

July 7, 2009 Council Meeting

Hi everyone,

Council proceedings began precisely at 7:00 pm with Councillor Curry in the Chair, the Mayor having been delayed by a late ferry. Councillor Koopmans was away, so the business of the evening was efficiently conducted by three Councillors prior to the Mayor's arrival.

Amended Agenda was approved, Minutes were received and the Checklist was reviewed. The Corporate Officer noted that she is aiming for work to begin in the fall on the item "Regaining the Confidence" dealing with the election process.

PROCLAMATION

Sechelt Councillor Fred Taylor spoke on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Weekend August 7-9, and Councillor Curry made a proclamation in support.

DELEGATION

Mary Anne Darney and Brian Smith represented the Arrowhead Centre Society. The Society serves mentally ill people on the Sunshine Coast with a living facility in Sechelt. They will be relocating to a new facility in the former RCMP building when it opens in the spring of 2010, at which time core funding will be coming from BC Housing. Meanwhile, they are facing a budget shortfall of \$80,000 over the coming months, and are asking local governments to help. To date, the SCRCD has pledged \$5,000. Council asked the Society to make an application for a grant in aid which will be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Services Committee.

INQUIRIES

Dan Bauman, representing the Friends of Gospel Rock, asked why no member of the previous Select Committee has been appointed to the newly established Refinement Working Group. CAO Gipps replied that Planning Director Chris Marshall provides continuity between the groups, being a full member of both. Gipps also noted that at 9:00 am on Thursday July 7th, there will be a meeting, open to the public, at which members of the previous Select

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Committee will be interviewed by the Refinement Working Group. This will provide additional continuity of information between the two groups.

Brad Benson asked why there is no member of the public on the Refinement Working Group. Gipps noted that the Mayor and two Councillors are on the Refinement Working Group, and as they have been elected by the public at large, they are well able to represent public concerns. Gipps added that one of the Refinement Working Group's tasks is to design a public process that will bring the work on the Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan to the point where Council can consider the OCP and Zoning amendments that will give effect to the Plan.

Benson then made a statement (usually not allowed during Inquiries), in which he said that he found it unsettling that the property owners have a representative on the working group, but the public doesn't, it being Benson's view that Councillors are "not part of the public anymore". Curious. Looks like the Friends of Gospel Rock now have a hook on which to hang a challenge to the efforts of the Refinement Working Group.

COMMITTEES

The Gospel Rock Refinement Working Group Report was deferred until the next meeting of Council. The Working Group's terms of reference will be available at the interview session scheduled for July 9th, and they will be published on the Town's website.

Corporate Services - June 23rd

The license for the Pigs Rugby Club to occupy the Armours Beach Hall was extended for 12 months.

Gibsons will contribute about \$9,000 to the implementation of the Community Youth Outreach Worker Agreement, which is being equitably funded by all local governments on the Coast.

Committee of the Whole - June 23rd

Council affirmed its 2007 support for the Harbour Authority's application to ICET for funding for the small craft harbour expansion.

Council approved a number of small amendments to its 2009 - 2010 Strategic Plan

Special Planning - June 30th

DP 2009-06 was approved regarding the proposed Bull Chophouse restaurant

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adjacent to Smitty's Oyster Bar

Three consulting firms were shortlisted to respond to the revised RFP for the Harbour Area Masterplan. Proposals are due in three weeks.

Infrastructure Services - June 30th

- Council authorized that information about the Road to Zero Waste and the proposed Resource Recovery Centre be put on the Town's website.
- Council Awarded Phase 1 of the aquifer mapping project to Waterline Resources for \$329,800 + gst, and a contract to manage the process to local hydro-geologist Dr Sue Gordon for \$30,000 + gst. The Town has a provincial grant to cover the costs of this year long project.
- Council awarded the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan to AECOM for \$107,800 + gst and adjusted the '09 and '10 budgets to accommodate the sum.
- Council approved the Road Rehabilitation and Water Main Replacement 2009 Work Schedule and instructed staff to tender the work for a late August closing with the understanding that the final scope of work will be adjusted based on the availability of grants and the success of the Alternative Process. Grants may make it possible to compress a three year program into one or two years.

Committee of the Whole - July 7th

Following CAO Gipps report that the developer of the first stage of the Upper Gibsons Neighbourhood wants to proceed with the development now, Council approved the four steps to be taken to move forward with the District Energy Plan :

1. Design & development in conjunction with the Developer
2. Commit to grant agreements
3. Award the design and commission of the Geo-Utility to Geo-Xergy Systems for \$101,700 + gst,
4. Award project management to Enerficiency Consulting.

Councillor Rowe noted that the benefits of this project will be apparent in the long term, if not during the life of the current Council.

(At this point, two minutes before 8 pm, the Mayor arrived and took the Chair, visibly annoyed that BC Ferries failure to maintain their schedule made him late.)

Council authorized staff to apply to a provincial program providing a grant of up to \$8,000 to help with costs of the Torch Relay in Gibsons on Feb 4th next. Council also authorized that the Town contribute \$2,000.

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Administration

- Council approved the SOFI (Statement of Financial Information) required by the Province for \$30,000 + gst
- Council awarded a contract for PRVs (pressure relief valves) and a rebuild of the pump station on School Road to BA Blacktop for \$384,787 + gst.
- Delcan was awarded a contract for \$37,535 + gst to manage the project. A November completion date is expected.
- Council approved the documentation for the next stage of the Alternative Approval Process for Loan Authorization Bylaw 1105, 2009. In response to a question from Donna Thomas, CAO Gipps said that the Town has asked the Province to clarify whether the identity of persons responding in the negative to the AAP is public information. He added that in the meantime, it is his view that the responses be treated as if they were votes, that is, that the information is private. It will be interesting to see what the Province says.

CORRESPONDENCE

Two letters regarding the Community Justice Program were referred to the July 28 meeting of the Corporate Services Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council will meet as Committee of the Whole with officials of the Municipal Finance Authority on September 15. This will be a public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

With regard to SCRD Bylaw 518.2 dealing with wharfage fees at the Keats Landing and Eastbourne docks, Council instructed staff to provide the SCRD with the Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority's schedule of fees prior to the SCRD Board's consideration of the Bylaw later this week. It is the feeling of Gibsons Council that the low fees suggested in the draft Bylaw will not contribute sufficiently to maintaining the docks in operating condition.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councillor Johnson

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- attended a meeting featuring Dr Gerald Hodge, an authority on aging communities.
- She participated with service providers in developing a "homelessness survey".
- She also attended sessions of the SCRD,
- the Regional Growth Strategy group and
- the Ferry Advisory Committee.

Councillor Rowe

- reported that Dean Walford is the new Executive Director for the Gibsons Chamber of Commerce.
- Councillor Rowe will represent the Town at John Weston's BBQ on August 8.

Mayor Janyk

- reported that UBCM and AVICC have a new home in Victoria – Local Government House - which will be officially opened by the Premier July 14 (curiously, on the 220th anniversary of Bastille Day).
- ICET has made stage 2 awards to Gibsons Geo-tech project and the Purple Banner arts marketing program. The Board will consider a couple more projects from the Coast at its next meeting July 24. (Gibsons Harbour, Sechelt Airport, Botanical Garden? Stay tuned.)
- The large number of projects coming forward is a measure of the state of the economy. ICET is working with the Job Opportunities Fund to get forestry workers working on other projects, like trail building, particularly on the Island.

Councillor Curry's report was given entirely in acronyms, and was the comic highlight of the evening. Look for it in the Coast Reporter this Friday.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

I'll be away in the interior when Council meets on the 21st. If anyone wants to volunteer to take the notes, I'll make sure they are distributed. Let me know.

Cheers,
Hammy

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