

Municipality of North Cowichan

Regular Council

MINUTES

March 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically

Members Present	Mayor Rob Douglas Councillor Mike Caljouw Councillor Bruce Findlay Councillor Chris Istace Councillor Christopher Justice Councillor Tek Manhas Councillor Debra Toporowski
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services Talitha Soldera, General Manager, Corporate Services Barb Floden, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering David Conway, Director, Engineering Projects Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator Marla Laycock, Director, Human Resources and Health & Safety Michelle Martineau, Corporate Officer Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation Rob Conway, Director, Planning and Building Shawn Cator, Director, Operations

1 CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Douglas called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council approve the Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

CARRIED

2.1 Items for decision

2.1.1 Council Meeting Minutes for Adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt the minutes of their regular meeting held February 21, 2023.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2.2 Items for information

2.2.1 BC Timber Sales re: Referral of BC Timber Sales 2023 Pacific Maritime Forest Stewardship Plan #943

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the February 21, 2023 email and January 26, 2023 letter from BC Timber Sales. ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2.2.2 Request to call on the Provincial and Federal Governments to work towards a Basic Income

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the February 21, 2023 emails from Peter Eberhardt and Theresa Cole. ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2.2.3 Invitation from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) President to Housing Summit

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the February 22, 2023 letter from Jen Ford, UBCM President. ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3 APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

4 MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Douglas provided a verbal update on meetings and activities he recently attended.

5 DELEGATIONS

5.1 Economic Development Cowichan

Barry O'Riordan, on behalf of Economic Development Cowichan (EDC), provided a presentation to Council on the state of the Cowichan economy and provided an update on various strategies and initiatives the EDC are proposing or that are underway.

6 PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council received public input from 8 members of the public participating in Council Chambers regarding agenda items 11.2 and 11.4.

7 BYLAWS

7.1 Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw No. 3893, 2023 for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt "Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw No. 3893, 2023". CARRIED

7.2 Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3894, 2023 for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council remove the purchase of the electric garbage truck and delay implementation of garbage automation for one year by referring Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3894 back to staff to reduce the waste collection fee from \$183 to an amount that supports current operations, and that the revenue generated from waste collection in Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3896 be amended accordingly.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Douglas, Istace, Justice, Toporowski)

DEFEATED

WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt "Fees & Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3894, 2023".

(Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

7.3 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3896, 2023 for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt "Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3896, 2023".

(Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

7.4 Delegation of Authority Amendment Bylaw No. 3895, 2023 for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt "Delegation of Authority Amendment Bylaw No. 3895, 2023".

CARRIED

8 REPORTS

None.

9 NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None.

10 UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS

None.

11 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council defer the motion "THAT Council replace Councillor Findlay with _____ as their representative on the Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society as a non-voting member for the balance of the 2022-2026 Council term" to the next meeting.

CARRIED

Councillor Istace volunteered to attend the March 8, 2023 board meeting in Councillor Findlay's place.

11.2 Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Province requesting that the Province in consultation with the affected stakeholders, amend the 1987 Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan to reflect the current scientific knowledge of the role of estuaries in the ecosystem, land ownership and uses, and climate change; AND to request support from the following organizations:

- Cowichan Tribes;
- Cowichan Valley Regional District;
- City of Duncan; and.
- Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association (CERCA).

(Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

11.3 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Convention

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council amend the Council Conference Attendance Policy by striking out "the Mayor, and one Councillor (randomly selected) is" in subsection 3.1 and inserting "all members of Council are" to enable all members to attend the FCM annual convention.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

11.4 Review Sanctioning of Cycling on Mt. Richards and Related Economic Opportunity

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council refer the matter of sport tourism to the Economic Development Committee and ask that they further investigate the proposal submitted by the Cowichan Trails Stewardship Society to develop Mount Richards for mixed-use outdoor recreation that encompasses cycling, and that the Committee make a recommendation to Council that considers the economic, social, and environmental impacts that cycling may pose to Mount Richards and other user groups.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

12 QUESTION PERIOD

Council received 2 questions from the public attending from Council Chambers regarding agenda items 11.2 and 11.4.

13 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor