

Minutes of a **JOINT MEETING** between **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** and **CITY OF ABBOTSFORD COUNCIL** held in the conference room at the municipal hall at 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 commencing at 3:30 pm.

District of Mission Council Members Present:

Mayor James Atebe
Councillor Terry Gidda (arrived at 4:40 pm)
Councillor Paul Horn
Councillor Danny Plecas
Councillor Mike Scudder
Councillor Heather Stewart

District of Mission Council Members Absent:

Councillor Jenny Stevens

City of Abbotsford Council Members Present:

Mayor George Peary
Councillor Les Barkman
Councillor Simon Gibson
Councillor Moe Gill
Councillor Lynne Harris
Councillor Dave Loewen
Councillor Bill Macgregor
Councillor Patricia Ross
Councillor John Smith

District of Mission Staff Present:

Glen Robertson, chief administrative officer
Dennis Clark, director of corporate administration
Ken Bjorgaard, director of finance
Rick Bomhof, director of engineering and public works
Debi Decker, administrative assistant (recording secretary)

City of Abbotsford Staff Present:

Frank Pizzuto, city manager
Jim Gordon, director of engineering
Russ Mammel, manager of transportation
Elvis Riou, manager of engineering services

1. WELCOMING REMARKS – MAYOR JAMES ATEBE

Mayor Atebe welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that these meetings are very beneficial as both municipalities jointly fund a number of infrastructure initiatives as well as sharing common concerns.

Mayor Peary thanked Mayor Atebe for inviting City of Abbotsford council to meet and agreed that there are many common issues between the two communities. He also acknowledged the very long friendship and excellent working relationship between Abbotsford and Mission

2. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (Mayor Atebe)

Elvis Riou, Abbotsford's manager of engineering services, gave a brief overview of the current regional transportation study that is being funded by the Ministry of Transportation and the Fraser Valley Regional District. He indicated that the study is expected to be completed and delivered by January 2010.

After general discussion around the regional transportation study versus local transit planning and how the delay in receiving the regional study could impede local planning, it was agreed that direction be given to the Mission Abbotsford Transit Committee that both District of Mission and City of Abbotsford councils want to continue with local transit/transportation planning, and to not wait until the regional transportation study has been completed in 2010.

Moved by Councillor Horn, and seconded by Councillor Scudder,

RESOLVED: That each mayor and council send a letter to the BC Transit and the Minister of Transportation expressing their desire that the regional planning process is to be a good faith process and that local planning is to be allowed to continue until each council specifically resolves to make regional planning their first priority.

CARRIED

3. BC TRANSIT BUS EXPANSION

(a) Letter dated March 2, 2009 from Mayor Atebe to Dave Burns, Director Municipal Systems, BC Transit

Rick Bomhof, Mission's director of engineering and public works, informed both councils that the letter provided was for information purposes.

Concerns surrounding BC Transit's decision to postpone transit expansion plans were discussed. It was noted that a decision from BC Transit is expected by the end of April.

4. ABBOTSFORD/MISSION WATER & SEWER UTILITIES

(a) Grant “Gas Tax” Application

(b) Securing Safe and Sustainable Drinking Water – Cannell Lake Treatment Facility

Mayor Atebe thanked Abbotsford for the comprehensive background report. He continued by suggesting that the Abbotsford/Mission Water & Sewer Commission be able to apply directly for Federal-Provincial infrastructure grants under the “Gas Tax Agreement” as a stand alone entity.

Mayor Peary advised that he was extending invitations to the local Members of Parliament (MP) and the Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) to tour the Cannell Lake/Norrish Creek water sheds/systems. He reiterated that the water treatment project was the number one priority for Abbotsford.

Mayor Peary also confirmed that he and other City of Abbotsford representatives had delivered prepared binders of information to a number of ministries, including the Ministry of Community Development. He said that a response is expected from the province and that a follow-up will occur after the provincial election has taken place.

General discussion occurred regarding: the Ministry of Health drinking water requirements; Stave Lake as a second water source; the water and sewer master plans; and how First Nation Bands are asking for payment for “consultation” when there is a statutory requirement to consult with them. Councillor Ross stated that legal advice had been sought regarding the First Nation payment for consultation requests, and it was agreed that Abbotsford would request a legal opinion stating that municipalities are not required to pay First Nation Bands for consultation.

5. CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA

(a) Letter dated July 17, 2006 from Mayor Atebe to the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Statistics Canada

(b) Letter dated February 7, 2007 from Mayor Atebe to the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Statistics Canada

(c) Letter dated March 7, 2007 from the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Statistics Canada

(d) Letter dated January 30, 2009 from Joseph Kresovic, Director Statistics Canada

Mayor Atebe commented that Mission had been trying to have the Census Metropolitan area name changed for a number of years, and that any support Abbotsford could provide would be helpful and appreciated.

Moved by Councillor Harris, and seconded by Councillor Loewen,

RESOLVED: That a joint letter be forwarded to the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada advising the agreement between the two municipalities to have the current Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area renamed as "Abbotsford-Mission Census Metropolitan Area".

CARRIED

Councillor Horn pointed out in the letter from J. Kresovic, Director of Statistics Canada, that the consultation period ends on April 30, 2009, and comments needed to be received by that date.

6. REGIONAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES MISSION HEALTH STUDY UPDATED

Glen Robertson, Mission's chief administrative officer noted that a Health Care study had been completed by Price Waterhouse and approved by a steering committee comprised of Fraser Health and council members. He said that as the Regional Hospital District funded the study, the study would be presented to the Regional Hospital District board at their April 28th meeting prior to it being released to the public.

Councillor Horn said that this study was really a report to explore ways to leverage capital dollars, obtaining operating dollars, along with policies and procedures.

General discussion continued around the lower per capita funding that the Fraser Health Authority receives versus what the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority receives, and that both councils should be lobbying for equitable funding.

7. AIR QUALITY STATION IN MISSION

Mayor Atebe advised that Mission was requesting Abbotsford's support in obtaining an air monitoring system in our community.

Councillor Ross confirmed that the FVRD Air Quality Committee had been trying for years to obtain more air monitoring systems in the Kent/Mission areas. She informed the councils that the province pays the monitoring costs (approximately \$50,000/year) in other areas of the province, but that the Fraser Valley Regional District pays for the systems in this area. She advised that a study was being conducted to determine the best locations and requested that Mission provide a letter that states "We propose a site (location) because (reason)" and forward it to Abbotsford.

Councillor Horn requested that this item be placed on the next regular meeting of council for Mission.

Moved by Councillor Horn, and seconded by Councillor Scudder,

RESOLVED: That a letter be written to the appropriate Minister, advising that there is joint council support by the City of Abbotsford and District of Mission for an air monitoring station to be placed in the same location as the private weather station (Mt. Mary-Ann/Westminster Abby) in Mission, and that the province provide funding for this air monitoring station.

CARRIED

8. NEW GAS TAX PROGRAM (Mayor Peary)

Mayor Peary advised that Abbotsford was seeking new revenues other than property taxes and is considering instituting a 1 or 2 cent per liter fuel tax that would be used exclusively for transit and road improvements/upkeep.

He stated that joining Metro Vancouver would raise gas prices by 6 cents per liter, but that Abbotsford may receive only marginal services from such a decision. He further noted that he had made this potential funding source at a recent public council meeting, and expected that Abbotsford would proceed with a decision sometime in the early fall of 2010.

Mayor Atebe agreed that Mission should also consider the fuel tax concurrently with Abbotsford, and that BC Transit could be approached to provide a business case that could be submitted with a request to the Minister.

General discussion took place and the following points were brought forward:

- a. Governance/constitution – jointly or individually; Mission/Abbotsford Transit
- b. If jointly, how will the funds be allocated
- c. How will the funds be spent – transit and roads only
- d. Strict guidelines need to be agreed upon first – a joint strategy

Moved by Councillor Smith, and seconded by Councillor Horn,

RESOLVED: That the City of Abbotsford and District of Mission councils give their staff direction to commence the studies and consultations with BC Transit with respect to having a “2 cent per liter” tax added to all fuel purchased within their municipalities.

CARRIED

9. LOCAL CALLING AREA EXPANSION – TELUS PROPOSAL

- (a) Letter dated June 30, 2008 from Abbotsford/Mission to CRTC**
- (b) Letter dated August 11, 2008 from Telus**

Glen Robertson advised that to-date, no further information has been received from Telus regarding the local calling area expansion.

Moved by Councillor Horn, and seconded by Councillor Gibson

RESOLVED: That a letter be written to Telus and the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), with a copy to the local Members of Parliament and each councillor, requesting the status of the local telephone calling area expansion, and to request that consultation with the City of Abbotsford and the District of Mission begin on expanding the local calling area as soon as possible.

CARRIED

10. GUNS AND GANGS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND

Mayor Peary noted that the recent gang related arrests in Abbotsford were a positive step, however there is much left to do to address this growing problem. He noted that he has recently formed a crime [prevention task force, to advise council on a variety of related topics.

He commented that when Abbotsford police officers worked with the RCMP Integrated teams, the Province provides funding for the back-fill of the officers. He did note, that since uniformed police officers were used during the recent surveillance, the City was responsible for all costs.

Moved by Councillor Smith, and seconded by Councillor Horn,

RESOLVED: That a joint public letter be written to the Solicitor General, requesting financial support to the City of Abbotsford in regards to the recent surveillance of suspected gang members, as this situation was not exclusively a City of Abbotsford issue.

CARRIED

Councillor Scudder referred to the crime prevention task force that had been set-up in Abbotsford, requesting additional information be made available at the next joint council meeting.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Peary requested those council members who would be attending the upcoming

Lower Mainland Government Association (LMGA) conference, to speak out and vote against allowing free-range chickens in urban areas.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Atebe concluded the meeting by thanking Abbotsford council and staff for this opportunity to meet and work together.

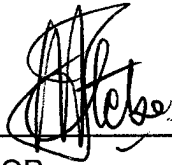
It was agreed that another joint meeting would be held in September, to be hosted in Abbotsford.

Moved by Councillor Gidda, seconded by Councillor Gibson, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.



MAYOR



DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

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