

DISTRICT OF UCLUELET
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE UCLUELET COMMUNITY CENTRE, 500 MATTERSON DRIVE
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Present: **Chair:** Mayor McEwen
 Council: Councillors Anderson, Hoar, Kennington, and Maffei
 Staff: Duane Lawrence, Chief Administrative Officer
 Bruce Greig, Director of Community Planning
 James MacIntosh, Director of Engineering Services
 Rick Geddes, Fire Chief
 Joseph Rotenberg, Manager of Corporate Services
 Monica Whitney-Brown, Planning Assistant

Regrets:

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Council meeting as called to order at 4:00 PM.

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE YUULU?IL?ATH

Council acknowledged the Yuulu?il?ath, on whose traditional territories the District of Ucluelet operates.

1.2 NOTICE OF VIDEO RECORDING

Audience members and delegates were advised that the proceeding was being video recorded and broadcast on YouTube and Zoom, which may store data on foreign servers.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3.1 September 26, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Agenda

2023.2245.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council temporarily suspend section 18.3 of the Council Procedure Bylaw which limits the number of delegations at a Council meeting to allow a third delegation at this meeting.*

CARRIED.

2023.2246.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council amend the agenda by reordering the agenda so information item 10.1 "Fire and Emergency Service 2023 Q1-Q2" is dealt with as report item 7.2.*

CARRIED.

2023.2247.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council approve the September 26, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Agenda as amended.*

CARRIED.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 **September 5, 2023, Regular Minutes**

2023.2248.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council adopt the September 5, 2023, Regular Minutes as presented.*

CARRIED.

5. **PUBLIC INPUT & DELEGATIONS**

5.1 Delegations

Sgt. Marc Jones, RCMP, Ucluelet Detachment
Re: Quarterly Policing Update

Sergeant Jones introduced Constable Harry and updated Council on local policing initiatives.

The Sergeant outlined some year to date statistics, noted that assault and sexual offenses are down from last year; but disturbance offenses, impaired driving offenses, and mental health related calls are up. He also noted additional policing resources have been requested for Ukee Days.

The RCMP is seeking applicants to fill their paid guard positions and volunteers for their speed watch and auxiliary RCMP programs.

The Sergeant also noted that the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock riders will be in Ucluelet on September 30th, and requested a letter of support from Council for the continued allocation of impaired driving RCMP resources to the Ucluelet area.

2023.2249.REGULAR

*It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council authorize a letter of support for the RCMP impaired driving unit.*

CARRIED.

Rebecca Hurwitz, Executive Director, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
Re: Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Centre

Ms. Hurwitz presented. She outlined the Society's vision, provided a snapshot of their 2022 area of activities, described the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Centre project including key elements of the site design, and requested a letter of support for the Trust's application to the Rural Economic Diversification and

Infrastructure Program for grant funding to construct the Centre.

2023.2250.REGULAR

*It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council authorize a letter of support for Clayoquot Biosphere Trust's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program grant application to fund the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre.*

CARRIED.

Joshua Jenkins, Executive Director, Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce

Re: Ucluelet Economic Readiness Strategy

Mr. Jenkins presented. He provided background on his role and goals as the Executive Director of the Chamber, and outlined the Chamber's response to the Cameron Bluff Fire road closure.

Mr. Jenkins described a current joint Chamber initiative known as the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Economic Recovery & Resiliency Initiative and outlined the deliverables of their proposed project, known as the 2024 Ucluelet Economic Readiness Strategy, Recovery and Resilience Model for Rural and Remote Communities (the "Strategy"). This Strategy will focus on sustaining businesses before, during, and after natural, economic and disease related disasters. It will be guided by a working group.

The Chamber hopes to obtain grant funding through Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) to fund this Strategy.

Mr. Jenkins requested that Council:

1. provide a letter of support for their Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program grant application for funding for the Strategy;
2. improve cooperation between the District and the Chamber on economic development initiatives by the District appointing a delegate to attend the Strategy working group meetings;
3. add questions identified by the working group to the District's business license application form and relay data collected to the working group; and
4. provide \$35,000 in funding for the Strategy to be used as the applicant's equity for the REDIP grant and to hire a consultant to establish a framework for the Strategy and train the project coordinator.

Council noted the impact of the road closure on local businesses

and current available provincial grant funding opportunities. They further noted the funding request should be referred to the 2024 budget process.

2023.2251.REGULAR

*It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council provide letter of support for the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce's project "2024 Ucluelet Economic Readiness Strategy, Recovery and Resilience Model for Rural and Remote Communities" to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program.*

CARRIED.

2023.2252.REGULAR

*It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council refer the following requests to Staff for a report on:*

- *improved cooperation between the District and the Chamber on economic development initiatives;*
- *the addition of questions identified by the 2024 Ucluelet Economic Readiness Strategy working group to the District's business license application form and the relay data collected to the working group; and*
- *the allocation of \$35,000 to the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce for their 2024 Ucluelet Economic Readiness Strategy, Recovery and Resilience Model for Rural and Remote Communities to be used as the applicant's equity for the REDIP grant and to hire a consultant to establish a framework for the Strategy and train the project coordinator.*

CARRIED.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

7. REPORTS

7.1 CEPF Fire Department Equipment Grant Application *Rick Geddes, Fire Chief*

Chief Geddes presented this report.

He noted in response to Council questions that the eight fire fighter suits would only be purchased if the grant application was successful. If it was not successful, three suits would be purchased as part of the Fire Departments operating budget.

2023.2253.REGULAR

*It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council approves the 2023 grant application for the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Grant.*

CARRIED.

2023.2254.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council provides overall management for the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training Grant.*

CARRIED.

7.2 Fire and Emergency Services 2023 Q1-Q2
Rick Geddes, Fire Chief

Chief Geddes outlined his report. He also noted that the local fire ban will be lifted on September 27th at noon and the department is hosting an open house on October 22nd.

In response to Council questions, the Chief noted that the number of road rescues is down this year.

Council commended the fire fighters for the work done by the department including the special events they host.

7.3 BC Housing - Community Housing Fund Grant
Bruce Greig, Director of Community Planning

Mr. Greig presented this report and outlined the funding provided by the Community Housing Fund Grant.

In response to Council questions, Staff outlined the range of rental rates permitted under the Community Housing Grant, the plans for West Coast Community Resources Society to manage the units, and clarified that all units would be built to equivalent construction standards.

2023.2255.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council direct staff to prepare a draft submission to the BC Housing Community Housing Fund grant intake, for Council authorization at its November 10, 2023, regular meeting.*

CARRIED.

2023.2256.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council direct staff to develop an agreement with the Westcoast Community Resources Society to lease and develop 5 units of mixed market and affordable rental housing on the District-owned property at 1300 Peninsula Road subject to successful funding through the Community Housing Fund proposal call.*

CARRIED.

2023.2257.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council direct staff to give notice of intent to lease the property at 1300 Peninsula Road to the Westcoast Community Resources Society at a nominal fee for a period of 60 years, for the purpose of developing and managing 5 units of mixed market and affordable community rental housing.*

CARRIED.

2023.2258.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council request letters of support from Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht and Yuulu?it?ath Nations, MP Johns, MLA Osbourne and the District of Tofino.*

CARRIED.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Request for your attention to an important issue
Ruth Davis, North Cowichan, Ellie Hallman, Cowichan Bay, Gail Mitchell, North Cowichan, Stuart Westie, Williams Lake

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

10.2 Council Strategic Priorities Update
Duane Lawrence, CAO

Mr. Lawrence provided a progress report on Council's strategic priorities.

Councillor Anderson provided an update on Council's priority to enhance local kelp farming and processing.

10.3 Resolution Tracker - September 2023
Appendix A - Resolution Tracker - September 2023

Council noted concerns conveyed by members of the public about garbage carts being wildlife attractants and the new earlier residential waste pickup times. Council noted funding available through an organization called the Fur-Bearers for promotional and educational activities intended to address human-wildlife conflict.

10.4 Decolonize First: Nuuchahnulth Community Working Circles
Co-hosted by Literacy Alberni and Alberni Clayoquot Health Network

2023.2259.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council authorize Councillor Anderson and Mayor McEwen to represent the District of Ucluelet at the Decolonize First: Nuuchahnulth Community Learning Circles and directs Staff to arrange for registration.*

CARRIED.

10.5 Municipal Protected Areas Project Webinar - 10 am October 4, 2023
Stewart Guy, Executive Director, BC Nature Federation of BC Naturalists

2023.2260.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** Council authorize Councillor Anderson to*

represent the District of Ucluelet at the Municipal Protected Areas Project Webinar.

CARRIED.

11. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

11.1 Councillor Shawn Anderson *Deputy Mayor, April 1 - June 30, 2023*

Councillor Anderson attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Conference (UBCM). He noted that many municipal leaders are facing similar challenges including issues associated with physician retention. He also noted the BC Non-Profit Housing Association presentation at the conference was excellent.

11.2 Councillor Jennifer Hoar *Deputy Mayor, January 1 - March 31, 2023*

Councillor Hoar attended a Wild Pacific Trail Society meeting on September 6th and noted that the Society's AGM is scheduled for October 22nd.

Councillor Hoar also attended Vancouver Island Regional Library Board meeting on September 22nd where the Board reviewed budgets, discussed the Masset Library Project, and noted the use of library facilities as cooling centres.

Councillor Hoar also attended UBCM. She noted the study session "Shared Path of Reconciliation" where implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was discussed. Councillor Hoar also noted the need for all governments to consider those that are not represented at meetings to ensure they have an opportunity to speak their truth and the Comox First Nation representative's statement at UBCM that they "Diplomatically Ruffle Feathers".

11.3 Councillor Ian Kennington *Deputy Mayor, July 1 - September 30, 2023*

Councillor Kennington attended UBCM. He noted that housing availability was a central issue at the conference. It was even identified as a central issue at panel discussions on decriminalization of prohibited substances. Councillor Kennington further noted challenges such as NIMBYism, permitting times, zoning and the need to pre-zone areas for construction. He also noted funding opportunities coming online that the District must be in position to access.

11.4 Councillor Mark Maffei

Deputy Mayor, October 1 - December 31, 2023

Councillor Maftai attended UBCM. He noted many challenges in Ucluelet are common in BC and the need to incentivize long-term rentals and disincentive short-term rentals.

11.5 Mayor Marilyn McEwen

Mayor McEwen attended UBCM. She noted the Covenant House and Takaya Cultural Canoe and Walking tours she attended. The Mayor also noted discussions about increasing the Municipal & Regional District Tax (MRDT) and permitting funds to be used for infrastructure.

On September 6th the Mayor attended a Alberni Clayoquot Health Network Transit meeting where where the local bus service set to start in January was discussed.

On September 12th the Mayor attended a meeting with other local leaders, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) representatives, and MLA Osborne related to a request to provide an alternate route to Port Alberni. Issues with the Horne Lake Connector were discussed and MOTI representatives noted that the Lake Cowichan detour route would not be promoted unless Highway 4 was closed for five or more days.

On September 14th the Mayor met with Ucluelet First Nation to discuss proposed updates to the the protocol agreement with the Nation.

On September 24th the Mayor presented at the Pacific Rim Arts Society Cultural Heritage Festival closing ceremony.

On September 25th the Mayor met with Island Health representative Dr. Enns to discuss local health care issues.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

Matt Harbidge, resident, asked why an architect located in Washington State was selected to do the design works for the District's grant application to BC Housing - Community Housing Fund Grant to construct housing at 1300 Peninsula Road? Staff noted that the architect's team was selected through a competitive process and the architect is registered to practice in British Columbia.

13. CLOSED SESSION

13.1 Procedural Motion to Move In-Camera

2023.2261.REGULAR *It was moved and seconded **THAT** the meeting be closed to the public in order to address agenda items under Section 90(1)(e) & (i) of the Community Charter:*

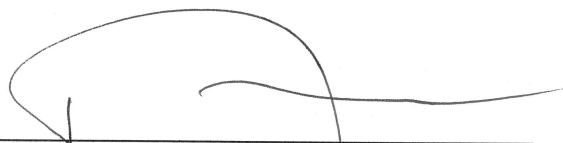
- *(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality; and*
- *(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.*

CARRIED.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The September 26, 2023, Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT: Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Ucluelet Community Centre 500 Matterson Road, Ucluelet, BC.



Duane Lawrence, Corporate Officer



Marilyn McEwen, Mayor