

Municipality of North Cowichan

Committee of the Whole

MINUTES

June 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Electronically

Members Present	Mayor Al Siebring Councillor Rob Douglas Councillor Christopher Justice Councillor Tek Manhas Councillor Rosalie Sawrie Councillor Debra Toporowski
Members Absent	Councillor Kate Marsh
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) 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 Jason Birch, Chief Information Officer Megan Jordan, Acting, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement Chris Hutton, Community Planning Coordinator Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Council added a late item (Strategic Plan Discussion) to the meeting under Item 5.3
IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the June 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole agenda be adopted as amended. **CARRIED**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole held February 29, 2020, be adopted as amended, to include Councillor Sawrie as being present;

And That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole held March 4, 2020, and March 12, 2020 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED**

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Council received no submissions via email prior to the meeting regarding agenda items.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 2021 - 2025 Budget Direction

The General Manager, Financial and Protective Services provided a presentation that outlined three options for Council to consider as it relates to providing preliminary direction to staff in preparing the 2021 – 2025 budget, with emphasis on returning to sustainable tax levels following COVID-19 pandemic budget impacts. The presentation included strategies to reduce the impact of tax funded capital, operating risks and opportunities.

Council noted that the budget process for 2021 will need to be flexible considering the unknown future economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that a second wave of the virus could result in a further economic downturn by the end of the year.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That staff be directed to prepare the 2021-2025 budget based on the 'Recovery Budget' option outlined in the General Manager, Financial and Protective Services' 2020 - 2025 Budget Direction PowerPoint Presentation dated June 9, 2020.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That staff, in preparing the 2021 Capital and Operating Budget, will include consideration of a recovery plan that is oriented to:

1. Developing projects, and finding resources to work on, improving our natural assets and green infrastructure and achieving our climate related mitigation, adaptation resiliency goals; and which
2. Provide both short and longer term employment opportunities for those sectors of society that have been particularly impacted by the pandemic shut down to support the local Cowichan economy; and
3. That is "agile" in the sense of anticipating possible second waves of infection and economic shutdown, and which recognises the uncertainty of the immediate future.

CARRIED

5.2 Committee of the Whole Meeting Times

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of daytime Committee of the Whole meetings versus evening Committee of the Whole meetings.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That staff be directed to survey Council for preferred days and times for Committee of the Whole meetings and to report back to the next Council meeting with the survey results and any operational implications of those results.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for June 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. be cancelled and rescheduled subject to the availability of the consultants who were scheduled to present at the June 17, 2020 meeting.

CARRIED

5.3 Strategic Plan Discussion

It was noted that a Q2 2020 progress report on Council's Strategic Plan will be provided to Council at the June 17, 2020 Regular Council meeting so discussion on this item was postponed until that time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. QUESTION PERIOD

The Mayor called for a recess at 7:40 p.m. to allow viewers to submit questions via email on the matters discussed during the meeting. No questions had been submitted when the meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor