

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 Monday, September 12, 2016 commencing at 9:04 a.m.

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

Council Members Absent: Councillor Rhett Nicholson

Provincial and Federal
Politicians Present: Jati Sidhu, Member of Parliament (left meeting at 11:18
a.m.)
Marc Dalton, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Simon Gibson, Member of the Legislative Assembly

District of Mission
Staff Members Present: Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (left
meeting at 11:07 a.m.)
Kris Boland, Director of Finance
Michael Boronowski, Manager of Civic Engagement &
Corporate Initiatives
Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering and Public Works (left
meeting at 11:07 a.m.)
Maureen Sinclair, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services (left
meeting at 11:07 a.m.)
Dale Unrau, Fire Chief and Director of Fire/Rescue Services
(left meeting at 10:27 a.m.)
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Other Guests Present: Seamus Hefferman, Manager, Office of Jati Sidhu (left
meeting at 11:18 a.m.)
Ted De Jager, Officer in Charge, Mission RCMP Detachment
(joined at 9:30 a.m.)
Dave Sawatzky, President Mission Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Ann Harper, Past President – Mission Regional Chamber
of Commerce
Kristin Parsons, Executive Director, Mission Regional
Chamber of Commerce

1. CALL TO ORDER

SC16/036
SEP. 12/16

Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Alexis , and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be called to order.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC16/037
SEP. 12/16

Moved by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and
RESOLVED: That the September 12, 2016 Special Council Agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

SC16/038
SEP. 12/16

Discussion – Council, MP Sidhu, MLA Dalton and MLA Gibson

Opening Remarks

Mayor Hawes welcomed Council, MP Sidhu, MLAs Dalton and Gibson and the members of the public present to the meeting and expressed his belief in the importance of ongoing cooperation and communication among the three levels of government.

MP Sidhu, MLA Dalton and MLA Gibson each expressed their willingness to work together for the benefit of the community and provided an overview of recent developments at the provincial and federal levels.

Illegal Use of Firearms in Rural Areas

MLA Gibson introduced the topic of illegal use of firearms in rural areas, noting that recent enforcement in the Stave West areas has resulted in more illegal activity in the Sylvester Road area.

Mayor Hawes asked that the Province consider combining the B.C. Conservation Officer Service (COS) program and the Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) program for greater efficiency and effectiveness as the Conservation Officers are currently unable to address any illegal firearms issues that they encounter in the course of their job as they are unarmed and their mandate does not permit it. MLA Gibson said that he would raise this issue with the Province.

Traffic Issues

Traffic Backups on Highway 7 - Hatzic

Discussion ensued on the various priority projects for the District. Council expressed its view that delays for westbound traffic at the intersection of Murray Street and the Lougheed Highway (Highway 7) are especially problematic and require immediate attention. It was noted that, due to insufficient room, non-turning vehicles are often forced to wait in the same line up as those vehicles that are turning onto the Murray Street Overpass which causes significant delays and backups. Given an already overburdened system, anticipated growth in the region, and the use of Highway 7 as an alternative travel route when Highway 1 is closed, Council requested that the MLAs work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure that solutions are found to address problem.

The RCMP Inspector joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Circulation on Highway 7 & Highway 11

Mayor Hawes expressed Council's concerns over traffic delays at the intersection of Highway 7 and Highway 11. The Director of Engineering and Public Works confirmed that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure hired a consultant to prepare a

study and is, at present, considering its options for improvements related to that intersection.

Council stressed that this is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed in the near future and MLA Gibson stated that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure is aware of the concern which is what precipitated the study.

Murray Street Overpass

Council noted that the Murray Street Overpass and the Mission Bridge both require maintenance and repair and that a longterm solution needs to be found for transportation in and out of the area.

Housing Issues – Need for Low Cost Housing

MLA Gibson expressed concern regarding the existing and growing need for low cost and social housing in Mission and requested that Council forward to him any specific requests that they may have in this regard as he and MLA Dalton would be happy to lobby the provincial government on behalf of the community. Discussion ensued on recent initiatives for low cost and social housing in Mission, and Council requested that the MLAs follow up on the status of Maplevue Enterprise' application to BC Housing for their affordable housing project.

Mayor Hawes noted that the District of Mission has historically been ineligible for Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy funds due to the population size requirement established by the program. Mission has also been ineligible for BC Rural and Remote funds due to the population size requirement for communities under 25,000. For the first time, the Rural and Remote funding application has lifted the population size stipulation so that all communities who continue to be ineligible for the larger Federal funds have access to this opportunity. MP Sidhu committed to assisting the community in obtaining funding.

Discussion ensued on homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse issues in the community. It was noted that individuals with addiction problems require more and longer term support during the recovery process, in order to ensure that they do not relapse once their initial treatment ends, than is currently provided.

The MLAs and the MP requested that any information on outstanding funding applications that have not already been forwarded to their offices be sent to them for follow-up, including an application for funding for Stone Soup initiatives and any materials that may be available related to the Maplevue Enterprises' project.

In response to questions from Council, MLA Gibson confirmed that he is working in support of MY House funding.

Marihuana Grow Operations

Discussion ensued on the challenges related to both legal and illegal marihuana grow operations and MP Sidhu stated that the federal government will be holding a consultation meeting on this topic, to which Council will be invited, in either Abbotsford or Mission.

Mr. Sawatzky, President of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, expressed his organization's concerns regarding the impact of marihuana grow operations on the real estate market and the available stock of mortgageable housing in the community. He informed Council that the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is recommending that the Federal Government develop a comprehensive remediation

standard to ensure the safety of homebuyers and to ensure that affected homes are not permanently lost to the housing market.

The Fire Chief reported on drug related deaths in the community and noted that the professional firefighters are now able to administer naloxone to treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation. In response to questions from Council, the Fire Chief confirmed that Mission Fire/Rescue Service first responders are still not authorized to administer EpiPens to treat anaphylaxis. Mayor Hawes expressed his desire to see this BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) policy revisited.

The Fire Chief left the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Experience the Fraser and Waterfront Development

Discussion ensued regarding the Experience the Fraser project and the various challenges to the development of Mission's waterfront. Mayor Hawes explained that Experience the Fraser (ETF) is a recreational, cultural and heritage project that extends along the Lower Fraser River Corridor connecting communities along the Fraser River, from Hope to the Salish Sea.

MLAs Dalton and Gibson asked to be included in upcoming ETF discussions, organized by the Fraser Valley Regional District, as there may be funding opportunities available prior to the end of the year. MP Sidhu expressed his support for the project and asked to be included in these discussions as well.

High Risk Offenders in Communities – Process for Placement and Request for Improved Communication with Local Governments in Advance of Placement

Mayor Hawes expressed his and Council's concern about BC Corrections' handling of the recent relocation of a high risk sexual offender from Abbotsford to Mission.

Fraser House – Request for Mayor to Facilitate a Meeting with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Fraser Health Authority and Representatives of the Fraser House Board

Mayor Hawes provided an overview the Fraser House mandate and the impact of the Fraser Health Authority's (FHA) funding policies on Fraser House operations. He offered to coordinate a meeting with the MLAs, FHA and Fraser House Board representatives to discuss the issue. MLA Dalton and Gibson agreed to attend the proposed meeting and requested that background information be sent to them prior to the meeting.

Aggregate Site

Discussion ensued on the Fraser Valley Regional District's (FVRD) Aggregate Pilot Project and the provincial approval process for aggregate sites. Council expressed a desire for improved communication so that applicants better understand those circumstances under which they still require municipal approval. Mayor Hawes also informed the MLAs that he would like to follow in the footsteps of the FVRD's electoral areas and have a map which shows where aggregate extraction would be permitted within the District of Mission.

Liquor Licenses

MLA Dalton stated that he is aware of one business within the community that is experiencing permitting issues related to their outdoor liquor license and asked that he be informed if Council or the MP should become aware of any other additional issues.

The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, the Director of Development Services and the Director of Engineering and Public Works left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Future of the Mission Post Office

Discussion ensued on the future of the Mission Post Office building on First Avenue. Council informed MP Sidhu that the District would be interested in purchasing or leasing the building in order to ensure that the building is both fully utilized and occupied in a way that enhances the downtown core.

Council asked that MP Sidhu to pursue the issue and determine whether or not there is a willingness on the part of the federal government to consider such an arrangement. MP Sidhu said he would be happy to take forward any proposals that the District may have.

Transit

Discussion ensued on the cost of transit service and the need for a regional transportation system that would connect Mission to Maple Ridge. Council expressed its view that the West Coast Express is part of the regional transit system and, like the Fraser Valley Express which runs from Chilliwack to Langley, the cost to operate the service should be borne by the region and subsidized by BC Transit.

MP Sidhu and Mr. Hefferman left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Hatzic Lake Water Levels

In response to questions from Council, MLA Gibson recognized that there is a conflict between the needs of local farmers and recreational users but stated that the issue has been addressed for this year.

Fraser River Management

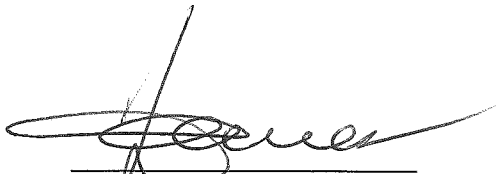
Discussion ensued on the management of the Fraser River. Mr. Sawatzky offered to provide Council with copies of a document prepared by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, with the support of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce and others, on the economic importance of the lower Fraser River.

4. ADJOURNMENT

SC16/039
MAR. 21/16

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, and
RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.



RANDY HAWES
MAYOR



MIKE YOUNIE
CORPORATE OFFICER