

Municipality of North Cowichan

Regular Council

MINUTES

June 19, 2019, 1:30 p.m.
Municipal Hall - Council Chambers

Members Present Mayor Al Siebring
Councillor Rob Douglas
Councillor Christopher Justice
Councillor Tek Manhas
Councillor Kate Marsh
Councillor Rosalie Sawrie

Members Absent Councillor Debra Toporowski

Staff Present Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Jacqueline East, General Manager, Development and Engineering Services
Mark Frame, General Manager, Financial and Protective Services
Ernie Mansueti, General Manager, Community Services
Sarah Nixon, General Manager, Corporate Services
David Conway, Director of Engineering
Rob Conway, Director of Planning
Natasha Horsman, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement
Mairi Bosomworth, Community Planner
Karen Robertson, Corporate Officer
Matt O'Halloran, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Siebring called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded:

That Council adopt the June 19, 2019 Regular Council agenda, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded:

That Council adopt the following minutes:

1. **Special Council meeting held June 5, 2019; and**
2. **Regular Council meeting held June 5, 2019, as amended, by noting that it was Councillor Douglas who was opposed to the motion under item 11.1 instead of Councillor Sawrie.**

CARRIED

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor gave a verbal report on meetings and activities he recently attended.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

5.1 Bylaw 3754 "Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Housekeeping Amendment), 2019"

Public Hearing Report – Council commenced a public hearing at 1:37 p.m. to allow the public to make representations to Council respecting proposed Bylaw 3754. Mayor Siebring outlined the public hearing order of business and read aloud Council's policy that it will not receive verbal or written communications from the public regarding the proposed Zoning Amendment after the closure of the public hearing. The Mayor noted the location of the public hearing binder and invited the public to review it during the hearing.

The Mayor then asked the Corporate Officer whether any late correspondence was received and the Corporate Officer advised that prior to the hearing a letter was received from Louise Nelson which was circulated to Council and all members of the public in the gallery.

The Mayor noted that in Ms. Nelson's letter, she was requesting that Council: 1) permit heat pumps in side or rear yards behind a wood screen in compliance with Accessory Building setbacks when lot sizes are too small to comply with principle building setbacks; and 2) permit heat pumps anywhere in a side or rear yard provided the noise from the heat pump does not at any time exceed 55 dBa.

Council then received a presentation regarding the proposal from the Community Planner.

The Director of Planning noted that while the amendment to the zoning bylaw will not resolve every situation related to inclusion of heat pumps, those who don't meet the zoning bylaw requirements do have the opportunity to seek a variance.

The Mayor then asked whether anyone wished to speak to the rezoning amendment.

Judith Clark spoke to housekeeping amendment number 1(d)(3.1) – placement of heat pumps and air conditions. She stated that she was opposed to proposed amendment as residents living in the smaller lots are affected by the noise of heat pumps. She highlighted that not all new heat pumps are quieter and that they should be situated in the back yard. She also stated that there are no restrictions on decibels and requested that Council look to the City of Nanaimo's "Guide to Setback Requirements" (a copy of which was provided to the Corporate Officer) as a sample to follow for innovative ways to situate heat pumps.

Mayor Siebring asked two more times if anyone else wished to speak. No one spoke so Mayor Siebring closed the public hearing at 2:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded:

That Council delete section 1(d)(3.1) from Bylaw 3754 – Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Housekeeping Amendment), 2019;

And That Council give third reading, as amended, to "Bylaw 3754 – Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Housekeeping Amendment), 2019".

CARRIED

5.2 2018 Annual Report

The Mayor asked if anyone in attendance wished to speak to the Annual Report.

No members of the public spoke to the Annual Report.

It was moved and seconded:

That Council receive the 2018 Annual Report.

CARRIED

6. PUBLIC INPUT

Council received brief public input regarding agenda items from the following registered speaker:

- Sandy McPherson spoke to item 9.1 (Notice of Motion – Regional Management of Forestry).

7. REPORTS

7.1 2018 Statement of Financial Information

It was moved and seconded:

That Council approve the 2018 Statement of Financial Information.

CARRIED

7.2 Proposed Schedule for 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan

It was moved and seconded:

That Council approve in principle the budget schedule set out in the 2020 – 2024 Budget Outlook attached to the June 19, 2019 staff report, and direct staff to prepare 2020 Operating Budgets that include a 2% wage increase and 2.5% for inflation, and any approved new service levels and priority projects.

(Opposed: Manhas)

CARRIED

7.3 Bylaw 3748 "Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Cannabis Sales – 2900 Drinkwater Road), 2019" – a bylaw to permit Cannabis Retail Sales

Councillor Manhas declared a conflict of interest as his employer has submitted a rezoning application for a retail cannabis store and left the Council Chambers at 2:32 p.m.

It was moved and seconded:

That Council approve second reading of "Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Cannabis Sales – 2900 Drinkwater Road), 2019" No. 3748 to permit cannabis retail sales;

AND That staff be directed to schedule a Public Hearing and issue notice in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act*.

CARRIED

Councillor Manhas returned to the Council Chambers at 2:35 p.m.

7.4 Driveway Culvert Installation Fee

It was moved and seconded:

That Council give first three readings to Bylaw 3756 "Fees Amendment Bylaw (Engineering Fees), 2019" a bylaw to increase the 300 mm culvert installation fee from \$816 to \$2,320.

(Opposed: Siebring; Manhas)

CARRIED

7.5 Encroachment Agreement – 6472 Paddle Road Irrigation

It was moved and seconded:

That Council approve, and authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to sign an encroachment agreement with the owners of 6472 Paddle Road to permit landscape irrigation within the road right-of-way fronting 6472 Paddle Road.

CARRIED

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Bylaw 3753 "Traffic Amendment Bylaw (River Road Speed Limit Change), 2019" a bylaw to amend the River Road speed zone

It was moved and seconded:

That Council adopt Bylaw 3753 - "Traffic Amendment Bylaw (River Road Speed Limit Change), 2019".

CARRIED

9. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

9.1 Regional Management of Forestry

It was moved and seconded:

That the following resolution be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at the upcoming UBCM Convention:

WHEREAS the forest industry in British Columbia has been on a steady decline in recent decades, with dozens mill closures, thousands of lost jobs and once-thriving rural communities experiencing severe economic decline - due in large part to corporate mismanagement, misguided government policies, and lack of public oversight;

AND WHEREAS many communities across British Columbia and globally have demonstrated that when local people are empowered to manage public forests and other common resources through community forest licenses, regional trusts and other community-based governance models, there are significant social, economic and environmental benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of:

- **Adopting a new model of regionally-based forestry management--as outlined in the paper *Restoring Forestry in BC: The Story of the Industry's Decline and***

the Case for Regional Management by former B.C. Forests Minister Bob Williams—that will empower local communities to engage in the long-term planning of their regional economies and ecosystems;

- **Creating a Forest Charter passed by the Legislature that includes an overall vision, sustainability principles, and standards for our forests; and**
- **Appointing a Forester General to serve as a new independent officer who will report annually to the Legislature and work with the diverse regions of our province on local land planning processes.**

It was moved and seconded:

That the motion be amended by removing the first bullet and replacing it with the following:

- **Adopting a new model of regionally-based forestry management that will empower local communities to engage in long term planning of the regional economies and ecosystems;**

CARRIED

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

It was moved and seconded:

That the following resolution be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at the upcoming UBCM Convention:

WHEREAS the forest industry in British Columbia has been on a steady decline in recent decades, with dozens mill closures, thousands of lost jobs and once-thriving rural communities experiencing severe economic decline - due in large part to corporate mismanagement, misguided government policies, and lack of public oversight;

AND WHEREAS many communities across British Columbia and globally have demonstrated that when local people are empowered to manage public forests and other common resources through community forest licenses, regional trusts and other community-based governance models, there are significant social, economic and environmental benefits;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of:

- **Adopting a new model of regionally-based forestry management that will empower local communities to engage in long term planning of the regional economies and ecosystems;**
- **Creating a Forest Charter passed by the Legislature that includes an overall vision, sustainability principles, and standards for our forests; and**
- **Appointing a Forester General to serve as a new independent officer who will report annually to the Legislature and work with the diverse regions of our province on local land planning processes.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Manhas)

CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

Council received no questions from the public regarding business considered at this meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded:

That Council adjourn the June 19, 2019 Regular Council meeting at 3:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor