

# **Municipality of North Cowichan Regular Council MINUTES**

**September 6, 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  
David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services  
Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator  
Jeff Miller, Senior Manager, Engineering (Utilities)  
Manuela Herzig, Director, Information Technology and Business Solutions  
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  
Teri Vetter, Director, Financial Services

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, Mayor Douglas called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda so that they could be added to the Regular Agenda:

- (1) Item 2.2.5 [Canadian Bavarian + Millwork Lumber Ltd re BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund Program grant application]
- (2) Item 2.2.6 [Michael Indge re After Hours Access to Chemainus Lake]
- (3) Item 2.2.7 [Peter Rusland re Clearing of Forests for vineyards]

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council approve the Consent Agenda, as amended, 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 and public hearing meetings held August 16, 2023.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**2.2 Items for information**

**2.2.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the draft minutes from the August 24, 2023 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**2.2.2 Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness re Regional Recovery Table**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the August 18, 2023 letter from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**2.2.3 AVICC re Phase 3 of the Open Net Pen Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan Engagement Process**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the August 23, 2023 email from the Association of Vancouver Island Coast Communities.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**2.2.4 Peace River Regional District re BC Wildfire Service Fire Fighting Equipment**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive the July 31, 2023 letter from the Regional District of Peace River.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**3. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**

The agenda was amended by adding the following to New Business:

- (1) Consent Agenda Item 2.2.5 [Canadian Bavarian + Millwork Lumber Ltd re BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund Program grant application]
- (2) Consent Agenda Item 2.2.6 [Michael Indge re After Hours Access to Chemainus Lake]
- (3) Consent Agenda Item 2.2.7 [Peter Rusland re Clearing of Forests for vineyards]

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**4. MAYOR'S REPORT**

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

**5. DELEGATIONS**

**5.1 The Cowichan Climate Hub re Indoor Air quality Health Risks**

Jane Kiltrei and Valerie Russell, on behalf of Cowichan Climate Hub and One Cowichan, provided verbal presentations regarding indoor air quality health risks of using natural gas in the built environment and answered questions from Council.

**6. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Council received public input from 5 members of the public participating from Council Chambers regarding agenda item 5.1.

**7. BYLAWS**

**7.1 Towing and Vehicle Impound Bylaw No. 3923 and Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3921 for adoption**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council:

(1) Adopt Towing and Vehicle Impound Bylaw No. 3923, 2023, and,

(2) Adopt Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 3921, 2023.

CARRIED

**7.2 Sewer Services User Fee Amendment Bylaw No. 3926 for first three readings**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council give first, second and third reading to Sewer User Fee Amendment Bylaw No. 3926, 2023.

CARRIED

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 Cowichan Sportsplex Fieldhouse**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council refer the Sportsplex Fieldhouse project to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion and recommendation.

CARRIED

**8.2 Request from CVRD Board to Consider Regional Planning Service**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council, in principle, supports the potential establishment of a regional planning function, provided the function's primary purpose is to develop, implement and administer a regional growth strategy for the Cowichan region. (Opposed: Findlay)

CARRIED

**8.3 Chemainus Festival of Murals Society – Relocation of Existing Mural**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council authorize relocating the "Three Generations sculpture" from 9780 Willow Street to the existing northern structure at Waterwheel Park.

CARRIED

**8.4 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2023**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the following motion:

*"THAT Council approve a \$3,000 grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society to support the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on October 2, 2023."*

Be amended by increasing the amount of the grant in aid to \$3,500. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council approve a \$3,500 grant-in-aid to the M'akola Housing Society to support the 2023 Every Child Matters Walk to be held on October 2, 2023. CARRIED

**8.5 Accessibility Action Plan**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse the Accessibility Action Plan, as attached to the September 6, 2023, report from the General Manager, Corporate Services; and,
- (2) Direct staff to create a page on North Cowichan's Public Engagement site to gather feedback from the public on the Accessibility Action Plan. CARRIED

**9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

None.

**10. UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS**

None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**11.1 Canadian Bavarian + Millwork Lumber Ltd re BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund Program grant application [Consent Agenda Item 2.2.5]**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to provide Georg Woernle, Canadian Bavarian Millwork + Lumber Ltd., a letter of support to include with their grant application under the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund Program. CARRIED

**11.2 Michael Indge re After Hours Access to Chemainus Lake [Consent Agenda Item 2.2.6]**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council authorizes the afterhours use of Chemainus Lake Park for harvesting American bullfrogs for personal consumption and directs staff to work with Michael Indge to execute an access agreement which addresses safety and liability risks prior to harvesting. CARRIED

**11.3 Peter Rusland re Clearing of Forests for vineyards [Consent Agenda Item 2.2.7]**

Council discussed this item.

**12. QUESTION PERIOD**

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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Certified by Corporate Officer

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Signed by Mayor