



MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Ladysmith Seniors Centre

630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Aaron Stone
Councillor Ray Gourlay
Councillor Amanda Jacobson
Councillor Tricia McKay

Councillor Duck Paterson
Councillor Marsh Stevens
Councillor Jeff Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick
Chris Barfoot
Jake Belobaba
Ryan Bouma
Chris Geiger
Trish McConnell

Donna Smith
Mike Gregory
Julie Tierney
Sue Bouma
Andrea Hainrich

1. PROCESSION

Council-elect entered the meeting, led by piper Christopher McBride and Constables Palmer and Smith in Red Serge.

2. CALL TO ORDER OF INAUGURAL MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Donna Smith, Corporate Officer

Donna Smith, Corporate Officer, called the Inaugural Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m., recognizing with gratitude that it was taking place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

Ms. Smith also acknowledged the many dignitaries in attendance, including Chief Roxanne Harris, former mayor Rob Hutchins, and CVRD Area G and H Directors, Jesse McClinton and Ben Maartman.

3. O CANADA

Vanessa Izon led the singing of our National Anthem.

4. OATHS OF OFFICE - 2022-2026 COUNCIL

The Corporate Officer administered the Oaths of Office to the Mayor and Councillors and congratulated them on their Council positions.

Mayor Stone assumed the Chair.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Presentation of gift to outgoing Councillor Rob Johnson

Mayor Stone presented outgoing Councillor Rob Johnson with a gift and thanked him for his dedication and service to the community as a member of Council during the past four years.

6. MAYOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mayor Stone presented his inaugural address:

Good evening. Welcome to our new Council and all the community members, leaders and dignitaries gathered here tonight. Thank you for joining us!

I'd like to begin my words this evening by recognizing that our community thrives, and this meeting is taking place, within the traditional, unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation. Since time immemorial the Stz'uminus people have been the stewards of the lands and waters of this beautiful place. I am so thankful to be here, in this time, working with Stz'uminus leadership, friends and neighbours to restore Stz'uminus presence, culture, and history to Ladysmith. This work is driving our efforts to achieve our goals around ecological stewardship, economic development and community vitality here in Ladysmith and across our region. Huy'ch'qa to Chief Harris for being here this evening and for your leadership and friendship. As we move forward in a good way, we are showing our children, grandchildren, and the generations to come, that there is a better future for all of us, working together.

As we turn the page on another chapter in the history of the Town of Ladysmith, it is time to take stock of where we have been and where we are going as a community. We have come through one of the most difficult times in generations, navigating the challenges of COVID-19 and moving toward ongoing management and recovery. I am so thankful to our previous council, our staff and our

community for their perseverance and positivity through this trying time. We navigated the pandemic exceptionally well and you all deserve our gratitude. You have mine. Thank you.

That said, there are more challenges ahead. These are uncertain times, with rapid inflation and the prospect of a recession on the horizon. The Town is not immune to these pressures. In many areas, inflation hits local governments particularly hard. Capital projects, maintenance and operational costs have grown much faster than the rate of inflation. The uncertainty and financial pressure that we're experiencing is not all doom and gloom, but it does require FOCUS. We have done well to set Ladysmith up to weather the storms ahead, taking what we have learned from decades of positive and proactive leadership. We will be building on this foundation of strong leadership and the plans we have invested in over the last several years. Within every challenge is opportunity. We will pursue these opportunities for the benefit of everyone in Ladysmith.

The priorities for the next term are quite clear to me, and reflect the priorities laid out by our newly elected Council during the election. It all starts with positive, collaborative, constructive leadership and above all else, FOCUS.

These priorities are intrinsically linked to each other and are captured broadly in the development of our new Official Community Plan. Our community has spoken loudly and clearly about our efforts to pursue infrastructure renewal, economic development, climate action, ecological stewardship, financial stewardship and ReconciliACTION. It is incumbent on us to deliver on these priorities, particularly with the strong statement sent with the results of this election. Ladysmith is counting on us, and I am excited to work with all of you to deliver on the promise of this Council, staff and community team.

Reconciliation is one of the most challenging and rewarding efforts of our generation. As we recognize and reconcile the past harms of colonization, we have made it our top priority to repair these relationships, restore Stz'uminus presence to the unceded territory that Ladysmith is located within, and to pursue true reconciliation for Stzuminus and Ladysmith people alike. The decolonization of our community serves all of us, opening up opportunities for cultural vibrancy, environmental restoration, and economic opportunity. Our work with Stz'uminus is paying dividends for us all and the benefits we are creating together will serve our communities for generations to come. It's all about action, ReconciliACTION.

We also need to have a keen focus on executing the plans we have made over the last number of years. We have invested heavily in the community engagement and planning necessary to achieve success over the coming four years. Our award-winning Waterfront Area Plan, Partnership for a Vibrant Local Economy, Youth Strategy, Arts Strategy and poverty reduction work all need

keen attention and focus on implementation so that the opportunities identified within continue to be realized.

As we head into the final stages of our engagement work on our new Official Community Plan, it is critical that we complete this process and begin implementation of a modern land use plan and climate action strategy for the Town. Our current OCP is two decades old and showing its age. Although relevant and appropriate for the time, in many ways the greatest challenges we face today have come as a result of our land use planning over the previous decades. As wonderful as our community is, decisions over the history of Ladysmith have led to many millions of dollars in aging infrastructure that has become a financial burden to current and future generations. Aging roads are only the tip of the proverbial iceberg when we consider the decaying pipes underneath. It's not as simple as repaving a road when the underground infrastructure we rely on to deliver clean water, capture stormwater and carry our waste are also failing.

Over this term and the next decade we need to dramatically increase the rate of this infrastructure renewal. It is NOT getting any cheaper. But this is not all bad news. With the adoption of our new OCP, and the Climate Action Strategy and Active Transportation Plan contained within, we will open up funding opportunities to assist in this work. From senior government grants, to new revenue streams created through smart, responsible growth, we will be able to take on a greater share of this work year over year, and chart the course for a truly economic and ecologically sustainable community for generations to come. All of these things are so closely linked. By working together with a strong focus on our strategic objectives, we will deliver on these priorities. We will deliver on the promise of a progressive yet pragmatic small town with a thriving local economy, world class parks and amenities, and developments that are a benefit to our community. The progress we make this term will ensure the financial and ecological sustainability for those who live and love in Ladysmith today, and in the future.

Now is the time for a new level of determination and focus; Execution on the plans we have developed; aggressive action to address our infrastructure deficit; doing our part to ensure a livable climate; restoration and protection of our cherished ecosystems; economic development to create a complete community; putting the word ACTION in ReconciliACTION.

These are all critical actions, and ones I know we can ALL get behind. I am excited about both the challenges and opportunities before us. Let's go, Ladysmith!

Thank you. Huy'ch'qa.

7. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2022-259

That Council approve the agenda for this Inaugural Meeting of Council for November 1, 2022.

Motion Carried

8. APPOINTMENTS

8.1 Deputy Mayor

Mayor Stone made the following appointments for Deputy Mayor in 2023:

- November 2022 to April 2023: Councillor Jacobson
- May 2023 to October 2023: Councillor Paterson

8.2 Parcel Tax Review Panel

CS 2022-260

That Council appoint Councillors Gourlay, Paterson and Stevens to the 2023 Parcel Tax Review Panel.

Motion Carried

8.3 Cowichan Valley Regional District Director

CS 2022-261

That Council appoint Mayor Stone as the Town of Ladysmith Director on the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board for the 2022/23 term.

Motion Carried

8.4 Cowichan Valley Regional District Alternate Director

CS 2022-262

That Council appoint Councillor Paterson as the Town of Ladysmith Alternate Director on the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board for the 2022/23 term.

Motion Carried

8.5 Vancouver Island Regional Library Board Director

CS 2022-263

That Council appoint Councillor Virtanen as Director to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for the 2023 term.

Motion Carried

8.6 Vancouver Island Regional Library Board Alternate

CS 2022-264

That Council appoint Councillor McKay as Alternate Director to the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for the 2023 term.

Motion Carried

8.7 Standing and Community Committee Representatives

Mayor Stone made the following appointments to Council Advisory Commissions and Committees:

Committee of the Whole

November 2022 to April 2023

Chair: Councillor Jacobson

Vice Chair: Councillor Virtanen

May 2023 to October 2023

Chair: Councillor Paterson

Vice Chair: Councillor Virtanen

All Members of Council are Members of Committee of the Whole.

Waterfront Implementation Committee

Council Liaison: Mayor Stone

Council Liaison: Councillor McKay

Council Liaison: Councillor Stevens

Community Planning Advisory Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Stevens

Alternate: Councillor Jacobson

Protective Services Committee

Chair: Councillor McKay

Council Liaison: Councillor Jacobson

Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Paterson

Alternate: Councillor Virtanen

Official Community Plan Steering Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Jacobson

Alternate: Councillor Gourlay

Arts & Heritage Hub Design Steering Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor McKay

Alternate: Councillor Paterson

Liquid Waste Management Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Gourlay

Council Liaison: Councillor Paterson

Council Liaison: Councillor Stevens

Public Art Task Group

Council Liaison: Councillor McKay

Alternate: Councillor Stevens

Stocking Lake Advisory Committee

Chair: Mayor Stone

Council Liaison: Councillor Gourlay

Celebrations Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Virtanen

Alternate: Councillor Paterson

Ladysmith Festival of Lights

Council Liaison: Councillor Paterson

Alternate: Councillor Jacobson

Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce

Council Liaison: Councillor Gourlay

Alternate: Councillor Paterson

Ladysmith Downtown Business Association

Council Liaison: Councillor McKay

Alternate: Councillor Stevens

Social Planning Cowichan

Council Liaison: Councillor Stevens

Alternate: Councillor McKay

Ladysmith Community Justice Program

Council Liaison: Councillor Gourlay

Poverty Reduction Task Group

Council Liaison: Councillor McKay

Board of Education of School District 68 Long Range Facilities

Planning Advisory Committee

Council Liaison: Councillor Virtanen

9. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Stone gave thanks to retiring Corporate Officer Donna Smith for her dedication to the Town.

10. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions submitted by the public.

11. ADJOURNMENT

CS 2022-265

That this Inaugural Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Mayor (A. Stone)

Corporate Officer (M. O'Halloran)