

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Friday, March 18, 2016 commencing at 10:04 a.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Randy Hawes  
Councillor Pam Alexis  
Councillor Carol Hamilton  
Councillor Jim Hinds  
Councillor Jenny Stevens

Council Members Absent: Councillor Rhett Nicholson  
Councillor Danny Plecas

Staff Members Present: Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Kris Boland, Director of Finance  
Michael Boronowski, Manager of Civic Engagement & Corporate Initiatives (left meeting at 11:18 a.m.)  
Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering and Public Works (left meeting at 11:37 a.m.)  
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Guests Present: Marc Dalton, Member of the Legislative Assembly  
Jati Sidhu, Member of Parliament (left meeting at 11:18 a.m.)  
Kevin Tatla, Constituency Assistant for MP Sidhu (left meeting at 11:18 a.m.)

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

SC16/014  
MAR. 18/16

Moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Hinds , and  
RESOLVED: That the meeting be called to order.  
CARRIED

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC16/015  
MAR. 18/16

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and  
RESOLVED:  
1. That the following items be added to this agenda under "New Business":  
Late Item – Changes to Municipal Election Expenses / Spending Limit – MLA Dalton  
2. That the March 18, 2016 Special Council Agenda be adopted as amended.  
CARRIED

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

SC16/016  
MAR. 18/16

#### **Discussion – Council, MP Sidhu, and MLA Dalton**

##### Opening Remarks

Mayor Hawes, MP Sidhu and MLA Dalton expressed their willingness to work together for the benefit of the community.

##### Federal Budget 2016 and Economic Update

MP Sidhu provided an overview of his government's priorities, noting the following:

- the federal government will run a deficit over the next few years in order to stimulate the economy; and
- there will be an increase in infrastructure funding, with a likely focus on green projects and diking projects initially, but no funding will be provided to address cost overruns in existing projects that may arise as a result of currency fluctuations.

Mayor Hawes expressed his view that, while federal and provincial funding is of great importance, municipalities also have a responsibility to plan for the maintenance and replacement of their infrastructure (i.e. sewer and water lines).

MLA Dalton noted that the LNG project is of concern to the provincial government in terms of both its impact on the environment and its importance as an economic driver in the region.

MP Sidhu acknowledged the importance of building a strong economy while also protecting the environment and noted that the federal budget will be announced on March 22, 2015. MP Sidhu also expressed his desire to work in conjunction with Council to ensure that the District's priority projects are brought to the attention of the decision-makers in Ottawa.

##### Provincial Budget 2016 and Economic Update

MLA Dalton provided an overview of the Province's financial situation, noting that the government has a surplus budget for the fourth year in a row and that British Columbia is currently the only province in Canada with a stable AAA rating, which allows it to borrow money at a preferential rate. He outlined recent increases in spending and changes in provincial policy which will benefit British Columbians and noted that the region has the highest growth rate in the country, with approximately 15,000 new jobs created in the month of February. MLA Dalton also recognized that funding dollars are limited and encouraged the municipality to prioritize its projects in order to capitalize more effectively on available provincial funding.

The Director of Finance asked the MLA how the municipality might best position itself to capitalize on the additional transit funding in the 2016 provincial budget, and MLA Dalton committed to following up on this matter.

##### District of Mission Grant Funded Projects

The Director of Engineering and Public Works provided a brief overview of the following:

- the Cedar and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Intersection Widening Project;
- the Mission Dike Improvement Project;
- the Fraser River Sanitary Crossing Project; and

- the Highway 7 Bypass Project.

In response to questions from the MP, Council confirmed that the Fraser River Sanitary Crossing project is the most time-sensitive of the projects, noting that a systems failure would have catastrophic results for Mission and the surrounding region.

MP Sidhu requested additional information on these projects so that he could bring these concerns to the attention of his colleagues in Ottawa.

#### Flood Protection Along Fraser River

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer asked about funding to assist with dike improvements and dredging. MLA Dalton requested information on the District's priority projects so that he could work in cooperation with the municipality to secure available funding.

Mayor Hawes expressed concern about the well-intended but disjointed approach that is being taken by the various groups and municipalities involved with the Community to Community Forum along the Fraser River and recommended that the provincial government hire an expert to develop a science based approach to address concerns related to the Fraser River sediment accumulations.

MP Sidhu expressed his view that the channel should be stabilized for both safety and economic reasons.

Both MP Sidhu and MLA Dalton agreed to address this issue with their respective governments.

#### Marihuana

In response to questions from staff regarding the impact of the recent court decision, MP Sidhu stated that the federal government is examining its options and expects to have a plan before the end of the year.

Council expressed its view that the concerns of municipalities and citizens are not being heard.

MP Sidhu offered to arrange a meeting with MP Bill Blair, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice, when Mr. Blair visits the province. He also stated that he will request that one of the consultation sessions on this important issue take place in the region.

#### Stave West and First Nations Partnership

The Manager of Civic Engagement and Corporate Initiatives provided an overview the Stave West project and noted that, once completed, the business case would be brought forward for consultation and review.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of the area and the need for provincial and federal funding for road improvements. The Manager of Civic Engagement and Corporate Initiatives extended an open invitation to both MP Sidhu and MLA Dalton to participate in a tour of the region.

#### Federal Environmental Legislation

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer asked if there are plans to reverse the changes made to the Federal Fisheries Act under the past Conservative government and whether there are any planned changes to Species at Risk legislation.

MP Sidhu stated that he will look into the matter and report back to the municipality as information becomes available.

#### Mission 125th Anniversary and Canada 150th Anniversary Funding

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture asked about funding for Mission's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Both MP Sidhu and MLA Dalton indicated that there is funding available for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and MP Sidhu requested that information related to Mission's funding requests be forwarded to his office.

#### Affordable Housing Funding Increases

MP Sidhu stated that affordable housing is of importance to the federal government and that he anticipates funding will be allocated to this purpose in the soon-to-be-announced federal budget.

MP Sidhu, Mr. Tatla, and the Manager of Civic Engagement and Corporate Initiatives left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

#### Cost Sharing for Sidewalks and Lampposts on First Avenue

Discussion ensued on the proposed changes for the downtown core, and on safety, transportation and infrastructure concerns related to First Avenue, Highway 7, Highway 11, and the Murray Street Overpass.

In response to questions from the MLA, Council confirmed that the following are some of the transportation issues of importance to the District of Mission (not necessarily in order of priority):

- road improvements to Sayre's Lake;
- cost sharing for Highway 7 / downtown improvements;
- four lane highway between Maple Ridge and Mission;
- improved lane markings on Highway 7;
- resurfacing of Murray Street Overpass and Mission/Abbotsford Bridge;
- the future of the Murray Street overpass and Province's lack of funding for the project; and
- traffic at the corner of Highway 7 and Highway 11.

MLA Dalton informed Council that he and the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure will be meeting on March 30, 2016 and he requested that a list of the District's priority projects be forwarded to his office in advance of this meeting.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works left the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

#### Sale of Schools by School District No. 75 (Mission)

General discussion ensued on the process surrounding the sale of schools. MLA Dalton requested that any specific questions that Council may have be compiled and forwarded to his office so that he can seek answers on their behalf.

#### Bus Pass Issues for People with Disabilities

Discussion ensued on bus passes for people with disabilities. MLA Dalton explained the new process and noted that it is designed to be more equitable and to ensure that those who are obtaining passes are actually using them. He noted that his

government is committed to making life better for people with disabilities and that the threshold for clawbacks has been increased as has the amount of assets one can hold and still qualify for a disability benefit.

Council questioned whether or not the increased clawback thresholds apply to WorkSafe BC disability payments. MLA Dalton stated that his government recognizes that there are a variety of issues related to clawback thresholds and is working to address them. He requested that any information on specific cases be forwarded to his office.

Mission Memorial Hospital

MLA Dalton provided an update on Mission Memorial Hospital (MMH), noting that 25 acute care beds and 10 path beds have recently been transferred from Abbotsford Hospital to MMH. He also informed Council that a pilot project has begun to assist and support frail elders in our community remain in their homes.

Late Item: Changes to Municipal Election Expenses / Spending Limit – MLA Dalton

MLA Dalton provided an update on recent changes to the municipal election spending limits.

Late Item: Substance Abuse Discussion

Mayor Hawes reminded MLA Dalton that a Substance Abuse and Addictions Forum will take place on April 13, 2016 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Clarke Theatre.

Discussion ensued on Council's concerns regarding the Fraser Health Authority's approach to substance abuse issues and needle distribution. Mayor Hawes also expressed concern that, by advocating the use of methadone as one of the primary treatments for substance abuse, the Health Authorities are offloading the cost of treatment to the PhamaCare system at the lifelong expense of the individuals seeking assistance.

MLA Dalton stated that he shares Council's concerns related to substance abuse treatment and needle distribution and that, as a member of the Health Committee, would bring these issues to the forefront.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**


SC16/017  
MAR. 21/16

Moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Alexis, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

  
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RANDY HAWES  
MAYOR  
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MIKE YOUNIE  
CORPORATE OFFICER