



COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLEGAR

Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Castlegar held February 6, 2012, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Forum, 445 – 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C.

**MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mayor Lawrence Chernoff
Councillor Kevin Chernoff
Councillor Russ Hearne
Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff
Councillor Deb McIntosh
Councillor Dan Rye
Councillor Gordon Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

John Malcolm, Chief Administrative Officer
Andre Buss, Director of Finance
Chris Barlow, Director of Transportation and Civic Works
Carolyn Rempel, Director of Corporate Services
Gerry Rempel, Fire Chief/Airport Manager
Public and Media

CALL TO ORDER:

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**AGENDA:
43-12**

Moved and seconded,
that the agenda be approved as amended by adding under Reports
Other: Travel to Regina, Saskatchewan for Royal Canadian
Mounted Police Graduation Ceremony (#12-30) and the Castlegar
Youth Engagement Report. Carried.

DELEGATIONS:

- MS. NETTA
ZEBEROFF,
KOOTENAY
DOUKHOBOR
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ms. Netta Zeberoff, Curator for the Doukhobor Discovery Centre,
Mr. Dan Sammartino, Acting Board Chair and Mr. George Koochin,
Director, attended the meeting to update Council on the activities
undertaken at the Centre during the past year and to discuss plans
for the 2012 season.

Ms. Zeberoff discussed:

- some of the work undertaken at the Centre during the past year;
- some of the events that were held at the Centre in 2011;
- the hosting of the "Kootenay Festival – Let's Celebrate" on the Centre lands in 2011 and the plans to host this event again in 2012;
- the opening of an exhibition room which showcases the work of local artists;
- some of the needed improvements to the lands and buildings;
- the grant applications that have been prepared and submitted by Ms. Zeberoff.

Ms. Zeberoff thanked the City and the community for their on-going support of the Kootenay Doukhobor Historical Society and the Doukhobor Discovery Centre.

Ms. Zeberoff advised that she will be requesting that Council provide letters of support to accompany grant applications that she will be submitting to various groups and agencies.

Council thanked Ms. Zeberoff, Mr. Sammartino and Mr. Koochin for attending the meeting and providing this report.

- MR. CLIFF PALUCK,
MS. HELGA AULD,
REPRESENTING THE
KOOTENAY CHAPTER
OF CITIZENS FOR
SAFE TECHNOLOGY .

Mr. Cliff Paluck and Ms. Helga Auld, representing the Kootenay Chapter of Citizens for Safe Technology attended the meeting to express concerns about FortisBC's proposed plan to replace the present analogue electrical meters with their Advanced Metering Infrastructure which are electromagnetic radiating meters.

Mr. Paluck noted the report "About Smart Meters" which discusses the various risks associated with the AMI's including invasion of privacy, vulnerability to hacking, damage to electronic equipment and fire risks however, it is the health risks and concerns that Mr. Paluck wishes to discuss this evening. Mr. Paluck cited four (4) reports on the subject to health risks associated with exposure to electromagnetic radiation and provided copies of those reports for Council's consideration.

Mr. Paluck reported that:

- studies have shown that 3% of people are very sensitive to electromagnetic radiation and that 35% of people will experience mild to moderate symptoms;
- utility companies claim compliance with Health Canada Safety Code 6 however, many studies show that the levels specified in Health Canada Safety Code 6, which regulates radio frequency emissions, are in error and must be lowered as they are the among the least protective guidelines in the world;
- studies show possible links to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, cancer and interference with medical devices such as pacemakers and electric wheelchairs associated with exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

Mr. Paluck noted that at the UBCM Convention held in September, 2011 the delegates voted 54% in favour of a moratorium on Smart Meters. Since that time approximately 30 local governments have passed similar resolutions.

Mr. Paluck asked that the City of Castlegar request a moratorium on the installation of smart meters until further independent investigation of health, safety and privacy concerns are addressed and reasonable alternatives are found.

Ms. Auld noted that there are many unknowns regarding the Fortis BC AMI project and they have many questions that they would like Fortis BC to address.

Mr. Paluck and Ms. Auld thanked Council for their time and for listening to these concerns.

Council thanked Mr. Paluck and Ms. Auld for their presentation.

- MR. BLAIR
WESTON, FORTIS BC

Mr. Blair Weston from Fortis BC attended the meeting to present information to Council regarding Fortis BC's proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. Mr. Weston advised that Fortis BC is still considering whether or not to implement this project and is currently listening to concerns being raised by customers.

Mr. Weston presented information regarding:

- how the AMI devices work;
- the benefits of the AMI project which include improved efficiency, empowerment to control energy use, improved safety for employees, theft detection capability and improved customer service;

- the anticipated \$40 million dollar cost of the project and the financial benefit offset which make this a cost neutral project;
- the frequency emitted by the AMI devices will comply with all applicable safety guidelines and regulations, including Health Canada Safety Code 6;
- the AMI devices operate on a frequency similar to cordless phones and garage door openers and are at a less intense frequency than many things that surround us right now;
- the BC Cancer Agency and BC's Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, agree that AMI Smart Meters are safe.

Mr. Weston advised that Fortis BC is still gathering information from various partners and stakeholders on the AMI project. If they decide to proceed they must submit an application to the BC Utilities Commission for this project. The BCUC process will ensure that interested parties or intervenors have ample opportunity to participate in a very public consultation process that will be undertaken.

Council asked if consumers will be given an opportunity to "opt out" of the AMI project and was advised by Mr. Weston that he is unable to answer that question at this time but that Fortis BC is looking at all options.

Council also asked Mr. Weston if these AMI Smart Meters are ever off. Mr. Weston confirmed that the meters are only on 4 – 6 times a day for a cumulative average of about one minute per day.

MINUTES:

- 44-12
- REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
- JANUARY 16, 2012

Moved and seconded,
that the minutes of the regular meeting held January 16, 2012, be approved as presented. Carried.

REPORTS:

AIRPORT:

Nil

COMMUNITY WELLNESS & SOCIAL SERVICES:

45-12

Moved and seconded,
that the verbal report from Councillor Heaton-Sherstobitoff regarding the Kootenay Zone Bowling Championships taking place on Saturday, February 11th at the Castlegar Bowling Alley and the February 18th Toboggan Party, be received for information. Carried.

CULTURAL AND CIVIC PRIDE:

- 46-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Cultural and Civic Pride Committee meeting held February 2, 2012, be received for information. Carried.

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES:

- 47-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee meeting held January 30, 2012, be received for information. Carried.

48-12
- ADVERTISING
REQUEST –
KOOTENAY BUSINESS
MAGAZINE (#12-18)

Moved and seconded,
that Council approve the purchase of a ½ page ad in the Kootenay Business Magazine to promote Castlegar in the Economic Development Section in the March/April issue and the Castlegar Sculpturewalk in the July/August issue. The \$1,938 per ad cost will be allocated from the Economic Development budget line item.

Carried.

Members of Council requested that they review the ad before it proceeds.

49-12
- GRANT REQUEST –
WEST KOOTENAY
EARLY YEARS
CONFERENCE (#12-19)

Moved and seconded,
that Council approve a \$1,500 grant to the West Kootenay Early Years (a department of the Kootenay Boundary Community Services Co-op) conference organizers to assist with the costs associated with hosting the 2012 Annual Success By 6 Early Years Conference in Castlegar, BC to be held April 27th and 28th, 2012.

Carried.

50-12
- SPONSORSHIP
REQUEST –
CASTLEGAR AND
DISTRICT CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE SHOP
LOCAL CAMPAIGN
(#12-20)

Moved and seconded,
that consideration of Report to Council No. 12-20 submitted by Councillor Hearne, Chair of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee regarding the Sponsorship Request from the Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Campaign, be postponed to the Regular Council meeting of February 20, 2012, pending receipt of additional information and a budget for the project.

Carried.

51-12
- BUDGET 2012 AND
THE 2012-2016 FIVE
YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN
(#12-29)

Moved and seconded,
that the 2012 Five Year Financial Plan bylaw be brought forward to the next regular Council meeting for three readings and that Council adopt the 2012 provisional budget.

Carried.

GREEN:
52-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Green Committee meeting held February 2, 2012, be received for information.

Carried.

Councillor Rye reminded everyone that it is National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 9, 2012 whereby participants are encouraged to drop the heat by 2 degrees to help keep the planet cool.

53-12
- WOODSTOVE
EXCHANGE PROGRAM
(#12-26)

Moved and seconded,
that Council authorize the City's participation in the Wood Stove Exchange Program.

Carried.

54-12
- TRAVEL
AUTHORIZATION –
2012 BUILDING
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
CONFERENCE (#12-28)

Moved and seconded,
that Council authorize the travel of one member of the City Green Committee to attend the 2012 Building Sustainable Communities Conference to be held February 27 – March 1, 2012 in Kelowna, BC.

Carried.

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT:**
55-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meeting held February 1, 2012, be received for information. Carried.

56-12
- BUSINESS LICENCE
REPORT – JANUARY,
2012 (#12-22)

Moved and seconded,
that the Business Licence Report for January, 2012, be received for
information. Carried.

57-12
- BUILDING PERMIT
REPORT – JANUARY,
2012 (#12-23)

Moved and seconded,
that the Building Permit Report for January, 2012, be received for
information. Carried.

58-12
- 2011 YEAR END
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES ACTIVITY
REPORT (#12-25)

Moved and seconded,
that the 2011 Year End Development Services Activity Report, be
received for information. Carried.

59-12
- DEVELOPMENT
PERMIT APPLICATION
DP-1/12 (490-13TH
AVENUE) (#12-21)

Moved and seconded,
that the Mayor and Director of Corporate Services be authorized to
issue Development Permit DP-1/12 to allow:

1. The exterior renovations of the existing buildings at 490-13th Avenue; and
2. The construction of new lumber storage facilities with a front lot line setback of 0 m, rather than the 4.5 m specified in Zoning Bylaw 800.

The Development Permit is subject to the development substantially conforming to the attached drawings submitted by In Colour Decorating Centre Ltd. on January 29, 2012. Carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

60-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting held January 3, 2012, be received for information. Carried.

61-12
- TRAFFIC & BYLAW
ENFORCEMENT
MONTHLY ACTIVITY
REPORT – DECEMBER,
2011 (#12-16)

Moved and seconded,
that the Traffic & Bylaw Enforcement Monthly Activity Report for December, 2011, be received for information. Carried.

62-12
- EMERGENCY
SERVICES MONTHLY
REPORT – DECEMBER,
2011 (#12-27)

Moved and seconded,
that the Emergency Services Monthly Report for December, 2011, be received for information. Carried.

**TRANSPORTATION
AND CIVIC WORKS:**

63-12
- MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Transportation and Civic Works Committee meeting held January 31, 2012, be received for information. Carried.

R.D.C.K. REPORT:

64-12
- REGIONAL DISTRICT
OF CENTRAL
KOOTENAY
INAUGURAL MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the Regional District of Central Kootenay Inaugural meeting minutes of the Board held December 8, 2011, be received for information. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

65-12

Moved and seconded,
that the correspondence from Mr. Duff Sutherland in appreciation for the Contribution to the David Thompson 200th Anniversary Commemoration Event; Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding the 2012 Annual Conference; Royal Canadian Mounted Police Media and News Releases; Mr. Douglas Edgar, President BC Retired Teachers' Association regarding the Survey Conducted to Assess the Volunteer Role of Retired Teachers in BC; BC Hydro regarding the Hugh Keenleyside Spillway Gates Reliability Upgrade Project; Ms. Arlene Parkinson, Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments regarding the Notice of the Annual General Meeting and Third Call for Resolutions 2012; Ms. Courtney Hubscher and Jon Muller Appreciation for the Outdoor Skating Rink; Brendan Monder Appreciation for the Outdoor Ice Rink; The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC regarding Housing Affordability Symposium; Statistics Canada regarding the Canadian System of National Accounts 2012 Historical Revision; Ministry of Children and Family Development regarding Child Care Awards of Excellence; M&M Meat Shops regarding the Annual M&M Meat Shops Charity BBQ; Canadian Union of Public Employees Requesting a Resolution on the Proposed Canada European Union Trade Agreement (CETA); Habitat for Humanity Appreciation for Support and February 10, 2012 Fundraising Event and Fortis BC Information Sessions regarding Proposing to Amalgamate Three Natural Gas Utilities into One Legal Entity, with Common Rates and Services for Natural Gas Customers, be received for information.

Carried.

LETTER #129

Councillor Rye noted letter #129, the thank you card from Brendan Monder expressing his appreciation for the outdoor skating rink.

Councillor Rye requested that this card be forwarded to Civic Works for distribution.

66-12

- MS. BARB WATERS,
BC CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION RE:
BEAR AWARE LETTER
CAMPAIGN

Moved and seconded,
that Council send a letter to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment and the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations regarding sustained funding for the "Bear Aware" education program as delivered by the BC Conservation Foundation.

Carried.

REPORTS OTHER:

67-12

- COUNCIL APPOINTEE
TO THE CASTLEGAR
ATHLETIC
COMMISSION (#12-14)

Moved and seconded,
that Mayor Chernoff be appointed as the City Council representative on the City of Castlegar Athletic Commission and that Councillor Dan Rye be appointed as alternate, each for a term to commence on February 7, 2012 and terminating on November 30, 2014.

Carried.

68-12

- TRAVEL TO REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN
(#12-30)

Moved and seconded,
that Mayor Chernoff be authorized to travel to Regina, Saskatchewan to attend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police graduation and swearing in ceremony of Troop 7 on February 13, 2012 with travel dates to be February 12th and February 14th.

Carried.

69-12

- CASTLEGAR YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
REPORT

Moved and seconded,
that the Castlegar Youth Engagement Report be made available to the public and be posted on the City's website.

Carried.

A Press Release expressing Council's concern about the temporary closure of the Castlegar & District Health Centre on Saturday, February 4, 2012 was circulated.

A Press Release advising that the City has received a grant in the amount of \$760,000 from the provincial government for upgrades to the City's Water Treatment Centre was circulated.

MAYOR'S REPORT:
70-12

Moved and seconded,
that consideration of a resolution pertaining to requiring criminal records checks for all candidates for local government office be postponed to the February 20, 2012 regular meeting. Carried.

NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BYLAWS:

Nil

NEXT MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, February 20, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Forum, 445 – 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

Nil

QUESTION PERIOD:

- MR. RUDIGER
CLAUSS

Mr. Claus raised concern about the temporary closure of the Health Centre and the possible installation of Smart Meters by Fortis BC.

- MR. CORD LAFOND

Mr. Lafond expressed concern with the suggestion that candidates for local government office be required to provide a Criminal Records Check. Mr. Lafond believe that this requirement could possibly have the negative effect of losing some good people as candidates and cautioned Council to carefully consider this suggestion.

- MS. MEAGAN
SALEKIN

Ms. Saliken thanked Councillors Hearne, McIntosh and Heaton-Sherstobitoff for their Facebook posts regarding the closure of the Health Centre which helped to inform the public about the closure on Saturday. Ms. Saliken stressed that Council must be adamant with the Interior Health Authority that this service must be provided 12 hours per day/365 days per year and that any temporary closure of the Health Centre is unacceptable.

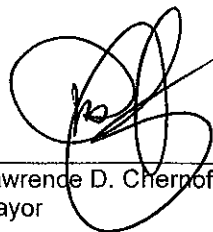
ADJOURNMENT:
70-12

Moved and seconded,
that the meeting adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Carried.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Carolyn Rempel,
Director of Corporate Services



Lawrence D. Chernoff,
Mayor

