

Highlights of the Regular Council Meeting February 4, 2013

Downtown Planning Process Update

The Downtown Planning charrette held on January 16 and 17 identified a number of “Big Moves” along with five action items that participants thought would make an important contribution to revitalizing the downtown. District staff will continue to take advantage of every opportunity for public input. The downtown planning process will now focus on refining the identified actions, identifying quick wins and their cost, and developing the Downtown Revitalization Plan, including the marketing and communication strategies required to implement the plan. Further information can be found on the District website on the “MissionCity Downtown Planning” page.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas Permit Referral for Aggregate Extraction at 33105 Thomas Avenue

Council has instructed staff to forward comments to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas stating its opposition to the application to extract gravel from a 10 hectare portion of 33105 Thomas Avenue in Steelhead. Local government cannot stop a Mines Permit from being issued as it falls under Provincial jurisdiction, however it can submit comments.

Forestry Operations 2012 Year-End Report

The District’s forestry operation financial results show a net profit \$621,788 for 2012, (after fee/fund transfers). There was a profit of \$340,814 for the final quarter of 2012 alone (compared to the original budget profit forecast of \$86,603). A report with recommendations for the distribution of the profit will be brought to Council once the annual financial audit is complete.

Alternate Approval Process (AAP) for District Boundary Extension

The District has applied to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to expand the municipal boundary to include property on the south shore of Alouette Lake (Boulder Bay). The AAP ended on January 29, and the number of valid Elector Response Forms in opposition to the proposed expansion was zero (0). The results of the AAP and other official documents will be sent to the Ministry for further processing, then submitted to the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Cabinet) for approval. Further information will follow once the Ministry announces whether the boundary expansion is approved or denied.

February 16 to 24, 2013 is “Heritage Week in Mission”

February 16 to 24 will be the 11th annual Heritage Week in Mission. Contact the Mission District Historical Society for details and the program of special events.

On-line Payments

Council has authorized a one-time cost of \$10,500, funded from reserves, to implement software to allow for expanded on-line payments for such things as property taxes, dog and business license renewals and accounts receivable payments. It will also allow for 24/7 web access to view accounts and re-print statements or reminder notices. An extensive communication plan will be created to notify all customers once an on-line payment option is ready to go.

2012 Budget Carry Forward Requests

Council approved the carry-forward of approximately \$4,478,962 from the 2012 capital budget and approximately \$119,693 from the operating budget to 2013. These amounts do not have an impact on 2013 property taxation, as they are unspent 2012 budget funds being utilized to complete various projects that were not completed during 2012.

Investment Performance Report

The District's total investment portfolio balance as at December 31, 2012 was \$57,154,102. Investment earnings in 2012 totaled \$1,065,474, which represents an approximate 1.95% return on investment.

Council Procedure Bylaw

Council has granted the first three readings to a new Council Procedure Bylaw that will regulate and guide council and committee meetings. The new proposed bylaw will repeal the existing one. A copy of the proposed new bylaw can be found on the home page of the District's website. Members of the public are invited to provide written comments by regular mail, email (info@mission.ca), or in person at Municipal Hall by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 15, 2013.

Bylaw Amendments Deferred

Council will not be considering any amendments to the Taxi Regulation Bylaw or the Dog Licencing and Animal Control and Impounding Bylaw until further information is provided by staff.

Next Regular Council Meeting is
Monday, February 18, 2013 – 6:00 pm
Council Chambers, Municipal Hall
8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, BC