

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2013 AT 7:30 PM

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Leonard
 Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Murdock, Sanders, Wade and Wergeland
 Staff: Paul Murray, Chief Administrative Officer; Carrie MacPhee, Director of Legislative Services; Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning; and Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager

Minutes **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: “That Council adopt the minutes of the October 21, 2013 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.”

CARRIED

BYLAWS

1110-30
Tax Exemption
Bylaw

TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW (CHURCH EXEMPTIONS) AMENDMENT
Final Reading of the “Tax Exemption Bylaw (Church Exemptions), 2012, Amendment Bylaw, 2013, No. 9241”. To include the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) at 4054 Carey Road.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: “That Bylaw No. 9241 be adopted by Council and the Seal of the Corporation be attached thereto”.

CARRIED

1110-30
Tax Exemption
Bylaw

TAX EXEMPTION REAL PROPERTY BYLAW AMENDMENT
Final Reading of the “Tax Exemption Real Property Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw, 2013, No. 9242”. Housekeeping amendment to reflect change in ownership of the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific at 505 Quayle Road from the Province to the District of Saanich.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wade: “That Bylaw No. 9242 be adopted by Council and the Seal of the Corporation be attached thereto”.

CARRIED

1110-30
Tax Exemption
Bylaw

TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW (GREATER VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – 101-3521 BLANSHARD STREET)
Final Reading of the “Tax Exemption Bylaw (Greater Victoria Public Library Board – Unit 101-3521 Blanshard Street), 2013, No. 9243”. To provide tax exemption for 2014 to 2023 for Ravine Equities (Nominee) Inc. (leased to the District of Saanich and occupied by the Greater Victoria Public Library Board), Unit 101-3521 Blanshard Street.

MOVED by Councillor Wade and Seconded by Councillor Murdock: “That Bylaw No. 9243 be adopted by Council and the Seal of the Corporation be attached thereto”.

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

1410-01
Council
Procedures

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ACTING MAYOR (NOVEMBER 5-8, 2013)

Appointment of Councillor Wergeland as alternative Acting Mayor for the period November 5 – 8, 2013 as needed in the absence of the Acting and alternative Mayor.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Councillor Wergeland be appointed as alternative Acting Mayor for the period November 5-8, 2013 as needed”.

CARRIED

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Brice, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:54 pm.

In Camera Motion

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That pursuant to Sections 18 (a), 18 (b) and 19 (b) of the Council Procedure Bylaw, 2007, No. 8840, the following meeting be closed to the public as the subject matters being considered relate to positions appointed by the District, an identifiable individual or body being considered for an award or honour, and information relating to negotiations between the District and other government body”.

CARRIED

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Murdock, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK

- Replacement of the spillway will increase the water into Colquitz Creek to improve fish values and management options of winter flow of water.

In response to a question from Council, L. Hutcheson stated that the spillway will remain in the same location and will be upgraded with new equipment.

M. Rachwalski, Acting General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, presented information on Housing, and stated:

- In 2014, staff are recommending that the Capital Regional Hospital District Non-Traditional Projects Fund be made available to fund supportive housing.
- The CRD is the largest core funder towards the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness; other efforts to stimulate housing opportunities by the CRD include Regional Housing Affordability Strategy, the housing elements of the current regional Sustainability Strategy, advocacy with other levels of government for continuing and increasing their contribution towards affordable housing, partnerships with First Nations and serving as the community entity for the Federal Homelessness Partnership Strategy.

In response to a question from Council, M. Rachwalski stated that the CRD is aware of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) campaign calling for the Federal Government to take action against housing issues.

M. Rachwalski, Acting General Manager, Planning and Protective Services, presented information on the Deer Management Strategy, and stated:

- The Deer Management Strategy looks at three key areas; the first relates to conflict resolution involving fence subsidies, public education on deer resistant plants, model bylaws for residential fence heights, and anti-deer feeding bylaws.
- The second strategy relates to population reduction; there are two pilot projects currently being undertaken.
- A rural pilot project is taking place in Central Saanich and the urban pilot project is taking place in Oak Bay.
- The third strategy involves deer collision mitigation and emphasizes improved signage in higher risk contact areas.
- Advocacy also includes provincial funding for fence subsidies and enabling hunting regulations.

T. Robbins, General Manager, Integrated Water Services, introduced himself and stated:

- The Integrated Water Department oversees regional water supply, regional wastewater system and Saanich Peninsula Water and Wastewater Services; revenue is generated through the sale of water.
- Cost-sharing figures for 2014 will be included in the budget package.

In response to a question from Council, T. Robbins stated a draft report is being prepared to discuss disaster preparedness, with earthquake and wildfire recovery needs being a focus.

PUBLIC INPUT:

V. Boswell, Saanich, stated:

- The resident is in opposition to any lethal measures to remove deer; development has made deer more visible.
- Farmers are cohabitating successfully with deer by using fencing and by leaving green space for them.

- Initiating a cull will divide the community; there are non-lethal solutions for deer management.

N. Spogliarich, Pheasantwood Terrace, stated:

- The four main concerns regarding deer are: overpopulation, deer collision statistics, number of complaints and crop damage.
- Each consideration can be disputed as there is no clear statistical data available; the BCSPCA strongly opposes a deer cull.
- Some residents have lost their tolerance to cohabitate with wildlife.

T. Rose, Saanich, stated:

- The resident believes that deer are not a major concern in Saanich; non-lethal methods of reducing the deer conflict should be considered including education, signs and fencing.
- This is not the time to change bylaws to suit hunters; residents are looking at the CRD to present the facts.
- The deer population has decreased by 25% over the past thirty years; there is no evidence that deer are dangerous.
- There is no humane way to cull the deer.

Resident, Stockton Crescent, stated:

- Deer are constantly in this resident's garden; that is not an issue for the resident.
- Deer being hit by vehicles is a concern; there is no system to address injured deer.
- More deer crossing signs and reduced speed limits in deer crossing areas are needed; the resident wonders if SpayVac can be considered as a humane solution.
- Culling has not worked in other areas; culling is a temporary measure and has no long term effects on deer population.

G. Radforth, Cordova Bay Road, stated:

- No one is in favour of a cull; there is a concern with speeding vehicles on Cordova Bay Road.
- Currently there are no signs on Cordova Bay Road warning drivers to be cautious of deer crossing.
- The resident is opposed to lethal methods of controlling deer; non-lethal methods should be considered.

H. Graham, Saanich, stated:

- The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) report is unscientific and lacks data; the resident supports the re-establishment of provincial fencing subsidies, more and better signage on roads and lowering speed limits to lower the number of wildlife and vehicle collisions.
- Consideration should also be given to establishing more wildlife corridors and protecting green space; public education should teach residents how to co-exist with deer.
- Deer are not a danger unless they are threatened by aggressive humans or dogs; illegal hunting of deer is a serious concern.
- Studies show that culling does not work; non-lethal approaches should be considered.

L. Morton, Saanich, stated:

- The deer population is increasing; as the deer population multiplies, the cost of resolving the issue will be greater.
- Deer are damaging trees; deer can destroy crops, native woodlands and bird habitats.
- Harvesting deer for meat can be done in a humane and controlled manner.

E. Roslie, Thornhill Crescent, stated:

- Deer have not multiplied in this resident's neighbourhood; it is a blessing to have wildlife sharing our space.
- Nature kindergarten allows children to enjoy the value of nature and wildlife; humans need to learn to be tolerant of wildlife.

D. Poje, Bracken Avenue, stated:

- The resident is concerned that the Deer Management Strategy was forwarded to the CRD and driven by pressures from residents outside Saanich; deer are a regional issue but the resident had hoped that a process within Saanich would have taken place before being forwarded to the CRD.
- The process within Saanich could have included all residents participating in developing a made-for-Saanich decision; there is no rush to come to a decision on how to deal with the deer.
- Because there was no process within Saanich, the outcome may not reflect the wishes of residents; all residents are encouraged to participate in discussions.

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Brownoff, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Reconvene **MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland:
"That Council reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting to allow
further public input".**

CARRIED

M. Cumming, Sunny Lane, stated:

- Deer are creating their own wildlife corridors; there are challenges in living with deer.
- The resident has used deer-proof enclosures for gardens and deer resistance plants.
- SpayVac is a practical alternative to a cull; keeping peace in the community is important.

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Brownoff, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate

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MUNICIPAL CLERK