councillor Bill Drysdale be appointed to serve as the Town of Ladysmith's alternate representative on the Cowichan Valley Regional District Community Safety Advisory Commission until December 2014.
CS 2013-84	Government Services Committee Recommendation – Dunsmuir's Railway Parlor Car It was moved, seconded and carried that a letter be written to the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society expressing Council's strong interest in acquiring the Dunsmuir Parlor Car and commitment to endeavouring to find an appropriate home for it.
CS 2013-85	Proposed Media Sponsorship of Community Clean-up Day It was moved, seconded and carried that Sunday April 21 and Monday April 22 be designated as Community Clean-up Days in the Town of Ladysmith, with April 22 designated as school participation day, and that the Town of Ladysmith provide collection containers, and that the Cowichan Valley Regional District be asked to waive tippage fees for refuse collected during this initiative.
CS 2013-86	It was moved, seconded and carried that the offer from Take 5 Publications to be media sponsor for Community Clean-up Day be accepted with appreciation.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	Union of B.C. Municipalities Resolution – Watershed Protection Staff were requested to report back to Council regarding any response from the provincial government to Council's correspondence about the Town-sponsored Union of British Columbia Municipalities resolution calling for provincial government commitment to protecting watersheds in the province.
QUESTION PERIOD	R. Johnson enquired whether Council had received a legal opinion regarding what constitutes a meeting of Council and was advised that Council has not yet considered the opinion. R. Johnson was advised that the manager position at Public Works has been vacant for several years, and is being filled in 2013 to support the number of capital projects underway in the Infrastructure Services Department. R. Johnson enquired about transit costs. R. Johnson enquired about possible savings in salary costs due to the retirement of the Director of Parks Recreation and Cultures. R. Johnson enquired whether a response will be forthcoming to his

earlier questions about trolley ridership and revenues.

J. Tielemann enquired whether the Grants-in-Aid for 2013 have been finalized and was advised that they are still under consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

CS 2013-87

It was moved, seconded and carried that this meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Mayor (R. Hutchins)

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Corporate Officer (S. Bowden)