



TOWN OF SIDNEY

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2020

Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith
Councillors: S. Garnett and C. Rintoul
Councillors: S. Duncan, B. Fallot, T. O’Keeffe and P. Wainwright (*via electronically*)

Staff: R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services
J. Clary, Director of Engineering
B. Mikkelsen, Fire Chief
A. Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning (*via electronically*)
S. Nelson, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor respectfully acknowledged that this evening’s meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ people.

The Mayor expressed condolences to the communities and families in Nova Scotia after the loss of 22 citizens and to the RCMP for the loss of one of their constables in the line of duty.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2020.17.212 Moved by Councillor C. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

1. move item 3a to after item 4a;
2. item 13b - 8 additional public submissions; and
3. items 16.3 and 16.5 - move to under item 14; and
4. item 17 - submission of Notice of Motion from Councillor P. Wainwright.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. A. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD (*maximum 20 minutes*)

Public Submission(s) read aloud:

1. **J. Blair, 2312 Henry Avenue** (email dated April 26, 2020) - expressed support for the setup of washroom and rest facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and suggested that the Town consider eliminating parking on through streets to facilitate walking (including for those using wheelchairs, scooters, etc.) in order to maintain physical distancing orders.
2. **E. Diller, 10464 Resthaven Drive** (email dated April 26, 2020) - expressed concerns regarding public safety during the pandemic, and suggested that some residential streets be closed to through traffic and that lower speed limits (20km/h) be put in place, specifically - 1. Melville neighborhood; 2. Lochside neighborhood, 3. Roberts Bay south; and 4. Greenglade neighborhood.
3. **D. Timothy, 10245 Forsythia Place** (email dated April 26, 2020) - noted the increased use of public sidewalks and streets during the pandemic, and suggested that the Town consider a pilot project to assess the interest for multi-use streets in residential neighborhoods.

4. **S. Duck, Second Street** (email dated April 27, 2020) - referring to item 13a, suggested that the Town contact Peninsula businesses directly to see what they need specifically to manage recovery from the pandemic, instead of collecting data through surveys.

3. A. SPECIAL UPDATE - Town COVID-19

The EOC Director/Fire Chief Brett Mikkelsen advised of the following key areas of focus while remaining activated at Level 2:

1. Operations Section - continue supporting the rest stop area for commercial trucks; providing shower facilities and conducting wellness checks for the homeless; providing physical distancing education; assisting with enforcement of the Town's Parks Bylaw, and supporting extended care facilities.
2. Planning Section – developing a recovery plan for the community.
3. Information Section – handling incoming calls, emails, etc. and monitoring and update social media platforms 7 days/week.

Chief Mikkelsen advised that a decision has been made to close the Tulista Boat Ramp to recreational boaters this Friday, except for commercial operators. He thanked residents and businesses owners for adapting to the required restrictions, and noted decisions to impose restrictions or cancel events are not arrived at easily and are done so with safety being top priority.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

C. PRESENTATIONS

i. Town's EOC - COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Planning

(see Staff Report - item 13a)

Alison Verhagen, EOC Director of Recovery Planning/Senior Manager of Current Planning, advised the EOC is shifting its focus to recovery planning, the goals of which are to: 1. reduce human suffering; 2. protect community culture; 3. reduce economic loss; and 4. enhance a sustainable community. She advised that the EOC has identified collecting data from Sidney's businesses, residents and community resources network as their primary task in order to obtain a good understanding of Sidney's local needs, which will then assist in developing a set of objectives and subsequently actionable tasks for the recovery plan. Ms. Verhagen noted the Town has retained a consultant to assist with organization and delivery of the plan, and that the EOC is expected to remain activated through the summer to coordinate recovery actions and to monitor how the pandemic evolves.

ii. Policing Report for 1st Quarter of 2020

S/Sgt. Wayne Conley, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, advised of the internal changes in procedures at the Detachment relating to COVID-19 pandemic (eg. development of a specific business continuity plan, functioning with 60% resources, acquisition of PPE, new investigation procedures, etc.).

With respect to this year's first quarter report, he advised increase in mental health calls (by 80%); increase in assaults; increase in theft and shoplifting; calls for disturbance have doubled; increase in traffic accidents; and a significant drop in theft from vehicles. He noted that Sidney had the lowest percentage of criminal code offences compared to other similar sized communities.

S/Sgt. Conely noted that during March to today there has been increased contact with different individuals with no fixed address (53% coming from Greater Victoria area) noting the increase may be due to free transit, more greenspace, lucrative for panhandling, etc. He also noted their increased presence in local parks to enforce the Town's Parks Bylaw.

5. A. BYLAWS

B. DEVELOPMENT PERMITS & DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMITS

- i. Development Variance Permit Application No. DV100295 (10216 Robinia Place)**
(To reduce rear setback for protected tree in order to construct 2-storey, 2-family dwelling).
(No public submissions were received).

2020.17.213 Moved by Councillor C. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that Development Variance Permit Application No. DV100295 (10216 Robinia Place - to reduce rear setback for protected tree in order to construct 2-storey, 2-family dwelling) be approved.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Council Meeting - April 14, 2020**
b. Special Council Meeting - April 20, 2020

2020.17.214 Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Councillor C. Rintoul, that Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 14, 2020 and the Special Council Meeting of April 20, 2020, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. BUSINESS NOT COMPLETED AT A PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES *(for information only)*

9. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor advised that the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) announced a taskforce for economic recovery in the region (which includes key business leaders, community organizations, elected officials, etc.) and that he will be representing the Peninsula. He advised a meeting would be set up with representatives from the Chamber, SBIA, the Town's Economic Advisory Committee and the Town's Emergency Operations Centre to gather input on economic recovery and take input back to the taskforce.

The Mayor noted the tremendous job of citizens during the pandemic and urged them to continue to be cautious, even while other communities may be looking at relaxing measures, and to continue take direction from our Provincial Health Officer.

11. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- a. Councillor B. Fallot** - 1. Town's Utility Box Beautification Project along Beacon Avenue - congratulated the 4 local First Nation artists and the sponsors for making this project happen; and 2. VIRL Board Meeting - advised all library branches have been closed since March 16, however they have been able to provide additional online resources to the community and even seen an increase in library registrations.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Town's EOC - COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Planning**

2020.17.215 Moved by Councillor P. Wainwright, seconded by Councillor T. O'Keeffe, that the staff report, dated April 22, 2020, providing an overview of the proposed approach for COVID-19 recovery planning coordinated by the Town's Emergency Operations Centre, be received for information:

OPPOSED: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith & Councillor C. Rintoul
MOTION CARRIED 5:2

b. Confirmation of Budget and Tax Reductions

Public Submission(s):

1. Email from P. Larkin, dated April 17, 2020.
2. Email from R. Talbot, dated April 23, 2020.
3. Email from L. Comber, dated April 24, 2020.
4. Email from T. & K. Johnston, dated April 24, 2020.
5. Email from R. & L. Dennis, dated April 24, 2020.
6. Email from H. Horie, dated April 24, 2020.
7. Email from M. Marchenski, dated April 24, 2020.
8. Email from J. Treleaven, dated April 24, 2020.
9. Email from G. & H. Butler, dated April 25, 2020.

2020.17.216 Moved by Councillor C. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the Town's property tax reduction measures be confirmed as follows:

That the 2020-2024 Financial Plan be amended to reflect a 0% general tax increase for Residential properties and a 10% general tax decrease for Commercial and Light Industrial properties, with the offsetting funding to come from Accumulated Surplus.

**OPPOSED: Councillor P. Wainwright
MOTION CARRIED 6:1**

c. Motor Vehicle Act Speed Reduction Pilot Project

2020.17.217 Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Councillor C. Rintoul, that staff be directed to work with the District of Saanich to pursue approval for a speed reduction pilot project through the Motor Vehicle Act and report back to Council before implementation.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Monthly Building Permit Report - March 2020

2020.17.218 Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Councillor C. Rintoul, that the Monthly Building Permit report for March 2020 be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor B. Fallot suggested the email correspondence (items 16.3 and 16.5), regarding closing a portion of Beacon Avenue to traffic, be brought forward for discussion.

Council discussed the potential of taking this opportunity during the pandemic to review the movement of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles in our community and to potential advance the development of an Active Transportation Plan.

The Mayor noted that the issue of traffic on Beacon Avenue has been brought forward previously, and that it is important, at this time, to look at how we can maintain social distancing once businesses start to re-open, and that is what the Town's EOC is already looking into.

2020.17.219 Moved by Councillor C. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the email from R. Belson, regarding one-way traffic on Beacon Avenue, dated April 8, 2020 (reply dated April 9, 2020) and the email from S. Brink, suggesting the Town close to traffic a portion of Beacon Avenue, dated April 15, 2020 (reply dated April 16, 2020), be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- 2020.17.220 Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Councillor C. Rintoul, that the following correspondence be received for information:
1. Email from K. Baker, requesting enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown, dated March 21, 2020. Reply dated April 14, 2020.
 2. Email from AVICC, regarding COVID-19 protocols for Fisheries interaction with Coastal Communities, dated April 8, 2020.
 3. *(Already dealt with - see item 14).*
 4. Email from J. Rosene, expressing concerns regarding proposed Development Variance application for 9805 Seaport Place, dated April 14, 2020. Reply dated April 15, 2020.
 5. *(Already dealt with - see item 14).*
 6. Letter from City of Vernon, regarding the Federal income replacement program, dated April 9, 2020.
 7. Letter from District of Metchosin, requesting the Province to reconsider restrictions on call type for First Responders, dated April 14, 2020.
 8. Email from Shaw Communications, regarding their community initiatives during COVID-19, dated April 14, 2020.
 9. Email from Vancouver Island Construction Association, regarding COVID-19 and construction, dated April 20, 2020.
 10. Letter from City of Langford, regarding no travel zones and park use, dated April 17, 2020.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

a. Short Term Rentals

Councillor P. Wainwright gave notice of the following motion to be considered at the next regular Council Meeting:

Whereas the recovery of the tourism sector of our local economy is be expected to be slower than most other sectors of our economy; and

Short term rentals (STRs) such as Airbnb pose significant competition for hotels and commercial lodging operators in Sidney and STRs do not pay commercial property taxes, have significantly less capital investment in our community, provide less employment opportunities, and are not subject to the same rules and responsibilities; and

The additional competition from STRs may slow the recovery of our hotels and commercial lodging operators; and

Therefore, be it resolved that staff bring forward an amendment to Sidney's Zoning Bylaw for consideration by Council no later than August 31, 2020, to prohibit all short-term rentals anywhere in Sidney.

18. MOTION TO GO "IN-CAMERA" (CLOSED MEETING) - not required

19. ADJOURNMENT

- 2020.17.221 Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Councillor C. Rintoul, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY