



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, City Hall

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Jeff Virtanen (chair)
Mayor Aaron Stone
Councillor Duck Paterson
Councillor Amanda Jacobson

Councillor Rob Johnson
Councillor Tricia McKay
Councillor Marsh Stevens

Staff Present:

Erin Anderson
Jake Belobaba
Geoff Goodall
Clayton Postings
Joanna Winter

Mike Gregory
Sue Bouma
Sue Glenn
Shannon Wilson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Virtanen called this meeting of the Municipal Services Committee to order at 6:30 p.m., recognizing the traditional unceded territory of the Stz'uminus People.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

MS 2019-053

That the agenda for this December 9, 2019 meeting of the Municipal Services Committee be approved.

Motion Carried

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Municipal Services Committee Meeting held September 9, 2019

MS 2019-054

That the minutes of the Municipal Services Committee meeting held September 9, 2019 be approved.

Motion Carried

4. REPORTS

4.1 Building Inspector's Report to November 30, 2019

MS 2019-055

That the Committee receive the Building Inspector's Report for the months August to November 2019.

Motion Carried

4.2 Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Reports for August to October, 2019

MS 2019-056

That the Committee receive the Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Reports for the months August to October 2019.

Motion Carried

4.3 Coastal Animal Control Services Reports for July to September 2019

MS 2019-057

That the Committee receive the Coastal Animal Control Services Reports for the months July to September 2019.

Motion Carried

4.4 Poet Laureate Program

MS 2019-058

That the Committee:

1. Refer the proposed Poet Laureate Programs to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee for comment;
2. Direct staff to commence discussion toward entering into a Service Agreement with the Arts Council of Ladysmith and District in relation to managing the Town's Poet Laureate Programs, and that Council be provided with a Draft Service Agreement for consideration.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Paterson

The Committee requested that staff bring a revised budget for the Town's Poet Laureate Programs to the next meeting of Council.

4.5 2019 Third Quarter Financial Report

MS 2019-059

That the Committee receive for information the 2019 Third Quarter Financial Report from the Director of Financial Services.

Motion Carried

5. COUNCIL SUBMISSIONS

5.1 Downtown Planters and Hanging Baskets

5.1.1 Hanging Baskets between High Street and Roberts Street

Councillor Johnson requested that the Committee discuss the possibility of adding hanging baskets with irrigation watering systems on 1st Avenue, between High Street and Roberts Street. The Committee expressed greater interest in exploring lower maintenance plant options.

5.1.2 Lower Maintenance Plants

Councillor Jacobson requested that the Committee discuss the possibility of changing the Town's public floral displays to a more drought-resistant and natural species theme. Committee members also recommended the possibility of adding public art to the more natural flora, but cautioned that plants would still be necessary to soften the environment.

MS 2019-060

That the Committee request staff to research drought-tolerant alternatives to downtown plantings, flower beds, hanging baskets and shrubbery, including potential public art options to reduce water use.

Motion Carried

5.2 Transit Review

MS 2019-061

That the Committee request that CVRD and BC Transit give a presentation to the Committee of the Whole regarding plans for connections between the Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Regional District transit systems, service expansion, subsidized bus passes for youth, and the potential for increased route services in Ladysmith.

Motion Carried

5.4 Videotaping Closed Council Meetings

The Committee discussed the possibility of videotaping Closed Sessions of Council for Council members to refer to. The majority of Committee members were not in favour of pursuing the matter, noting legal, financial and privacy concerns.

5.5 Other Users of South Davis Road School

Councillor Jacobson expressed her support of the Arts Council's temporary use of the South Davis School, noting that the community group had brought a new spark to that area of town. She enquired whether there was a plan for other groups and organizations to make use of South Davis Road School once the Arts Council returned to the Machine Shop. Staff noted that the licence agreement with the School District can be extended and adjusted to accommodate other users, but this would be dependent on the readiness of the Machine Shop. Staff responded to the Committee's questions regarding the licence for the exterior of the South Davis Road School, as well as the operating costs involved with leasing the building.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Garth Gilroy: Bicycle Safety and Future Street Design Projects for Ladysmith

MS 2019-062

That the Committee refer the correspondence from Garth Gilroy regarding cycling infrastructure, together with other matters related to active transportation, to the upcoming Official Community Plan update process.
Motion Carried

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Public Art Policy

Staff made a presentation to the Committee outlining the key components of the Draft Public Art Policy and responded to Council's questions.

MS 2019-063

That the Committee refer the Draft Public Arts Policy to Council for consideration.

Motion Carried

9. ADJOURNMENT

MS 2019-064

That this meeting of the Municipal Services Committee adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Motion Carried

Chair (Councillor J. Virtanen)

Corporate Officer (J. Winter)