

Municipality of North Cowichan

Regular Council

MINUTES

October 4, 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
Caroline von Schilling, Development Planner
Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering
David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services
Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator
Kim Ferris, Manager, Bylaw and Business Licensing Services
Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist
Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation
Rob Conway, Director, Planning and Building
Shawn Cator, Director, Operations
Teri Vetter, Director, Financial Services
Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Douglas called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

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

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 special, regular and public hearing meetings held September 26, 2023.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2.1.2 Cowichan Green Community re Request for letter of support for the FoodHub project

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to provide a letter of support to the Cowichan Green Community in support of their grant application to Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program. ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2.2 Items for information

2.2.1 Alistair MacGregor, MP re New Development on Federal Bail Reform Legislation

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council receive for information the September 19, 2023 letter from Alistair MacGregor, MP – Cowichan-Malahat-Langford. 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 Nancy Dower re Noise Bylaw

Nancy Dower provided a presentation regarding intrusive noise in North Cowichan and urged Council to develop a robust Noise Bylaw to protect residents.

6. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council waive the maximum requirement to allow more than 5 members of the public to participate in Public Input. CARRIED

Council received public input from 13 members of the public participating from Council Chambers and 1 member participating virtually, regarding agenda items 5.1, 10.1 and 10.2.

7. BYLAWS

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council suspend the rules to bring item 10.2 Building Amendment Bylaw No. 3932, 2023, forward, to the beginning of the Bylaw section. CARRIED

Council recessed at 6:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:52 p.m.

7.1 Waste Collection and Waterworks Amendment Bylaw No. 3935, 2023 for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt Waste Collection and Waterworks Amendment Bylaw No. 3935, 2023.

(Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

7.2 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3927 for first and second reading

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council:

1. give first and second reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3927, 2023; and
2. authorize a public hearing for Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3927, 2023.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS

8.1 Communications and Leadership North Cowichan Fire Department

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council:

1. Give pre-budget approval for a permanent full-time bylaw admin support position beginning as soon as possible; and
2. Direct staff to review the balance of the recommendations in the "Review of Communications and Leadership within the North Cowichan Fire Department" report as part of the 2024 budget process.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to retain Tim Pley and Associates at a cost of \$60,000 to undertake strategic planning for the Fire Service.

CARRIED

8.2 Safer Corridor Improvement Strategies

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to develop a detox and/or rehab facility proposal in partnership with a non-profit society and submit it to the province as a funding request. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the following motion:

"THAT Council direct staff to strengthen all bylaws that support enforcing safety for the community and prepare an open drug use bylaw that minimizes public exposure to open drug use in parks and adjacent to school properties."

Be amended by adding the words 'while continuing to provide support aimed at saving lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our community who use drugs.' after the word 'properties'.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to strengthen all bylaws that support enforcing safety for the community and prepare an open drug use bylaw that minimizes public exposure to open drug use in parks and adjacent to school properties while continuing to provide support aimed at saving lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our community who use drugs.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to reconstitute the Somenos Marsh Wildlife Committee and investigate ways to partner on more fulsome marsh patrols.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to consult with community health partners to develop a formal request to the province for additional support services in the medical and social services sector to improve outcomes in the drug addiction, mental health, and homelessness issues in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to include funding opportunities for a "Clean Team" in the 2024 budget discussions.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to continue to advocate to the province for funding to help manage the public disorder to support bylaw and/or RCMP resourcing.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council provide staff with pre-budget approval to hire a Social Planner.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

None.

10. UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS

10.1 OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 3914 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3915 and updated community amenity contribution offer

THAT Council:

- (1) give second reading to Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 3914, 2023; and
- (2) give second reading to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3915, 2023; and
- (3) authorize a Public Hearing for Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 3914, 2023 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3915, 2023.

(Opposed: Douglas, Justice, Toporowski)

CARRIED

10.2 Building Amendment Bylaw No. 3932, 2023

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council refer Building Amendment Bylaw No. 3932, 2023 back to staff to amend the bylaw to implement Emission Level 2 to take effect on January 1, 2023 [revert to the same language as when Council considered the bylaw on September 26, 2023].

(Opposed: Douglas, Istace, Justice, Toporowski)

DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council:

(1) give first, second and third readings to Building Amendment Bylaw No. 3932, 2023;
and,

(2) direct staff to communicate with the building industry about pending changes to Building Bylaw No. 3172.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay, Manhas)

CARRIED

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

Council received 1 question from the public regarding agenda items.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor