

Municipality of North Cowichan
Special Council
MINUTES

June 4, 2024, 4:00 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 George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services
 Amanda Young, Director, Planning and Building
 Barb Floden, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement
 Chris Osborne, Manager, Planning
 Christina Hovey, Project Planner
 Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering
 David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services
 Neil Pukesh, Director, Parks and Recreation
 Shawn Cator, Director, Operations
 Terri Brennan, Executive Coordinator, Office of the Mayor and CAO
 Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Mayor Douglas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council received public input from 8 members of the public regarding agenda items 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2.

4. BYLAWS

4.1 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3964, 2024 (Housing Statutes Residential Development Amendment Compliance) for first three readings

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council gives first, second and third readings to Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 3964, 2024. (Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)
CARRIED

5.1 Adoption of the 2024 Master Transportation Plan

Councillor Manhas left the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 6:19 p.m. and reconvened at 6:24 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to remove the bi-directional protected bike lanes on Cowichan Lake Road (from Sherman Road to Cairnsmore Road) project from the Master Transportation Plan, as it duplicates the bi-directional protected bike lanes on Cowichan Lake Road (from Sherman Road to Gibbins Road) project already listed in the Master Transportation Plan. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to list the Canada Avenue from Sherman Road to Beverly Street multi-use pathway as a high priority project in the Master Transportation Plan. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to list the Sherman Road/Lane Road intersection upgrade as a medium priority project in the Master Transportation Plan. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to remove the recommendation for North Cowichan to identify a bypass option from the Master Transportation Plan. (Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay)
CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to add a reference to (quote) the OCP policy direction to "Critically review speed limits and lower where possible, in order to preserve rural character, promote neighbourhood livability, increase walkability/rollability, and improve road safety by reducing crash injury and fatality rates." to section 3.5.3 of the Master Transportation Plan. (Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay)
CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to provide parameters for speed and traffic calming policies (and/or recommend state of the art speed limit and traffic calming policies in other municipalities) that if developed would facilitate the overall vision of the Master Transportation Plan. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council direct staff to add the words 'segments of' before the words 'the E&N Railway...' from the third paragraph in section 5.2 (page 65) of the Master Transportation Plan. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council adopt the May 2024 Master Transportation Plan prepared by Watt Consulting Group, as attached to the June 4, 2024, report from the Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services, to include the seven amendments to the May 2024 Master Transportation Plan passed by Council at the June 4, 2024, Special Council meeting.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay)

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council seek early engagement and consultation with:

(1) First Nations where projects may have a mutual and/or direct benefit, including alignment with Cowichan Tribes' Active Transportation Plan; and

(2) Other government bodies where projects may impact the level of service or physical infrastructure within those jurisdictional boundaries.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council prioritize and implement the recommendations in the Master Transportation Plan that includes five-year forecasting during the annual budget cycle:

(1) Related to bylaws, policies, and budget updates within the existing engineering studies budget; and,

(2) Related to an active transportation budget separate from the regular roads budget used for maintenance and upkeep.

(Opposed: Caljouw, Findlay)

CARRIED

5.2 Proposed Minister Meetings at 2024 UBCM Convention

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the meeting be extended to 8:00 p.m.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council endorse the list of Union of British Columbia Municipalities Ministers meeting topics contained in the June 4, 2024, report from the Chief Administrative Officer.

CARRIED

6. QUESTION PERIOD

Council received 3 questions from the public regarding agenda items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor