

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held Room 202 at Riverside College, 33919 Dewdney Trunk Road, Mission, British Columbia on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 commencing at 9:00 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

District of Mission  
Staff Members Present: Ron Poole, Chief Administrative Officer  
Stacey Crawford, Economic Development Officer  
Gina MacKay, Manager of Long Range Planning  
and Special Projects  
Kerri Onken, Deputy Treasurer/Collector  
Brent Schmitt, Manager of Business Services and  
Acting Director of Engineering and Public  
Works  
Clare Seeley, Executive Assistant and Marketing  
Coordinator  
Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services  
Mike Younie, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Christine Brough, Executive Assistant

Economic Development Select  
Committee Members Present: Rocky Blondin, Committee Member  
Pia Ritch, Committee Member  
Dan Schubert, Committee Member  
Craig Toews, Committee Member (left at 10:25 a.m.)  
Wade Peary, Committee Member  
Lesa Lacey, Committee Member  
Edgar Sarfeld, Committee Member

Economic Development Select  
Committee Members Absent: Anne Harper, Committee Member  
Raymond Szabada, Committee Member  
Beverly Toews, Committee Member

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order.

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

SC17/057  
NOV. 1/17

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Hinds and

RESOLVED: That the November 1, 2017 Special Council Agenda (with the Economic Development Select Committee) be adopted.

CARRIED

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

SC17/058  
NOV. 1/17

### Annual Meeting with the Economic Development Select Committee (EDSC)

#### i. Tourism Representation – Mountain Bike Symposium

Mr. Blondin gave a presentation on the September 13-15, 2017 Mountain Bike Tourism Symposium which took place in Revelstoke, British Columbia, noting that he, fellow EDSC member Dan Schubert, and District of Mission Manager of Parks & Facilities Jason Horton attended the event.

Discussion ensued on the value of the mountain bike tourism economy to the community, the opportunities that exist in Mission, the value of mountain biking, multi-use and interurban connector trails, and the need for support beyond that which can be provided by advocacy groups and their volunteers. Mr. Blondin noted that, in comparison with other community recreation assets, trails benefit a large number of people and can draw tourism dollars to the community with a relatively small capital investment.

#### ii. Transportation – EDSC Analysis

Mr. Blondin stated that the following topics were identified by the Committee, in order of priority, as important to economic development in Mission and, therefore, possible topics for consideration at the EDSC table:

- Transportation Issues and Strategies;
- Waterfront Lands;
- Future of the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV);
- Development of Tourism Economy;
- Community Services & Social Challenges;
- Improving Permit Process;
- Downtown Business Association - Empty Buildings & Parking;
- Mission Raceway Commercial Development;
- Development of innovation Zone; and
- Camping on the Fraser River.

Mr. Blondin stressed the importance of transportation issues as they relate to economic development.

### UFV Related Transportation Issues

Discussion ensued on the following:

- transit between the Abbotsford and Mission UFV campuses, related connectivity issues and the need for a route realignment;
- the role of the UFV student union in the provision of shuttle services between campuses and the challenges associated with funding such a project; and
- the future of UFV programs in Mission and the challenges to expansion.

Mr. Toews stated that the UFV student union might be receptive to an offer of funding from Maple Ridge and Mission to run a shuttle service as a pilot project.

### Employment and Transit Connectivity

Ms. Ritch explained that, given historic low unemployment, employers, especially in the retail and industrial sectors, are having difficulties getting transit-dependent employees to the workplace. Shift work, part-time hours, and irregular work schedules represented added challenges.

Discussion ensued on the lack of Provincial funding for transit expansion, alternate ways to address the problem, and the potential role of the employer in facilitating employee transportation to and from their facilities.

In response to questions from Council, the Economic Development Officer stated that a survey has not yet been conducted to quantify the issue in Mission but that it is a reoccurring theme in discussions with employers.

### Residents and Transportation

Mr. Sarfeld addressed the importance of creating a livable community and noted that the Transportation Master Plan contains many good recommendations that need to be implemented. He stressed the importance of advanced planning to ensure that interurban connectivity (e.g. sidewalks, biking paths, green alleys, etc.) is incorporated into the community.

### School District 75 and Transportation

Mr. Peary stressed the importance of sidewalks in ensuring student safety and discussion ensued regarding snow clearing on sidewalks near schools.

Mr. Peary also expressed a desire for transportation that brings students into Mission, not only from Maple Ridge but also from surrounding areas.

Ms. Lacey stated that transit from Deroche and area into Mission is limited and has an impact not only on students but also on all those who need access to services.

### Trades and Transportation

Ms. Lacey noted that that while many young people opt to go into trades, British Columbians are unable to obtain their Class 5 driver's license under the provisions of the Province's graduated licensing program until they are 18 years of age which creates significant transportation issues within the industry.

Highways and Transportation

Mr. Schubert and Ms. Lacey expressed concern regarding the flow of traffic on the Loughheed Highway, noting that traffic coming from the east into Mission can experience significant backups and delays.

Discussion ensued on the long proposed highway bypass, the potential impact of anticipated changes in the waterfront area, and recent conversations with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff regarding this matter.

iii. EDSC Gap Analysis and Administrative Review (Stacey Crawford)

The Economic Development Officer outlined the process for the EDSC gap analysis and administrative review that will be undertaken by the Committee in early 2018.

Council expressed its appreciation to the Committee for the time, effort and expertise that they expend on behalf of the municipality and the community.

Mr. Toews left at 10:25 a.m.

iv. Discussion/Areas of Focus for 2018

A general discussion ensued regarding potential areas of focus for the EDSC in 2018. The Committee members acknowledged that Council is bound by municipal and in some cases, as with transit, Provincial financial constraints. The Committee indicated that it would like to focus its efforts in areas where there is funding potentially available for the implementation of at least some of the Committee recommendations.

It was agreed that the Economic Development Officer would consider options, especially in light of the current budget cycle, and report back to the Committee and Council. If necessary, another meeting would be scheduled to discuss the matter further.

**4. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC**

SC17/059  
NOV. 1/17

Moved by Councillor Alexis, seconded by Councillor Plecas, and

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Sections 90 and 92 of the *Community Charter*, this Special Meeting of Council be closed to the public as the subject matter being considered relates to the following:

- Section 90(1)(e) of the *Community Charter* – the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

CARRIED

**5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED COUNCIL MEETING**


SC17/060  
NOV. 1/17

Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Hinds, and

RESOLVED: That the Special Council meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.



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RANDY HAWES  
MAYOR



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MIKE YOUNIE  
CORPORATE OFFICER

