

Greetings:

All were present for Tuesday's Council meeting except for Councillor Johnson.

Agenda, minutes and post-meeting checklist (which Councillor Currie noted was down from 16 pages to 10) were dealt with quickly.

## DELEGATION

Dion Whyte, Manager of Sustainable Services for the SCRCD briefed Council on the work his office is doing on two fronts:

- 1) Shared vision and plan for sustainability on the Sunshine Coast
- 2) Community energy and emissions update

The details can be seen at pages 38-43 on the agenda

<http://www.gowebtide.com/gibsonsddocuments/091020CouncilAgenda.pdf>

The two efforts are being coordinated under the brand "Our Coast, Our Future" for which a series of meetings have been organized, both private (local government folks only) and public. The key meetings are scheduled for Nov 9<sup>th</sup> (Pender Harbour – Madeira Park Legion 6pm-8pm; Gibsons – GACC 5pm-7pm) and Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (Sechelt – Seaside Centre 5pm-7pm) on the subject of "Addressing Climate Action Barriers and Opportunities".

Councillor Koopmans asked how the SCRCD's budget-making process will be integrated with these sustainability efforts (e.g. balancing the cost of Transit against the cost of lowering greenhouse gas emissions). Whyte stated that there needs to be an agreement on targets, vision and principles before getting specific on dollars.

## INQUIRIES

Tim Turner asked if Council would agree to fly the "350 flag" to celebrate an international day of action regarding the CO<sub>2</sub> content in the atmosphere to "put muscle behind the Copenhagen conference" on climate change. The initial request was for just Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, then Turner upped the ante to ask that the "350 flag" replace the Olympic flag currently flying under the Canadian flag. After a long discussion about flag policy and staffing issues, Council agreed that the flag could fly under the Canadian flag from morning to evening on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, and that the issue of flag policy be sent to the Community Services Committee.

(I must say that it felt somewhat lonely to be sitting in a room filled with elected officials, Town staff and a small gallery, virtually all of whom believe the science "is settled" and, as Gore says, "the debate about global warming is over." Well, science doesn't depend on consensus - we would never have heard of Copernicus, Bruno, Galileo and Kepler if it did - consensus is for politicians. CO<sub>2</sub> is not a pollutant, as Obama is apparently preparing to declare it, it is a naturally occurring gas, one that is critical to the life of the plant world, and geological evidence shows that increases in CO<sub>2</sub> follow periods of warming, they don't precede it. Canadian scientists have recently proven that Gore's "hockey stick" graph was generated with selected data put into a model that always produces a "hockey stick". Mainstream media has been a willing participant in promulgating alarmist propaganda, until recently as the AGW position

fails increasingly to stand up under scrutiny. I would really like to hear one politician have the courage to stand up and say, "The debate is not over, and we should not take precipitous actions that result in increased statism and an unbearable burden on the economy and taxpayers." End of rant.)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Corporate Services

Council approved three recommendations regarding Permissive Tax Exemptions, Fire Protection Services Amendment Bylaw, and an Encroachment Agreement for 728 Gibsons Way.

## ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A Rezoning, Development Permit, Development Variance Permit and Subdivision Application for 348 Burns Road was considered. Council instructed staff to write the necessary bylaw amendment, which will contain a number of conditions.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Council will send regrets to the Sunshine Coast Leadership Initiative to attend its workshop at Painted Boat Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that these sorts of events seem to be happening further away and in more "hoity toity" places.

## BYLAWS

Permissive Property Tax Exemption Bylaw 11009, 2009 was adopted.

## NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Rowe presented the two motions he had given notice of two weeks ago regarding the SCRD's request that Gibsons participate in a Regional Growth Strategy. Councillor Rowe noted that the cost was too high to be borne at the present time (between \$640 and \$890 thousand!), particularly as the 30% contribution from the Province is no longer available. He also commented that the RGS process would be demanding on staff time.

Council approved the motion to advise the SCRD that the Town does not wish to participate in the RGS at this time. Council decided to send the second motion, that the Town will participate on planning processes on a case by case basis (e.g. regional transportation), to the Planning Committee.

### Letter of resignation

Council received Councillor Koopmans' letter of resignation with regret, and HWTM presented Councillor Koopmans with a Greta Guzak print, noting that in his four years on Council, Koopmans has worked hard to keep Council on task to do what is best for the Town as a whole.

Council approved HWTM's recommendation that Councillor Rowe be appointed Acting Mayor for the period ending July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

CAO Gipps noted that at a Special Meeting of Council October 19<sup>th</sup>, Council appointed Heather Jeal as Chief Election Officer and Michelle Jansson as Deputy Election Officer. The by-election is expected to be held Saturday, December 19, 2009. Brian Sadler asked if the Town will be able to approve mail-in votes for the by-election. Gipps explained that the Town had been planning to review its election procedures this fall, but at the UBCM annual convention, the Premier announced that the Province will be reviewing the local government act with respect to the conduct of municipal elections. This puts Gibsons' plan to conduct a review on hold. In addition, Council cannot amend its own election procedures within 6 weeks of the deadline for nominations. HWTM pledged to do everything possible to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

HWTM read Councillor Johnson's report, which included attendance at meetings of the GLBA, the Extreme Weather Emergency Shelter committee and the Town's Arts and Culture committee.

Councillor Koopmans suggested that Council sit down with BCI, the arts and tourism sectors and business to figure out how to best take advantage of the branding leverage that the LivCom award provides.

He thanked Council, staff and the citizens of Gibsons for allowing him to serve. He had always tried to do his best for the whole Town and the future.

He is happy about aquifer mapping and the installation of water meters, the recreation centres and holding the line on taxes.

He added that he is glad he will never have to hear the expression, "traffic calming" again, to which some person(s) in the gallery shouted "Hear! Hear!".

Councillor Koopmans will be missed.

The Mayor thanked Greg Russell, Bob Hoy, the Squamish (for the gift of a paddle he presented in Pilsen), and a long list of others who will be properly and publically acknowledged. He said the award belongs to all in the community.

He said that he has already heard some negatives along the lines of "There goes the neighbourhood - we'll be overwhelmed with visitors and development and the community will be ruined". He said, "That's not gonna happen.", promising that Council and staff won't let it.

He gave particular thanks to his co-travellers Chris Marshall and Wendy Gilbertson (whose idea it was to apply in the first place).

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

There are a lot of public meetings coming up.

October 26, 2:30 pm Council Chamber – Parks Master plan Workshop; 7 pm Parks Master plan Open House

October 27, 7:00 pm Heritage Theatre – The Town's presentation to LivCom will be reprised

October 28, 7:00 pm Sunshine Coast Golf Club - Community Futures Annual General Meeting

October 28, 7:00 pm Gibsons Legion – Harbour Plan Design Charette workshop

October 30, 7:00 pm Gibsons Legion – Harbour Plan consultants present findings of design charette

Sorry for the delay this week folks. The economy must be heating up. I've had to write three proposals this week in response to RFPs.

Cheers,

Hammy

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