

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** (with the Board of the Mission Downtown Business Association) held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Randy Hawes
Councillor Pam Alexis
Councillor Carol Hamilton
Councillor Jim Hinds (joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.)
Councillor Danny Plecas
Councillor Jenny Stevens

Council Members Absent: Councillor Rhett Nicholson

Staff Members Present: Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Jennifer Russell, Deputy Corporate Officer
Gina MacKay, Manager of Long Range Planning
Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer
Haylee Gould, Administrative Assistant

Mission Downtown
Business Association (DBA): Carlo Billinger, President
Margot Greger, Vice President
Pia Ritch, Secretary
Hilde Tonkens
Satti Grewal
Tami Klassen

Other Guests Present: Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission
Remco Bergman, Trendy or What Knot
Ann Harper, President of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce
Steve Yap, Belle's Sports (joined the meeting at 6:17 p.m.)
RCMP Staff Sergeant Operations (NCO) Rob Dixon
RCMP Corporal Kara Dosanjh, Community Relations Liaison
RCMP Constable Sayeh Hejazi, Mission RCMP Mental Health Liaison Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC16/006
JAN. 27/16

Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Alexis, and
RESOLVED: That the January 27, 2016 Special Council Agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

SC16/007
JAN. 27/16

Mission Downtown Business Association Discussion

i. Morning RCMP Patrols (Is this still happening? If not, why?)

Staff Sergeant Dixon gave an overview of the current programs and patrols undertaken on a daily bases in the downtown core, including daily morning patrols to assist those sleeping in the entryways of businesses to pack up and move before business hours begin.

ii. Break and Enter Update

Staff Sergeant Dixon noted that one main break and enter offender is in custody for the next nine months, and two others have been identified and are being actively sought by RCMP. In most cases, the damage to businesses from a break and enter greatly exceeds the value of items taken and business owners are advised to keep no valuables or cash on the premises. An educational campaign to alert business owners on ways to protect their businesses from vandals and thieves was discussed.

The Nuisance Abatement Bylaw was discussed in regard to charging a fee to recover the cost of repeated police responses to nuisance properties. Unpaid fees can be placed on the property tax of the landowner, and discussion ensued about notifying potential landlords of the risks of renting property without thorough reference checks.

iii. RCMP Response Times and Hold Times

Staff Sergeant Dixon reported that Mission RCMP are meeting industry standards for response times. In response to frustration expressed regarding long hold times and a perceived lack of follow up after a crime is reported, Staff Sergeant Dixon noted that Mission RCMP are dedicated to the safety of Mission residents and businesses and recommended that business owners contact him if they have concerns about a specific case.

iv. Status on RCMP Member at CPO

Staff Sergeant Dixon noted that an RCMP officer will not be assigned full time to the Crime Prevention Office (CPO), as a single member cannot be separated from supervision, safety and support in such a manner. The CPO is currently being used for community engagement, paperwork and overtime initiatives, and a docking station for the new Mobile Dispatch Terminals will be installed later this year.

Discussion ensued regarding potential future plans for the RCMP detachment, including expanding the current station, placing satellite police stations in different neighbourhoods, and relocating the CPO.

v. *Homelessness Issues (What impact has the ACT team and RCMP Mental Health Constable had so far in addressing issues related to homelessness?)*

Constable Hejazi reported that she has a case load of 10 ACT clients and 30 non-ACT clients that she deals with on a weekly basis. Of the 10 ACT clients, 9 of them have been housed in Abbotsford. Constable Hejazi is working closely with Bylaw Enforcement and has been visiting homeless campsites as soon as they appear to speak with the individuals and offer assistance.

In response to questions from Council and the DBA, MLA Dalton responded that the Province invests money towards housing, shelters and rent subsidies for homeless individuals, and that the number of people experiencing homelessness has decreased substantially in the last few years.

Mayor Hawes praised the work of local organizations, including the Hope for Freedom Society, Haven in the Hollow, MY House and Habitat for Humanity for their dedication to helping the homeless in the community.

vi. *Graffiti Letters to Building Owners (What is the status?)*

The Director of Development Services noted that letters have been sent to business owners regarding graffiti on their buildings and that the Bylaw Enforcement Officers will be working with owners to address the issue. Discussion ensued regarding potential options for dissuading repeat graffiti incidents, including

- speaking with businesses that sell spray paint used for graffiti to restrict access to the paint;
- utilizing art in the form of a mural;
- commercial applications that repel spray paint.

vii. *Update on Alternate Location(s) for a Civic Plaza*

Discussion ensued on plans for a plaza on Welton Street and 1st Avenue, depending on Canada Post relocating their retail and sorting operations elsewhere. It was noted that an application could be made for grant funding available from the federal government to celebrate Mission's 125th anniversary and Canada's 150th anniversary that could go towards development of the plaza.

viii. *Lamppost and Sidewalk Upgrades*

The Long Range Planner noted that the first draft of the street improvement plans has been prepared and is being revised to accommodate staff recommendations. Once Class D cost estimates for construction are received, the plan will be reviewed in-house once more, and then referred to the DBA for their input.

Council and the DBA discussed the benefits of installing fibre optic cabling during the sidewalk improvement in an effort to entice more high tech companies to Mission. It was noted that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has allowed a decrease in roadway on 1st Avenue to facilitate the widening of the sidewalks on either side of the road by up to 1.2 metres.

In response to questions from the DBA about a current budget for the project, Council responded that money will not be allocated for this specific project until cost estimates come in; however there are funds available in the capital budget for projects such as this.

- ix. *Darkness/Visibility at Crosswalks (e.g. Welton Street and Railway Avenue; Welton Street and 1st Avenue; Welton Street and 2nd Avenue; Horne Street and 2nd Avenue; Horne Street and 1st Avenue; James Street and Railway Avenue; James Street and 2nd Avenue)*

Council and the DBA discussed lighting options, including LED retrofits, until the sidewalk improvement project is approved. It was noted that all lampposts in the downtown area are functioning but that replacement bulbs are no longer available, and that an interim option could be to replace broken lampposts on an as-need basis.

- x. *Parking Statistics in Regard to Parallel Parking Lines*

Council and the DBA agreed that the parallel parking line project was not effective and should not be continued.

- xi. *Bypass for Commercial Vehicles (What is the status of funding from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to get it done?)*

The Director of Engineering and Public Works noted that staff have attempted to contact the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure numerous times in the last several months with no response. A letter will be sent to MLA Simon Gibson in hopes of advancing discussion with the provincial government.

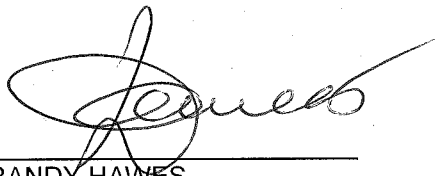
4. ADJOURNMENT

SC16/008
JAN. 27/16

Moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



RANDY HAWES
MAYOR



MIKE YOUNIE
CORPORATE OFFICER