

Hi everyone:

Determined I was to see as much of Game Four of the Blues - Canucks series before heading off to the Town, resulting in my being five minutes late. Council must have been equally determined to get business done efficiently, for approval of minutes had been quickly disposed of before I arrived.

Karen Lai of Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) gave a presentation on Access Awareness Day (June 6th), a project supported by UBCM and SPARC to encourage employers to hire people with disabilities. The Mayor made the appropriate proclamation.

Committee Reports

Committee of the Whole

Recycling. Staff will develop an RFP for curb-side recycling, and will work with the SCRCD on an RFP for an Enhanced Depot for the Lower Coast. \$4000 is allocated for consulting help to draft the RFPs.

Building Canada Grant Application. The Town will apply for a 2/3 road rehabilitation and water main replacement project not to exceed \$1,960,644. \$653,548 remains in the Town's 2009 budget to cover its portion of the project. \$4,000 is allocated for assistance from EBA Engineering Consultants to prepare the Building Canada Fund application.

April Fool's Run. Retroactive approval was given to hold the Run on April 5th. A Councillor wondered if this was an April Fool's joke. :-)

Planning Committee

Gibsons Garden Inn currently has 22 of its 52 rooms occupied by seniors. It wants to make the rest of the rooms available as hotel rooms to transient guests. The notion is that the Town should give the Gibsons Garden Inn a temporary use permit to allow this. Chris Marshall explained that it makes more sense to make an OCP amendment under which the temporary use permit can be issued than to make a zoning bylaw amendment. The temporary use permit will be good for up to two years, renewable once. Approved.

Council approved four firms to be short listed to submit proposals for the Gibsons Harbour Plan. The four firms are:

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden
Judith Reeve
AECOM
Sustainable Solutions Group

Administration Report

Council was deemed to be the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, which will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesday May 5th.

Inquiries

Donna Thomas asked if a way could be found to have a record of inquiries at Council meetings, now that inquiries are no longer recorded in minutes of Council meetings. (This is the same issue that Brian Sadler raised March 3rd.) The CAO explained that the purpose of minutes is to record Council decisions, not discussion. The Mayor noted that answers to questions are best obtained through correspondence. The Corporate Officer offered to meet with Ms Thomas to discuss the issue further.

Bylaws

First reading of Bylaw 1096, 2009 regarding the Town's Financial Plan, given April 7th was rescinded. This was necessitated by changes in the Province's requirements for municipal financial plans. Council then agreed to give first, second and third readings to 2009 Financial Plan Bylaw 1096, 2009.

Council then gave second and third readings to Bylaws 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102 and 1103, all 2009. This allows the Town's budget to be put in place at fourth reading, which is due to be given at Council's meeting May 5th.

Councillors Reports

Councillor Johnson will participate in the Food Forum being organized by the SCRD in June.

Councillor Koopmans attended a meeting on community policing. He reported that our volunteer fire departments are losing volunteers due to layoffs at the Mill. People who previously volunteered are no longer able, as they

need to put their time into finding new work.

Councillor Koopmans also met with the Gibsons Community Initiatives Association and the new EDO Michael McLaughlin. Directors Turnbull and Lewis also attended. Koopmans characterized the meeting as a good start, getting off on the right foot.

Councillors Rowe and Curry made no reports.

Mayor Janyk announced that the RCMP's chief for Pacific Region has informed the Town that the RCMP endorses a project to build a new facility, and thanked the CAO and the Director of Finance for all their work to bring this project along. The unit housed in the new facility will still operate as part of the Sunshine Coast detachment.

The Mayor noted that there has been much discussion about the traffic changes on Gibsons Way. He pointed out that the whole plan has not yet been implemented by MOT&I (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure), and asked that people be patient before making final judgments on the plan. MOT&I will be making a media advisory and working with BC Ferries to advise people arriving on the Coast about route options.

ICET is working on four areas - arts & marketing proposals, special event proposals, the ratio (matching formula) regarding other project funding and mentorship regarding the preparation of applications.

Big Junk Day in Gibsons will be May 5th.

As the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, Councillor Koopmans announced "Double Overtime!" Thinking that the first OT was over, I turned the radio on for the short drive home, just in time to hear Burrows' goal. So much for recording the game to watch later! Well done Canucks.

Hammy

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