



Town of Sidney
2016 Organizational Meeting of Council
Monday, December 5th, 2016 – 7:00 pm
Mayor's Address

Good evening everyone and welcome to Council's Annual Organizational Meeting for 2016.

On behalf of Sidney Council, I would like to begin by thanking the Town's long service award recipients; Bruce DeMaere, Chris Garthwaite, Graeme Hembruff, Andrew Hicik, Will Maxwell, Ellen Paul, Jay Salvador, Jon Salvador, Jeff Snarr, Brad Thomas, and Craig Warburton. Your years of hard work and dedication to the Town of Sidney are sincerely appreciated. I know I speak for all of Council when I say, we could not do our job without each and every one of you.

Throughout my years on Sidney Council, I have continuously been impressed with the high standard and professionalism of the Town's employees. Our community is truly fortunate to have, what many consider, the best team in the CRD.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank the many volunteers who give so freely of their time and expertise to sit on Town committees. Your willingness to participate in your local government is invaluable to us and to the community. The task of managing a local government is not an easy one and we appreciate the commitment and support of every committee member.

2016 has been exceptionally busy for Council and Town staff. During the past year, we have been faced with some of the toughest decisions I have seen in decades, but Council has always remained focused and optimistic. I feel strongly that as a Council, our decision making process has consistently been guided by the knowledge that we are doing what is best for the community overall. I want to commend my fellow Council members for their determination and foresight in making many difficult decisions during this past year. I am confident when I say that, we have worked hard to keep Sidney the best seaside town in Canada and it has been my pleasure to work with all of you throughout this time.

Our strategic plan which was developed at the beginning of our term continues to dictate the day to day work of the Town with a focus on the three overarching goals of: (1) Establishing A resilient economy; (2) Establishing A balanced demographic; and (3) Establishing a quality, living environment.

Looking around Sidney, and seeing the positive changes that are occurring, I feel confident that these goals are being realized. Several key projects have been achieved during the past year which include initiatives such as the Downtown Waterfront Visioning project which was

undertaken by the consulting firm, Barefoot Planning. The visioning process included significant community engagement from July through to November with a final report and presentation to Council expected early in the New Year. Following that, Council will decide on options presented, prioritize improvements and creating a work plan.

This project was a perfect example of how a strategic plan can change or naturally evolve during the course of implementation. What started off as a priority to determine the future of Beacon Wharf, became a full visioning process for Sidney’s waterfront to allow for a broader, inclusive, long-term view.

This partly stemmed from the new owner of the Port Sidney Marina who is seeking to make alterations to the breakwaters to improve protection and safety and to increase availability of temporary moorage and allow for the future possibility of a passenger only ferry. The Town is working with the owner to support a longer sublease and subsequently a longer lease with the Province. In order to make changes to the breakwaters, they must first be divested from the Federal Government; a process that we will be working towards in 2017.

Sidney saw a high level of development throughout 2016; a sign of a strong economy. The most high profile being the Gateway development on Victoria Airport lands at the intersection of Beacon Avenue and the Pat Bay Highway. Applications for OCP and Zoning amendments were received in May and on September 12, Council approved the amendments. Staff are currently working with MOTI and the developer, Omicron regarding traffic mitigation measures and we expect the VAA will be submitting a development permit shortly with construction possibly commencing in spring of 2017.

The Town saw at least 5 other major development proposals for residential mixed use buildings and a total of 47 new permits. The total building permit value of \$43.8 million was nearly double from the previous year of \$22.5 million.

Our downtown employee parking lot is closer to fruition as the Town negotiated an employee/public parking area on a portion of MPS lands as part of the required access easement for the new Community Safety Building. The Town’s Engineering Department is currently developing detailed design plans to be brought forward for funding consideration with the upcoming financial plan. If approved, construction of the first phase of the parking lot could commence in 2017. This will provide much needed parking for employees working in downtown Sidney, freeing up space for customers while also providing overflow parking for the Winspear Centre.

Attainable workforce housing is something that has been on the minds of many organizations and individuals for some time now. I am happy to report the construction of a 56 unit affordable rental housing development has begun on Fourth Street with an anticipated completion date of early 2018.

Sidney’s new skateboard park has also begun construction with the pre-load placed in August. We expect the park to be complete in May or June of 2017 and intend to have a grand opening as part of the Canada 150 celebrations taking place next year.

The skatepark, the affordable housing project and the Canada 150 plan are several initiatives focused on marketing and promoting Sidney for families and youth. This Council feels it’s important to diversify our demographic to ensure the long-term sustainability of this great community we all live in and to provide opportunity for those that choose to live here.

Furthering this strategic direction is the development of a West Side Local Area Plan which began in August under the coordination of Barefoot Planning. This area of our community is integral to the overall economy of Sidney with its unique combination of residential and industrial. The project process has included significant public consultation and the final project recommendations will be presented to Council early in the New Year with implementation to begin shortly after.

The construction of a new fire hall in the form of an integrated, seismically built, Community Safety Building has been one of the biggest projects we have undertaken this year and in years past. Early in 2016 we secured a site for the CSB on lands south of the Mary Winspear Centre and in October, Council approved a borrowing bylaw. The architectural work for the building is well underway and the Town has approved the rezoning to permit emergency services use. The VAA has submitted applications for federal rezoning which we are optimistic will be approved, and Navigations Canada has provided approval. As well VAA’s development permit approval process is underway. Council has approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Memorial Park Society for access easement through their lands and a MoU with BC Ambulance has been drafted. Construction for the new CSB will commence as soon as federal approval has been received.

This summer, downtown Sidney was the focus of community consultation undertaken by the team from D’Ambrosio Architecture to develop downtown public realm design standards. The purpose of the project is to establish consistent design standards for Sidney’s downtown streets that can be implemented as redevelopment, capital planning and other opportunities occur. Council is expecting a final report at the end of 2016 or early in 2017 after which the second phase of the project will take place. This will include establishing a formal policy regarding streetscape standards and their implementation.

The Town of Sidney has also taken an active role in the remediation of Reay Creek Pond. In June 2016, members of Council and Town staff attended a successful rally conducted by residents of Reay Creek. Since then, transport Canada has classified the site as a “Class 1” contaminated site. This is a major milestone that places the project in the queue for federal remediation funding. Remediation options and a plan will be developed in 2017.

Several other significant projects that came to the forefront this past year include the completion and implementation of a downtown mixed use and multifamily density review. The purpose of the project was to review Sidney’s outdated density regulations and if warranted, develop a new

system of calculation that encourages redevelopment within the downtown core and multifamily residential areas. As a result, staff are in the process of drafting the recommended amendments to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan which will come before Council very soon.

And just last Friday, the Town was able to move forward with providing a loan to the Saanich Peninsula Health Care Society which will enable them to move forward with phase II of renovations to the Society’s first primary health care centre at the Peninsula Medical Centre on Bevan and Fifth. This facility is vital to working towards the goal of ensuring that all residents of Sidney and the Saanich Peninsula have a family physician and access to quality health care services.

2016 also saw:

- The establishment of a new Economic Development Commission who will be reporting out to Council on their progress early in the New Year.
- We undertook a series of community consultation initiatives regarding our library services and its location which resulted in the Town supporting the Vancouver Island Regional Library moving forward with maintenance updates and improvements to the current facility and a 10-year renewal of the facilities lease.
- The Town put out a request for proposals for Visitor and Tourism Information Services with the Sidney Business Improvement Area Society being the successful applicant. The BIA will begin their contract January 1st of 2017.
- The Town has been working with the BIA on preparing for renewal of the BIA Bylaw.

Moving forward, our priorities in 2017 will build on or complete the initiatives and projects I have detailed. We also have several new initiatives we will be working on. These include:

- Development of a Parks Master Plan resulting in a long term blueprint for future park improvements through community engagement.
- And the Port Sidney marina Lease extension and breakwater divestiture.

Next year, Canada will celebrate our 150th Anniversary and Sidney will celebrate its 50th Anniversary of reincorporation from a village to a town. Town staff, along with the Sidney Events Advisory Group and our Anniversary Coordinator, Kenny Podmore, have been working diligently since 2015 to bring together a program of celebration, innovation and community collaboration that will make us proud. The fun begins on New Year’s Day at the Mary Winspear Centre with a Sidney 50th Tea Party. This is a family event where there will be activities for the kids, historical displays, a magic show and live music by the popular O’Brien Family. Tickets for the event are only \$5 for adults and \$2 for children and they can be purchased through the Winspear Box Office. I encourage all Sidney residents to join us in celebrating our community and kicking off the celebration year.

The Canada 150 program includes a series of new, exciting events and initiatives along with many opportunities for people to get involved. I encourage you to check out the details on the Town’s website under “Sidney Celebrates”.

In closing, I would like to recognize that, as a Council, we are seeing our goals and objectives being fulfilled in a fluid manner. This is due in part to the direction laid out in our strategic plan, and our exemplary town staff. As well, we have responded quickly to both new opportunities and challenges and this has ensured that our community will continue to grow and remain vibrant and prosperous.

On behalf of Sidney Council, I would like to wish everyone all the best of the Holiday Season. We invite you to join us after the meeting for a few refreshments to celebrate our community and this festive time of year.

Mayor Steve Price

Sidney Celebrates 2017!



www.sidneycelebrates.sidney.ca