

# Municipality of North Cowichan

## Regular Council

### MINUTES

September 16, 2020, 1:30 p.m.  
Electronically

Members Present	Acting Mayor Christopher Justice Councillor Rob Douglas Councillor Tek Manhas Councillor Rosalie Sawrie Councillor Debra Toporowski
Members Absent	Mayor Al Siebring Councillor Kate Marsh
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sarah Nixon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (D/CAO) Mark Frame, General Manager, Financial and Protective Services David Conway, Director of Engineering Don Stewart, Director, Parks and Recreation Rob Conway, Director of Planning and Building Jason Blood, Manager of Recreation Megan Jordan, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement Michelle Martineau, Corporate Officer

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One late item [letter from Island Health] was added to the agenda as item 11.3.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council add the letter from Island Health to the agenda as a late item under "New Business" and that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

#### 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

##### 3.1 Regular Council meeting held September 2, 2020 for adoption

There were no errors or omissions noted in the minutes.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held September 2, 2020.

CARRIED

**4. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Acting Mayor Justice extended a note of thanks towards the North Cowichan Fire Department and their role in fighting the tire fire.

**5. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Vancouver Island Vipassana Association (VIVA)**

Four representatives of the Vancouver Island Vipassana Association, Evie Chauncey, Carl Wolford, Deborah Harding, and their spokesperson Steven Armstrong, presented their request to Council to change their tax exemption status for 2359 Calais Road, that they be classified as and receive the same exemptions [both statutory and permissive] as a religious organization.

**6. PUBLIC INPUT**

Council received 23 submissions via email prior to the meeting regarding agenda items 7.2, 11.1 and 11.2. A summary of those submissions was read out in the meeting.

Councillor Douglas left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

**7. BYLAWS**

**7.1 Permissive Tax Exemption Request**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council deny Vancouver Island Vipassana Association's request for a permissive tax exemption for the land portion of 2359 Calais Road and Wicks Road.

(Opposed: Justice)  
CARRIED

Acting Mayor Justice relayed Councillor Douglas' message that he would be recusing himself from the next item, as he lives in the same neighbourhood as the applicant, at 2:28 p.m.

**7.2 Zoning Amendment Application - ZB000126 - 934 Khenipsen Road**

Council suspended the rules to provide the applicant's representative, David Coulson, an opportunity to be heard before Council considered the options presented in the staff report included in the agenda.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the application (Zoning Amendment Application - ZB000126) be referred back to staff to review the new information as submitted and that staff work with the applicant to identify whether an alternative location for the suite can occur and report back to Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Douglas returned to the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 COVID-19 Re-opening Plans for Cowichan Aquatic Centre**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council directs staff to proceed with the re-opening of the Cowichan Aquatic Centre under its COVID-19 Restoration of Programs & Services Plan, specifically to allow for a phased-in resumption of services effective October 13, 2020. CARRIED

**8.2 Capital Grant Applications for the 2021 Budget**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council authorize an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program under the Community, Culture and Recreation stream for the Crofton to Maple Bay Trail project for a project cost up to an estimated \$2 million; and that Council supports the project and commits to its share of \$540,000. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council authorize an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program under the COVID-19 Resilience stream for replacement of the Fuller Lake Arena roof and the Cowichan Aquatic Centre roof up to an estimated \$2.4 million; and that Council supports the project and commits to its share of \$480,000. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council authorize an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Municipal Asset Management Program for a grant of up to \$50,000 so that North Cowichan may continue with its next phase of asset management planning, which is to create Asset Management Plans for major facilities and buildings; and that Council supports the project and commits to its share of \$12,500. CARRIED

**9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**9.1 Notice of Motions submitted by Councillor Toporowski regarding the use of anticoagulant rodenticides**

Councillor Toporowski introduced the following motions which she intends to move at the October 7, 2020 regular meeting for debate and consideration by Council:

1. That Council recognizes the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticide use and directs staff to prepare a report outlining options available to ban their use by, and in the Municipality of North Cowichan; and that staff communicate to the public the harmful impacts of anticoagulant rodenticide and the alternatives that are available.
2. That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, appropriate ministers, and copying Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Cowichan Valley, requesting that the Province of British Columbia ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides.

**10. UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS**

No items.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**11.1 Illegal Secondary Suites**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council direct staff to prepare a report identifying potential safety issues, and financial and liability impacts and/or risks to the municipality in relation to existing illegal secondary suites in North Cowichan. CARRIED

**11.2 Request for follow through on Climate Action**

Council referred the letter that had been received on August 17, 2020 from various local citizens and organizations for follow through on climate action.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council refer the letter and the questions within it to staff for eventual response. CARRIED

**11.3 LATE ITEM: Letter from Island Health regarding the Cowichan Valley Wellness and Recovery Centre**

Council discussed this matter.

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

Acting Mayor Justice called for a recess at 4:13 p.m. to allow viewers to submit questions via email on the matters discussed during the meeting. Questions had been submitted from two residents, however, only one that had some relevance to the agenda was read out when the meeting reconvened at 4:24 p.m.

**13. RISE AND REPORT**

n/a

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

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Certified by Corporate Officer

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Signed by Mayor