

March 2nd Council meeting

As I said in my last notes (Feb 16th meeting), I was away for the March 2nd meeting, and as no one volunteered to attend, I have no insights, save what was written in the minutes.

The March 2nd meeting was preceded by a public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaw restricting the ability of owners of dwelling units to lease or rent said units for less than 28 days. Minutes of the public hearing indicate that of the people who spoke to the proposal, three were opposed, one (from Sechelt) was in favour.

At the March 2nd meeting itself, Council (all five being present) dealt with the following items:

- Mayor Janyk proclaimed March – Community Social Services Awareness month.
- Council received the Parks Master Plan final draft and forwarded it to a future Committee of the Whole for further discussion.
- Council sent its agreement-in-principle to the SCRCD on the options presented in its Integrated Transportation Study for the Gibsons area.
- Council gave first reading to zoning bylaw amendment 1065-11, 2010 regarding lots 31 and 32 on Payne Road and set a public hearing date for Tuesday, April 6th at 6:45 pm.
- Council approved the issuance of DVP 2009-04 to allow an increase in site coverage for 433 South Fletcher Road.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

March 16th Council meeting

Four members of Council were present (Rowe in the Chair, the Mayor being on vacation). Gipps, Jansson and Newman represented the staff. Sean Eckford was there from CKAY.

Council received the minutes of the Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee meeting of November 25th, 2009

ADMINISTRATION

Gipps presented a recommendation to Council to give pre-budget approval to a list of projects that cannot wait for the final approval mid-May.

• Sanitary sewer extension – design	\$ 15,700
• Sanitary sewer extension – construction	10,000
• Water meter installation – multi-family	472,600
• Water meter installation – Town facilities	60,000
• Parkland subdivision geo-thermal ground loops	415,200
• Municipal hall computers	25,000
• Communications Course (Municipal Affairs Training Institute)	3,000
• Park washroom auto locks	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$ 1,016,500

Of this sum, \$152,550 is to be raised through taxation; the rest is covered by various grants. Approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

In response to a letter from BC Hydro regarding the World Wildlife Fund's annual Earth Hour event (scheduled this year for March 27th), Council resolved to continue to be involved again this year, as much as is practical.

BYLAWS

Short Term Rentals

Council defeated the motion (3-0) to give second and third reading to Zoning amendment bylaw 1065-10, 2010 restricting the short term rental of dwelling units.

Councillor Tretick said that the proposed bylaw was an "overkill" response to a couple of complaints, and that staff should find another way to deal with the complaints. Councillors Johnson and Curry were not supportive of the bylaw amendment as proposed.

Council instructed staff to investigate other options and bring them back to a subsequent meeting of Council.

Councillor Rowe noted that it is important for Council to hear from the public, and thanked people for their input.

There is a dangerous notion amongst the governing classes that the easiest way to deal with complaints is to make large numbers of people potential offenders, with the promise that government will only prosecute selectively. It is easy to see how this kind of lawmaking could result in abuses. It is refreshing that people stood up and called the Town on this one. Governments at all levels increasingly try to control the littlest aspects of our lives, and they invariably do it by making themselves (and our tax bills) bigger. We must not let them get away with it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BC Ferries has taken the suggestion of members of the Ferry Advisory Committee to juggle their boats around so that there will be a 5:50 pm sailing to Langdale in the summer schedule. Accordingly, Council agreed to provide a letter to BC Ferries supporting the Ferry Advisory Committee's recommendation.

COUNCIL REPORTS

A special meeting of Council is now scheduled for Monday, March 29th at 12:00 noon, to award the contract for "ground looping" (part of the **geo-thermal project**).

Councillors Curry and Johnson reported on their attendance at the **Local Government Election Task Force** on March 12th. Among the issues discussed were

- Election cycle – no consensus on whether it should stay at 3 years or move to 4. There is a question as to whether there should be a limit on the number of terms an individual could serve.
- Corporate vote – evenly divided at Bob's table, mostly opposed at Lee Ann's. A "minefield" of questions about how to determine eligibility.
- Campaign fundraising limits – Bob's table said no limits. Lee Ann pointed out that one size doesn't fit all – larger campaign budgets are needed in municipalities where there are multiple MPs/MLAs.
- Public financing of campaigns – NO
- 3rd party ads – controversial
- Campaign finance disclosure – Bob reported that Powell River has a bylaw requiring disclosure on the city's website. Lee Ann reported that Delta has a similar bylaw.

Gipps added two more issues from his attendance at the session

- Should volunteer workers (e.g. firefighters) continue to be precluded from serving on Council? – there was a feeling that a way should be found to overcome this
- Who should be responsible for enforcing the municipal election legislation? – the consensus was Elections BC

Tretick noted that the Museum is sponsoring the Antique Road Show at the Seniors Centre in Sechelt on Saturday, March 20th

The Museum AGM is scheduled for April 28th

The SC Community Foundation's Youth Employment Workshop is scheduled for May 14th at the Seaside Centre in Sechelt

Rowe wished Councillor Curry a Happy St Patrick's Day

Al Mulholland's departure from the Coast to take a job as CAO in Kimberley was noted, and Tretick paid Al a tribute for all his work in facilitating the improvements in Lower Gibsons – Winegarden Park, the wharf, etc. Council agreed to write a letter of appreciation to Al.

Donna Thomas reminded Council that Wednesday April 28th will be the day to mark the memory of workers killed on the job with a minute of silence. The Labour Council will be making a formal request to the Town.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

I may have to be away on April 6th (the next Council meeting). If I can't make it, is there anyone who can pitch hit?

Cheers,

Hammy

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