

Notes on Gibsons Town Council Meeting – April 7/09

The Gibsons Council meeting on Tuesday evening began and ended on somber notes. To begin, Mayor Janyk noted the sudden and sad passing of Agnes Labonte, a long time resident and active member of the community. The meeting ended with some reflection by the Mayor on last week's incident at Christenson Village, and a commitment to work with Coastal Health and the people at Good Samaritan Village to try to ensure this sort of thing doesn't happen again.

In between, Council conducted the Town's business.

Corporate Services Committee recommendations

The report on the 2008 Music in the Landing program is to be forwarded to the Parks and Community Services Committee for discussion.

Staff and the Economic Development Officer will research an appropriate business tax ratio goal.

Staff are directed to achieve a "0" percent residential tax increase, reduce the business tax ratio to 3.75, and find ways to balance the budget to achieve these goals.

All were approved unanimously.

Administration Reports

Failure to file campaign spending report

Public notice was given of David Stow's failure to file a campaign spending report as required by the Local Government Act. If the report is not filed by April 15 along with a late filing penalty of \$500, Mr Stow will be "disqualified from being nominated, elected or holding office on a local government until after the next general local election".

Field of Dreams Improvements

Council approved the installation of lights by the Gibsons Minor Baseball Association at Field of Dreams.

At the public information session held March 31, attended by about thirty people, a number of concerns were raised, some of which were related to the operational impact of the Gibsons Community Centre on the neighbourhood. Staff will forward these concerns to the SCRD. Concerns related to the operation of the ball field itself will be dealt with in the agreement between the Town and GMBA.

(I note with some chagrin that the lights were on for the whole of the public information session on March 31st. In my last "Observations" I had confused the date with the WWF's "turn the lights out" program which was on the 28th. I promise not to try to be amusing at the expense of accuracy

henceforth.)

Development Variance Permit application DVP 2009-02 (allowing for a hammerhead turn at 555 Wildwood Crescent) was approved.

Bylaws

Director of Finance Ian Poole presented a series of bylaws regarding the process to adopt the Town budget for 2009. He noted that the preparation of the budget was accomplished through six meetings of the Corporate Services Committee, and meets the goals established above (0% increase in residential tax, 3.75 business tax ratio).

First Reading was given to the following by-laws:

- 2009 Financial Plan bylaw No 1096, 2009
- Annual Tax Rates bylaw No 1097, 2009
- Water Parcel Tax bylaw No 1098, 2009
- Water User Rates bylaw No 1099, 2009
- Sewer Parcel Tax bylaw NO 1100, 2009
- Sewer User Rates bylaw No 1001, 209
- Community Recreation Facilities Parcel Tax bylaw 1102, 2009
- Garbage Collection and Disposal bylaw No 779, Amendment bylaw No 1103, 2009

The 2009 budget will be available for public viewing at an information session to be held at the Municipal Hall at 7 pm on April 15.

Council also approved expenditure related to a number of items (totaling \$34,100) needing to be dealt with before the passage of the 2009 budget.

Council gave final reading to the Electric Powered Vehicle Authorization bylaw No 1095, 2008

Councillors Reports

Councillor Curry

- met with Communities in Bloom
- attended AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) which was well attended and featured an interesting agenda. An emerging issue is IPPs (independent power producers). The convention passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on independent power projects. Workshops in IPPs and carbon issues revealed an interest in alternate energy and municipal energy corporations.
- MP John Weston visited the Coast again, this time with a cheque for \$219,188, which is a quicker than usual payment of the Town's share of gas tax revenue.

Councillor Johnson

- met with the Library which has completed its plan for 2009
- sat in on a webinar on family friendly planning related to reducing reliance on auto transportation
- attended a session on emergency preparedness
- reported that the Regional District's agriculture commission will hold workshops in June and the fall

Councillor Koopmans

- thanked staff and Council colleagues for the fine strategic planning day spent at Bonniebrook.
- attended the Gibsons Chamber of Commerce AGM at which the new Economic Development Officer, Michael McLaughlin, gave an outline of economic development possibilities in the Coast over the next few years
- attended the information session on the lights for Field of Dreams
- attended the emergency preparedness session, and suggested that having such training only once every three years might not be adequate.
- attended a session in Burnaby to receive an Innovative Green Energy award (\$350,000) towards the Town's geo-thermal energy exchange project
- attended a meeting regarding the 2010 Games Torch Relay which will provide Gibsons with an opportunity as a Route Community

Councillor Rowe

- drew attention to Greg Russell's letter to the RCMP commending the force on their professional response to the incident at Christenson Village

Mayor Janyk

- The new Executive Director of the Municipal Finance Authority (Robin Springer) is ambivalent regarding the possibility of Community Bonds. Mayor Janyk will ask for a meeting.
- IPPs will be discussed at UBCM in September
- ICET is still reinventing itself to meet the realities of the current economic situation. An announcement is to be made (Wednesday) regarding assistance of \$1 million to Vancouver Island University for its shellfish program

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Cheers,
Hammy