

Gibsons Town Council Meeting of Feb. 16/10

Council met last night for what HWTM called its Olympic meeting. All Councillors were present along with CAO Gipps, and staff members Jansson, Marshall and Gilbertson. Ian Jacques represented the fourth estate.

Following acceptance of the amended agenda and the adoption and receipt of minutes, Councillor Curry asked how items still pending on the Post Meeting Action Checklist would be disposed of in terms of the preparation of the 2010 budget. CAO Gipps replied that items which Council determines are not part of the 2010 work plan (and the supporting budget) will be pushed to another year.

Councillor Tretick asked for an update on the issue of the Provincial Court Judge on the Coast. Mayors Janyk and Inkster have signed a letter to the Attorney General, the letter is awaiting Chief Feschuk's signature, and Gipps is working with his opposite numbers to expedite the letter.

PROCLAMATION

The Mayor proclaimed March to be Kidney Health Month in Gibsons.

INQUIRIES

Regarding the resolution that came out of the in camera session at the end of the previous Council meeting (authorizing a 5% increase in the garbage collection contract over the next two years), Brian Sadler asked if the increase is reasonable in light of the much more modest increase (0.5%) in the inflation rate. The Mayor explained that it was the best deal that could be made given that it is hard to find another contractor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning

- **“Our Coast, Our Climate – Sunshine Coast Community Energy and Emissions Plan”**

This plan is being developed by the SCRD to meet the requirements of provincial Bill 27 by 31 May 2010. The draft plan can be accessed at http://www.scrd.ca/index.php?page_id=562

The Mayor described some of the recommendations in the plan as “painful” in terms of increased gasoline costs and higher taxes.

It seems to me that local government is oblivious to the revelations of Climategate, the failure of the Copenhagen conference, and the ongoing discrediting of the IPCC's reports.

The draft plan is available for public review only until March 19th, so if you are concerned that our governments are compromising our future for what is an increasingly suspect issue, read the report and let the SCRD have your comments.

- **Gibsons Harbour Plan, Phase 1**

Council will meet at 9 am on March 3rd to settle issues regarding Phase 1 of the plan, so that an RFP for Phase 2 can be prepared. Council is anxious to advance this plan with dispatch. I have a PDF version of the report. It is 85 pages long and 5MBs, so I have not attached it to this email. If you would like me to send it to you, please let me know. I look forward to reading it on the weekend.

- Council instructed staff to draft a **Zoning amendment bylaw** to increase lot coverage for three zones with respect to lots 31 and 32 in Upper Gibsons. Current coverage regulations would require residences to be too small to be reasonably sized homes. The change will allow higher density and increased affordability. An amended drainage plan will be required.
- Council instructed staff to notify neighbours of a DVP regarding a retaining wall and a driveway at 433 South Fletcher Road.

Parks & Community Services

- Council referred the issue of “accessibility” as defined by SPARC BC to the Infrastructure Services Committee
- Council approved a recommendation to purchase two Naval Centennial banners to be hung at the Museum and the Legion in honour of the Canadian Navy’s 100th anniversary.

Administration

- The Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment Bylaw 1065-10 (short term rental accommodations) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

INQUIRIES

Brian Sadler observed that the SCRD’s Infrastructure Committee voted 4-3 to close the Pender Harbour landfill, and asked if the Mayor could provide the rationale for the decision. The Mayor explained that the decision will result in a net saving to the RD, and that analysis shows that the additional GHG (green house gas) emissions from trucking to Sechelt will be more than offset by the negative environmental impact of the landfill. The Mayor acknowledged that this is an important issue for people at the Pender Harbour end of the Coast, but that solid waste is clearly a regional function as laid down in provincial legislation, one from which individual RD areas cannot escape.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Council will post a “Child Find BC” poster at the Town Hall and ask the SCRD to post one at the Community Centre.
- A letter from Bill Bennett, Minister of Community & Rural Development inviting local governments to provide input into the Local Government Elections Task Force before April 15th generated some interesting discussion. Councillor Tretick suggested that the Town advise the business organizations (BCI, GLBA and Chamber) of the government’s desire for input. It’s not clear to me if Council agreed to this, however it did prompt the Mayor to repeat his statement that UBCM votes against the business vote every time it comes up, the feeling of the municipalities being that “what’s good for local government should be good for the provincial government”. At <http://www.localelectionstaskforce.gov.bc.ca/#> the Province outlines the issues the Task Force is dealing with, and there is an invitation for anyone to respond. The Town is planning to devote the Community Dialogue of March 23rd to the Local Elections Task Force.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- BC Ferries is looking for support from local government for its plan to add a daily 5:30 pm sailing during summer operating hours, provided the cost of providing the service be covered by all users of the route. The estimate is that this service would cost each user an additional \$0.40 a trip, a 1.5% increase. Council approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor has made standing and select committee appointments as follows (curious that residence in Gibsons continues NOT to be a requirement to serve on Town committees):

- **Planning**
Stephen Hinton, Randy Knill, Pam Robertson
- **Parks & Community Services**
Amanda Amaral, Karen Careless, Janet Genders
- **Infrastructure Services**
Claudia Ferris, Jody Schick, Murray Wilson
- **Corporate Services**
Tim Anderson, Jurgen Kowalewski, Ken White

- **Policing Service Task Force**
SGT Stu Falebrinza, Harvie McCracken, Richard Morgan, Brian Sadler, Gerry Webb
- **Gospel Rock Refinement**
Art Phillips, Michael Rosen
- **Public Wharves Advisory**
Roger Sayer
- **Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory**
Michael McLaughlin

COUNCIL REPORTS

Upcoming meetings

Council agendas always list the upcoming meetings. I haven't been copying them here, but there are a couple people may want to know about.

- **Gospel Rock Refinement Committee will meet this Thursday, 18 February** (tomorrow) at 8:30 am. This is one of the projects that this Council wants complete before the next election in 2011. Those affected by this neighbourhood plan may want to attend.
- Council will meet to deal with issues in **Phase 1 of the Harbour plan on Wednesday, March 3rd** at 9:00. Some parts of the meeting may be held in camera. This will be an important meeting for people affected by Town planning for the Harbour and the waterfront. Again, I have a PDF of the plan, and will send it to anyone who wants to read it.

Councillor's reports

Rowe

- Attended RBC reception for Olympic Torch Relay and Torch Relay event in Gibsons
- Represented the Town at the charter dinner of the Knights of Columbus

Tretick

- Moving ahead with the Museum storage issue
- Attended Library AGM
- Noted that SC Community Foundation will be organizing a workshop on youth employment in the spring.

Mayor Janyk

- Town's strategic plan for 2010 is nearly finished. Two elements will be:
Communication – need to get better regarding incoming information
Revenue diversification – taxes, fees and permits are no longer enough to fund the operations of the corporation; need new, non-punitive ways to raise money
- Attended RBC reception for Torch Relay and was inspired by some of the torchbearers
- Torch Relay came to Gibsons where “we were overwhelmed by our success”. In the end, VANOC security required the Torch to stay on the street, so it did not get down to the stage at Winegarden Park.
- ICET Regional Advisory Committee – endorsed some projects. \$50 million doesn't go as far as it used to. \$12 million left. Plan is to review present commitments and pull back allotments from projects that are stagnating due to lack of matching dollars, then redistribute in smaller amounts to more projects.
- The Mayor is satisfied with the direction the RD budget is going
- Bill Elsner, the Emergency Coordinator for the region, will be attending the Community Dialogue on February 23rd (evening meeting at the Town Hall)

Curry

- Went to see the Torch and missed it.
- Communities in Bloom is not going to compete for a national prize this year – staff is getting a break this year

Johnson

- GLBA have replaced the banner at the ferry terminal. The new one is more dramatic and was made on the Coast. GLBA also has a new art walk poster.
- Leadership and Learning – meeting with RD and DoS to find a way to involve youth with local government. CAO is also working with SD 46 Superintendent and a Principal on the same issue

The meeting, which was to be short, ended at 8:55 pm.

I will be away in the Interior on business when Council meets next on Tuesday, March 2nd. If anyone is willing to volunteer to take the notes, please let me know.

Cheers,

Hammy

604-741-5305 (cell)
www.hammcc.com