

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
 HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 2 AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015 AT 6:00 PM

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Atwell
Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Haynes, Murdock, Plant, Sanders and Wergeland
Staff: Andy Laidlaw, Chief Administrative Officer (7:00 pm); Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning (7:00 pm); Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering (7:00 pm); Carrie MacPhee, Director of Legislative Services; Valla Tinney, Director of Finance (7:00 pm); Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; Jo MacDonald, Manager of Human Resources; Mark Boyson, Sustainability Coordinator (7:00 pm); and Penny Masse, Senior Committee Clerk (7:00 pm)

Mayor Atwell called the regular open Council meeting to order at 6:00 pm in Committee Room No. 2

In Camera Motion **MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff: “That pursuant to Sections 90 (1) (a), (c), (i), (l), (m) and (n) of the *Community Charter* the following meeting be closed to the public as the subject matters being considered relate to:**

- **Personal information about an identifiable individual who holds a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality;**
- **Labour relations or other employee relations;**
- **Receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;**
- **Discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 of the *Community Charter*;**
- **A matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting; and**
- **Consideration of whether a council meeting (portion of) should be closed under a provision of section 90 of the *Community Charter*.”**

CARRIED

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Brice, the meeting adjourned to In Camera at 6:01 pm.

The regular open Council meeting reconvened in Council Chambers at 7:00 pm.

 The Manager of Human Resources left the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: "That Council adopt the minutes of the August 11, 2015 Special Council meeting and the August 17, 2015 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings."

CARRIED

Public Input on
Council Agenda
Items**PUBLIC INPUT ON COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS**

5170-20

Green Municipal
Fund

L. Layne, San Lorenzo Avenue, stated:

Resolution for FCM Green Municipal Fund Application

- He would like clarification on how the Green Municipal Fund is subsidized.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- The Green Municipal Fund is provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), which is supported by the Federal government and other contributors.

Councillor Derman stated:

- The Federal government provided the FCM with a starting capital of \$500 million to fund approved grants. The FCM are able to award grants to municipalities dependent upon how much the fund has grown.

1410-04

Mayor of Saanich
Facebook Page

K. Harper, Bonair Place, stated:

Disparaging Remarks on the Mayor of Saanich Facebook Page

- The Mayor having a Facebook page is indicative of the open and transparent access the public has asked for. To be privy to statements and opinions from the public regarding Council business should be looked at as a positive. Public debate should not be muzzled, uncomfortable feedback is an opportunity to improve.

5280-20

Public
Consultation

B. Furber, Arbutus Road, stated:

Public Consultation on the Financial Plan

- A community development professional should be hired to ensure the Public Participation Policy is operational.

5280-20

Public
Consultation

H. Charania, Genevieve Road, stated:

Public Consultation on the Financial Plan

- Meaningful public participation requires education about municipal finances and the promotion of public engagement.
- Financial discipline can be achieved through progressive staffing solutions.
- The policy, as recommended by Councillor Brice, could be amended require environmental analysis before development or public sale is considered for municipally-owned lands.

1030-30

Public Process
Policy Regarding
Municipal Lands

K. Whitworth, Viewmont Avenue, stated:

Disparaging Remarks on the Mayor of Saanich Facebook Page

- Misinformation can be easily corrected or verified by contacting the appropriate staff. Council should support staff and the policies of Saanich.

1410-04

Mayor of Saanich
Facebook Page

1410-04
Mayor of Saanich
Facebook Page

D. Morris, Fairmont Place, stated:

Disparaging Remarks on the Mayor of Saanich Facebook Page

- Regrets using the wrong forum to voice his concerns; he recognizes he should have contacted the Planning Department to correct the misinformation.
- The approval process for new businesses in Saanich is too onerous.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION:

5280-20
Public
Consultation
Policy

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FINANCIAL PLAN

Report of the Director of Finance dated August 14, 2015 recommending Council provide direction to staff for amendments to the “Financial Plan – Public Consultation Process Policy” by confirming that participation on the Financial Plan will be on a “consult” level as defined in the Public Participation Policy; and direct staff to develop a new Council Policy for consultation on the Financial Plan based on Option 2(b), short term improvements incorporating consultation to develop new budget participation process.

**MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland:
“That Council:**

- 1. Confirm that participation on the Financial Plan will be on a ‘consult’ level as defined in the Public Participation Policy; and**
- 2. Direct staff to develop a new Council Policy for consultation on the financial plan based on short term improvements incorporating consultation to develop new budget participation processes.”**

Councillor Derman stated:

- He brought the issue before Council due to perceived concerns that the public is consulted too late in the financial plan process. Opportunities for public input need to be created earlier in the process and information needs to be given to all interested parties so they can participate in a meaningful way.
- Members of the public should have an opportunity to fully understand the cost of municipal services in order to provide relevant input.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- A comprehensive financial plan document entitled “Budget 101” can be accessed on the Saanich website and is an excellent educational tool.
- A participatory budget process has been attempted in the past with little public interest or attendance. The budget process is a difficult one to understand; more educational opportunities for the public and new Council members should be made available.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- More public input is needed in order to make the most logical and practical budget decisions.
- Staff are to be commended on the work put into this process to date.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- He is looking forward to identifying the mechanisms the community would like to see implemented to improve input to Council.

Councillor Plant stated:

- Educational opportunities for improved understanding of the budget process are vital for successful public input. Council must be committed to meeting with the public in a timely manner to gain a better understanding of future needs.
- He hopes to move toward a four year, consultation cycle aligned with elections and strategic planning.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- Budget information sessions have not been well attended in the past.
- Understanding the budget process is imperative for effective input from both Council and the public.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- Council needs to hear from a cross-section of the community and should reach out to those members of the public who do not usually attend Council meetings or provide input.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- More public consultation is required; feedback on the process and how it can be improved is imperative.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

5170-20
Green Municipal
Fund

**RESOLUTION FOR FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM)
GREEN MUNICIPAL APPLICATION**

Report of the Director of Planning dated August 19, 2015 recommending that Council endorse the application for a loan and grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund to support the replacement of boilers and other heating system upgrades at the Gordon Head Recreation centre; and that pending loan approval from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund, Council direct staff to make an amendment to the Financial Plan bylaw.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: "That Council endorse the application for a loan and grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund; and that pending loan approval from the FCM Green Municipal Fund, Council direct staff to make an amendment to the Financial Plan bylaw."

Councillor Derman stated:

- All associated costs for the project will be recovered by the end-of-life date of the proposed boiler and heating systems.
- The benefits of mitigating greenhouse gases cannot be stressed enough, this project is the equivalent of taking 80-90 cars off the road. It is likely that Saanich will be moving to a non-centralized grid in the future where we would provide our own renewable energy.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- As our community evolves we will need to look at various options for lowering taxes by generating revenues through utility schemes.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1030-30

Policy for Public
Consultation on
Disposal of
Municipal Lands

POLICY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DISPOSAL OF MUNICIPAL LANDS

Report from Councillor Brice dated August 17, 2015 recommending Council adopt a policy statement further to the matter of public process concerning lands held by Saanich.

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Haynes: "That Council adopt the following policy: 'Where Saanich owns or acquires land and wishes to dispose of all or a portion of it through a division of the lands, the Municipality will undertake a public notification and consultation process'."

Councillor Brice stated:

- This policy has general applicability throughout the municipality; however, it was raised in regard to a property on Pearce Crescent during the expansion of Mt. Douglas Park.
- Staff currently put into practice the recommendations of this policy; however, a formal policy is prudent in order to dispel any uncertainty regarding notification and consultation when subdivision or sale occurs on municipal lands.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

1410-04

Mayor of Saanich
Facebook Page

DISPARAGING REMARKS ON THE MAYOR OF SAANICH FACEBOOK PAGE

Report from Councillor Haynes dated August 20, 2015 further to the issue of disparaging remarks on the Mayor's Facebook page.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- A respectful workplace policy is in place and should be applied to social media. It is not appropriate to leave incorrect and disparaging statements unmonitored on any social media accounts associated with the Mayor and/or Council of Saanich.
- The right of free speech is to be respected and upheld; however, disparaging comments left unmonitored on the social media accounts of Mayor and Council does not present an appropriate image of the Council or staff of Saanich.

Councillor Derman stated:

- Social media accounts directly associated with the Mayor or Council have public credibility and should be closely managed to ensure comments are respectful and accurate.

Councillor Plant stated:

- A policy regarding this issue would be difficult to draft as the concept of what is accurate or respectful can be subjective; however, any social media accounts associated with the Mayor and Council should not retain any comments that are defamatory or derogatory to staff.
- A social media Council policy will be coming forward in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- As elected officials we can not let untruths go unchallenged; we must rely on the facts and share this information with each other.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- She thanked Councillor Haynes for correcting the misinformation that was posted to the Mayor's Facebook page.
- It is important that Mayor and Council social media accounts are carefully and thoroughly monitored.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- It is important to monitor social media accounts that are associated with the role of Mayor and Council to ensure posted comments reflect the values of the municipality and are respectful of each other and staff.

Councillor Brice stated:

- There is a level of expectation for Mayor and Council; we have to rise above the negativity that can occur in social media. We have a responsibility to ensure the position of the Mayor of Saanich remains a highly revered office.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- His social media accounts are monitored closely to ensure no abusive or disrespectful comments are posted.
- It is of the utmost importance for an elected official using social media or any other forum to uphold the integrity of the title as it represents the corporation as a whole.

Mayor Atwell stated:

- No comments on his Facebook page were selectively censored. He monitors his social media accounts, most of which are used to communicate with residents and to inform on events and activities associated with the office of Mayor.
- Councillor Haynes corrected the posted misinformation; in his view the issue had been addressed.
- This has been a learning opportunity; we need to be open to feedback and provide mechanisms for the public to express themselves. The ability to ascertain the status of development or business proposals should be available on the Saanich website.
- He appreciates Councillor Haynes bringing the issue forward and pledges to represent the municipality to the best of his ability.

Councillor Haynes stated:

- There are other opportunities for the public to provide input to Mayor and Council outside of social media circles.

On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK