



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY
COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting #: R7/2023
Date: April 12, 2023
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: CVRD Civic Room, 770 Harmston Ave, Courtenay

Council Present: B. Wells
W. Cole-Hamilton
D. Frisch
D. Hillian
E. Jolicoeur
M. McCollum
W. Morin

Staff Present: G. Garbutt, City Manager (CAO)
C. Davidson, Director of Engineering Services, via audio/video conference
A. Langenmaier, Director of Financial Services
K. Macdonald, Fire Chief
K. O'Connell, Director of Corporate Services
R. Roycroft, Acting Director of Development Services
S. Saunders, Director of Recreation, Culture & Community Services
K. Shaw, Director of Public Works Services
R. Armstrong, Manager of Utilities - Maintenance
J. Chan, Manager of Business Administration, via audio/video conference
K. Collins, Manager of Recreation Programming, via audio/video conference
N. Gothard, Manager of Community and Sustainability Planning, via audio/video conference
C. Millar, Manager of Recreation Facilities Operations, via audio/video conference
A. Proton, Manager of Legislative Services
C. Dallamore, Legislative Coordinator
C. Sawkins, Strategic Financial Analyst, via audio/video conference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wells called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and respectfully acknowledged that the land on which the meeting was conducted is the Unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Councillor McCollum acknowledged April 16th to April 22nd as National Volunteer Week and recognized volunteers who play a critical role in the development and maintenance of a healthy community for the citizens of Courtenay.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

With no late items or objections, Council proceeded with the agenda as presented.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Regular Council Minutes - March 22, 2023

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Morin

THAT Council adopt the March 22, 2023 Regular Council minutes.

CARRIED

Councillor Jolicoeur joined the meeting at 4:03 pm.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Comox Valley Cycling Coalition

Council received a presentation from Mike Keohane, CVCCo's President, on the coalition's efforts to enhance cycling in Courtenay, which includes safe cycling education, networking, advocacy, and special events. The delegation requested that the City commit personnel to active transportation, improve maintenance of cycling lanes, collaborate with users to resolve difficult areas, and plan secure bike parking and other "end of trip" amenities.

4.2 North Island Students' Union - Menstrual Equity

Council received a presentation from North Island College Students' Union representatives Carissa Wilson and Rebecca Lennox on the significance of menstrual equity in promoting health, education, and societal participation. They requested Council to vote in favour of a staff report on the expenses and impacts of providing free menstrual products in city-operated facilities and participate in the Period Promise campaign.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Development Services

5.1.1 Development Variance Permit No. 2208 –1130 5th Street (Accessory Building Use)

Moved By Morin

Seconded By Frisch

THAT based on the April 12, 2023 staff report “Development Variance Permit No. 2208 –1130 5th Street”, Council approve OPTION 1 and direct staff to provide public notice to adjacent property owners and occupants and request feedback regarding Development Variance Permit No. 2208; and

THAT Council make a decision on Development Variance Permit No. 2208 at the April 26, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

6. INTERNAL REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Alternative Approval Process Results (Parkland Disposition Bylaw No. 3050)

Councillor Jolicoeur left the meeting at 4:57 pm.

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Hillian

THAT Council receive the "Alternative Approval Process Results - Parkland Disposition Bylaw No. 3050" briefing note.

CARRIED

Councillor Jolicoeur returned to the meeting at 5:02 pm.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

7.1 Councillor Cole-Hamilton

Councillor Cole-Hamilton reviewed his attendance at the following event:

- Apr 4 & 5 - UBCM Housing Summit - The conference addressed housing issues and announced new initiatives, but raised concerns about the insufficient addition of complex care beds province-wide.

7.2 Councillor Frisch

Councillor Frisch read a statement regarding his leave of absence from Council.

7.3 Councillor Hillian

Councillor Hillian submitted a report of activities, and reported on ongoing discussions with local businesses and community members regarding homelessness and its impacts.

7.4 Councillor Jolicoeur

Councillor Jolicoeur reviewed his attendance at the following event:

- Apr 4 & 5: UBCM Housing Summit - The conference provided insight into the Province's plans and strategies for addressing the housing market and homelessness services in BC communities.

7.5 Councillor McCollum

Councillor McCollum reviewed her attendance at the following event:

- Mar 29 & 30: Municipal Finance Authority of BC Conference and Annual General Meeting - The MFABC maintains its AAA rating, which allows for lower rates on borrowing, and has launched a new fossil fuel-free fund for municipalities to access federal returns on investment. Councillor

McCollum was elected trustee for the Municipal Finance Authority at the AGM.

7.6 Councillor Morin

Councillor Morin acknowledged the Sunday Station and supporting businesses for serving over 60 meals to unhoused individuals during Easter weekend, encouraging community involvement towards a better future.

7.7 Mayor Wells

Mayor Wells reviewed his attendance at the following events:

- Mar 23 - 12th Annual Campagnolo Dinner and Lecture on Restorative Justice
- Mar 25 - Freemason Hiram Lodge #14 Plaque Unveiling - The Hiram Lodge #14 is 131 years old, and they recently celebrated their 100th anniversary at their current location.
- Mar 29 - BC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention workshop on addictions and overdoses from nurses and people in the front lines
- Apr 4 & 5 - UBCM Housing Summit - Municipalities and experts shared ideas and strategies to address affordable housing challenges, homelessness, and lack of rental housing. Mayor Wells had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Housing and Premier.
- Apr 6 - Rotary Trail Corridor meeting between Cumberland and Courtenay
- Apr 12 - National Volunteer Week Flag Raising - Mayor Wells expressed Council's gratitude towards community volunteers.

8. COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

8.1 Downtown Community Safety Office - Mayor Wells

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Morin

WHEREAS the Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association has raised a variety of safety concerns; and,

WHEREAS the RCMP community police model has been implemented in other municipalities to the benefit of the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct staff to work with the RCMP and the DCBIA to explore the option of a Downtown Community Safety Office, for the use of community partners including the RCMP and City of Courtenay Bylaw division, and report back to Council.

CARRIED

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Jolicoeur

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report on options to address the Comox Valley Ground Search and Rescue's requests to be recognized as first responders, and for land to build a permanent search and rescue facility.

CARRIED

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

10.1 Election to FCM Board of Directors - Councillor Cole-Hamilton

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of member municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction;

WHEREAS FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the united voice required to carry the municipal message to the federal government;

WHEREAS FCM's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference and Trade Show, May 25 to 28, 2023, followed by the election of FCM's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS the UBCM-FCM Small Communities Travel fund covers airfare, hotel accommodation and ground transportation expenses related to attending FCM Board and Standing Committee meetings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Courtenay endorse Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton to stand for election on FCM's Board of Directors for the period starting in May 2023 and ending June 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City assume all costs associated with Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton attending FCM's Board of Directors meetings that are not covered by the UBCM-FCM Small Communities travel fund.

10.2 Municipal Input in RCMP Contract Decisions - Councillor Cole-Hamilton

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has made the decision in Budget 2023 to make municipalities responsible for all retroactive costs stemming from the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement; and

WHEREAS these extraordinary one-time costs, which in some jurisdictions amount to millions of dollars, will cause significant hardship for communities and residents across the country, and were negotiated without meaningful consultation or a seat at the table for the municipalities responsible for paying the bill; and

WHEREAS municipal governments are already paying a growing share of policing costs, but unlike other orders of government, cannot run deficits to spread out the impact of these extraordinary one-time sums, and have limited revenue tools; and

WHEREAS local governments will now be forced to make difficult decisions that will impact residents, such as cutting essential services, reducing policing levels, raising property taxes significantly, and/or cancelling work on local infrastructure, at a time when Canadians' concerns about community safety and the cost of living are already rising; and

WHEREAS going forward, it is critical that municipalities be proactively engaged in any forthcoming processes related to contract policing to prevent this occurring again; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Courtenay join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Courtenay convey this support in writing to our Member of Parliament, Gord Johns, the Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendocino, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

11. BYLAWS

11.1 For First, Second and Third Readings

11.1.1 2023 – 2027 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw 3096, 2023

Mayor Wells called a recess at 5:37 pm. The Council meeting resumed at 5:55 pm.

Mayor Wells called a recess at 8:36 pm. The Council meeting resumed at 8:45 pm.

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By McCollum

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to “2023-2027 Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw 3096, 2023”.

CARRIED

11.1.2 Solid Waste Collection Service – Excess Yard Waste

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Morin

THAT based on the April 12, 2023 staff report “Solid Waste Collection Service – Excess Yard Waste”, Council approve Option 1 and direct staff to update the current collection agreement with Halton Recycling Ltd. dba Emterra Environmental to include terms for the purchase of additional yard waste tags in excess of 360 litres per residential dwelling unit.

CARRIED

**11.1.2.1 Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3098, 2023
(Solid Waste Collection)**

Moved By Morin

Seconded By Frisch

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to “City of Courtenay Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3098” to allow excess yard waste tags to be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 per tag.

CARRIED

**11.1.2.2 Refuse Materials Collection, Removal and Regulation
Bylaw No. 3099**

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Frisch

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to “City of Courtenay Refuse Materials Collection, Removal and Regulation Bylaw No. 3099” to limit extra paper yard waste bags to two per collection.

CARRIED

11.1.3 Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3100 (EV Charging Stations)

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Morin

THAT based on staff report "Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw", Council give first, second and third readings to “City of Courtenay Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3100” and set the flat rate fee for all City owned electric vehicle charging stations at \$3.00 per hour.

CARRIED

11.2 For Adoption

11.2.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3054 (1077 Piercy Ave)

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Frisch

THAT Council adopt "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3054, 2022" (1077 Piercy Avenue).

CARRIED

11.2.2 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3072 (1540 Willemar Ave)

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Hillian

THAT Council adopt "Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3072, 2022" (1540 Willemar Avenue).

CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wells terminated the meeting at 10:03 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Adopted by Council April 26, 2023

Mayor Bob Wells

Adriana Proton, Corporate Officer