



COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CASTLEGAR

Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Castlegar held December 15, 2014, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Forum, 445 – 13th Avenue, Castlegar, B.C.

**MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mayor Lawrence Chernoff
Councillor Kevin Chernoff
Councillor Deb McIntosh
Councillor Sue Heaton-Sherstobitoff
Councillor Dan Rye
Councillor Bruno Tassone
Councillor Florio Vassilakakis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nil

ALSO PRESENT:

John Malcolm, Chief Administrative Officer
Andre Buss, Director of Finance
Chris Barlow, Director of Transport and Civic Works
Diane Kalen-Sukra, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Phil Markin, Director of Development Services
Carolyn Rempel, Director of Corporate Services
Gerry Rempel, Fire Chief
David Bristow, Information Technology Manager
Public and Media

CALL TO ORDER:

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**AGENDA:
452-14**

Moved and seconded,
that the agenda be approved as amended by adding
under "Correspondence", Letter #1127 from Meagan
Salekin re: Staffing Salary and Expenses Review.

Carried.

DELEGATIONS:

Ms. Rebecca McDonnell, Blueberry Creek Community School (BCCS) Community Liason delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the current stats of the BCCS hub and programs and the possible outcomes of the School District 20 disposal process. Ms. McDonnell outlined the results of actions taken and those underway to ensure that BCCS remains a financially viable entity with the capacity to operate a public facility and continue to offer child, family and community strengthening programs to the Castlegar area. Ms. McDonnell made a request to Council for financial support for BCCS in the upcoming City budget. Council thanked Ms. McDonnell for her presentation and the valuable work of BCCS.

Bob Jackson, President of the Community Foundation of Castlegar & District delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Foundation's significant activities during 2014 which included supporting a youth room for BCCS, Summer in the Skate Park program for Kootenay Family Place and outdoor education programs at Stanley Humphries Secondary School for the Take a Hike Youth at Risk Foundation. The Foundation has established their annual granting cycle in the winter/spring of 2015. Mr. Jackson asked Council to consider a significant one-time grant to the Foundation that will help it qualify for a matching Columbia Basin Trust. Council thanked Mr. Jackson for his presentation.

MINUTES:

453-14
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2014
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the regular meeting held
November 17, 2014, be approved as presented.

Carried.

454-14
INAUGURAL MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2014
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the inaugural meeting held
December 1, 2014, be approved as presented.

Carried.

REPORTS

AIRPORT:

455-14
2014 BEST OF BUSINESS
AWARD CERTIFICATE TO
WEST KOOTENAY REGIONAL
AIRPORT

Moved and seconded,
that the 2014 Best of Business Award Certificate
presented to the West Kootenay Regional Airport by
Kootenay Business, be received for information.

Carried.

**COMMUNITY WELLNESS &
SOCIAL SERVICES:**

456-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Community Wellness and
Social Service Committee held December 4, 2014, be
approved as presented.

Carried.

457-14
2015 CELEBRATE CANADA –
FUNDING APPLICATION

Moved and seconded,
that Council authorize Carolyn Rempel, Director of
Corporate Services, to submit a funding application to the
Department of Canadian Heritage, Celebrate Canada
Program for assistance with the costs to host a Canada
Day Community BBQ and "Fresh Air Cinema" on July 1,
2015.

Carried.

CULTURAL AND CIVIC PRIDE:

458-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Cultural and Civic Pride
Committee held December 8, 2014, be approved as
presented.

Carried.

**FINANCE AND CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

459-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Finance and Corporate
Service committee meeting held on December 10, 2014
be received for information and further that a letter of
thanks be sent to Ev Surgenor for his assistance as Chair
of the Broadband Committee.

Carried.

460-14
2014 ANIMAL BOARDING AND
CARE AGREEMENT (#14-177)

Moved and seconded,
that the Animal Boarding and Care Agreement with the
Castlegar Veterinary Hospital (2009) Ltd., for the term from
October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017, as presented, be
approved by Council and that the Mayor and Director of
Corporate Services be authorized to sign the agreement.

Carried.

461-14
2015 UTILITY RATES AND
REGULATIONS (#14-166)

Moved and seconded,
that Council give three readings to the 2014 Water
Regulations and Rates Amending Bylaw, Bylaw No. 1209;
and, that Council give three readings to the 2014 Sewer
Regulations and Rates Amending Bylaw, Bylaw No. 1210.

Carried.

462-14
2014 LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTION RESULTS (#14-169)

Moved and seconded,
that the report to Council No. 14-169 dated November 25,
2014 from Carolyn Rempel, Chief Election Officer
regarding the 2014 local government election results be
received for information.

Carried.

463-14
CITY HALL 2014 HOLIDAY
HOURS (#14-172)

Moved and seconded,
that Council authorize the closure of City Hall on
Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and Friday, January 2,
2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Carried.

GREEN:

Nil

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT:**

464-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Planning and Development
Committee meeting held December 10, 2014 be received
for information.

Carried.

465-14
BUSINESS LICENSE REPORT –
NOVEMBER 2014 (#14-173)

Moved and seconded,
that the business license report for November 2014 be
received for information.

Carried.

466-14
BUILDING PERMIT REPORT –
NOVEMBER 2014 (#14-174)

Moved and seconded,
that the building permit report for November 2014 be
received for information.

Carried.

467-14
BUILDING BYLAW
AMENDMENT (SURVEY
CERTIFICATES) (#14-170)

Moved and seconded,
that staff be instructed to amend the City of Castlegar
Building Bylaw to clarify the requirements for survey
certificates.

Carried.

468-14
HIGHWAY ENGROACHMENT
AGREEMENT – 210-11th
AVENUE (#14-168)

Moved and seconded,
that the City of Castlegar enter into a Highway
Encroachment Agreement (Schedule "A" to Bylaw 628)
with the Castlegar and District Hospital Auxiliary Society
in order to allow a 10' – 0" x 20' – 0" (200 sq. ft) temporary
storage building to encroach onto a portion of the lane
behind 210 – 11th Avenue as referenced in the
agreement; and, that the Mayor and Director of Corporate
Services be authorized to execute the Highway
Encroachment Agreement.

Carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Nil.

469-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Public Safety Committee
meeting held on November 19, 2014 be received for
information.

Carried.

470-14
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED
POLICE CRIME REDUCTION
REPORT – NOVEMBER 2014

Moved and seconded,
that Royal Canadian Mounted Police Crime Reduction
Report for the month of November 2014 be received for
information.

Carried.

471-14
WILDSAFE BC ANNUAL
REPORT 2014 – CASTLEGAR &
AREA (#1101)

Moved and seconded,
that the WildSafe BC Castlegar 2014 Year-End report by
Castlegar and Area Community Coordinator Jenny
Wallace be received for information and that a letter of
thanks be sent to Jenny Wallace for her excellent work
this year.

Carried.

**TRANSPORTATION AND CIVIC
WORKS:**

472-14
MINUTES

Moved and seconded,
that the draft minutes of the Transportation and Civic
Works Committee meeting held on December 9, 2014, be
received for information.

Carried.

R.D.C.K. REPORT:

Nil

Mayor Chernoff noted that the new board of the Regional
District of Central Kootenay was sworn in on December
11th, 2014. Mayor Chernoff was elected Vice-Chair of the
Board.

CORRESPONDENCE:
473-14

Moved and seconded,
that correspondence from the following individuals and organizations:

- Castlegar Quilt Guild Thank You Mayor & Council (#1093)
- Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments Notice of Annual General Meeting (#1099)
- BC Emergency Health Services re: Meeting at UBCM (#1108)
- Everett Surgenor re Letter of Resignation from Castlegar Broadband Committee (#1111)
- Town of Embetsu Letter of Congratulations re Recent Election (#1113)
- Hudson Hope Letter Requesting One Year Moratorium and Referral of Site C Dam Project to BC Utilities Commission (#1118)
- Wayne Salekin re Contract Negotiations (#1126)
- Caryn Weir re Contract Negotiations (#1128)
- Kevin Blackman re Contract Negotiations (#1129)
- Gord Lamont re Contract Negotiations (#1130)
- Jane Robertson re Contract Negotiations (#1135)
- Meagan Salekin re Staffing Salary and Expense Review (#1127)

be received for information.

Carried.

LETTERS
#1126,#1128,#1129,#1130,#1135

Councillor Heaton-Sherstobitoff spoke to correspondence items 131 to 139 and acknowledged that Council receives, considers and responds to all correspondence as necessary.

LETTER #1127

Councillor Tassone asked if Council had directed staff to respond to correspondence item 139(a) letter by Meagan Salekin regarding staffing salary and expenses. Council advised that staff would be responding to Ms. Salekin's request for information.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Chernoff reported on his attendance at the following events:

- Saturday, November 22, 2014: Selkirk College Gala and Auction
- Monday, November 24, 2014: Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- Thursday, November 27, 2014: Hospice Holiday Reception
- Tuesday, December 2, 2014: Kootenay Business Magazine interview
- Thursday, December 4, 2014: Light up the Castlegar Health Centre Fundraiser. Mayor Chernoff congratulated the Health Centre for exceeding their fundraising goals.
- Tuesday, December 9, 2014: West Kootenay Economic Dialogue (MIR Centre)
- Wednesday, December 10, 2014: RDCK Orientation
- Thursday, December 11, 2014: Chamber of Commerce AGM

**NEW & UNFINISHED
BUSINESS:**

Nil

BYLAWS:

474-14
BYLAW 1209
- 1st READING

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1209, 2015 Water Regulations and Rates
Bylaw, be read a first time by title.

Carried.

475-14
BYLAW 1209
- 2nd READING

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1209, 2015 Water Regulations and Rates
Bylaw, be read a second time by content.

Carried.

476-14
BYLAW 1209
- 3rd READING

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1209, 2015 Water Regulations and Rates
Bylaw, be read a third time.

Carried.

477-14
BYLAW 1210
- 1st READING

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1210, 2015 Sewer Regulations and Rates, be
read a first time by title.

478-14
BYLAW 1210
- 2nd READING

Moved and seconded,
That Bylaw 1210, 2015 Sewer Regulations and Rates
Bylaw 1210, be read a second time by content.

Carried.

479-14
BYLAW 1210
- 3rd READING

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1210, 2015 Sewer Regulations and Rates
Bylaw 1210, be read a third time.

Carried.

480-14
BYLAW 1197
- ADOPTION

Moved and seconded,
that Bylaw 1197, Development Cost Charge Bylaw, be
adopted.

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

Nil

QUESTION PERIOD:

RUTIGER CLAUSE

Rutiger Clause raised the following concerns with Council:
the need for more stringent enforcement of the garbage
and wildlife attractant bylaws to minimize the need for the
destruction of bears; the importance of local businesses
clearing their sidewalks of snow during the strike; and,
what Mr. Clause feels is a costly excess of bicycle lane
signs along Columbia between Safeway and Dairy
Queen.

Mr. Clause also sought clarification on when water meter
billing will commence. Staff advised that billing would start
in 2015.

MEAGAN SALEKIN

Meagan Salekin questioned when she would get a
response to a query she had sent Council. Council
advised Ms. Salekin that staff would be directed to follow
up with her request.

HELGA OLD

Helga Old sought clarification on whether or not
negotiations were taking place. Council advised that the
City has an offer on the table and that the Union needs to
go back to the mediator.

- CINDY MCCALLUM MILLER
Cindy McCallum Miller asked for leadership from Council to break the labour impasse. She also asked if an underlying factor in the strike is the fact that the negotiator who drafted the Union's proposals is now working for the City. Chief Administrative Officer John Malcolm advised that this is not a factor in the strike.
- JEFF SCHEUPHER
Jeff Scheupher asked if exempt staff were being paid more than their salary during the strike. Mayor Chernoff advised that exempt staff were being paid a fixed rate of \$49.72 for overtime hours.
- SEAN SMITH
Sean Smith noted that the City says it is neither practical nor economical for management staff to do bargaining unit work. Mr. Smith then asked why the City would not just return to the bargaining table to settle the dispute.
- JASON CRAIG
Jason Craig asked if the city was spending tax dollars to pay a car allowance for staff that chose to live outside the City. Chief Administrative Officer John Malcolm advised that it is standard practice to pay for a car allowance, which is more affordable than paying mileage and insurance, and that the City cannot dictate where people live.
- KEVIN BLACKMAN
Kevin Blackman asked if it was true that the Director of Development Services had retired and been rehired on contract during the labour dispute. Mayor Chernoff advised that a recent change in pension rules allows employees of pensionable age to continue working and cease payments to the pension corporation.
- CHERYL MCLEOD
Cheryl McLeod asked why the City had cited one of the reasons for contracting out of Millennium Ponds work is that we didn't have the equipment needed. She asked for confirmation if in fact the contractor had rented the equipment for the maintenance of the ponds. Staff confirmed that a sand groomer had been rented for the maintenance work at Millennium Ponds.
- LEFORD LAFAYETTE
Leford Lafayette said that he thought it was disgusting and sick that his City supervisor had taken asked him to turn in his radio at the commencement of the strike, which he uses as a volunteer firefighter.
- CHERYL MCLEOD
Cheryl McLeod said she thought it was despicable that the City had spent taxpayer dollars putting a letter into the newspaper claiming it was the union leadership had led the unionized employees to strike. The workers, she said, voted to strike.
- MEAGAN SALEKIN
Meagan Salekin asked for information on exempt staffing levels to correspond and compare with unionized staffing levels published in the City's most recent public notice.

MR. EVANS

Mr. Evans congratulated Council on their election to public office for the next four years. He wanted to advise Council that it was important to participate in environmental initiatives, such as the West Kootenay Eco Society's survey which was sent out to all candidates.

SANDRA TULEKI

Sandra Tuleki wanted to know if the parties would be going back to the bargaining table soon.

GERI-LYNN REMPEL

Geri-Lynn Rempel congratulated Council for standing up for the City and advised the Union members that they were behaving like the characters in Lord of the Flies. She said she found the abuse and disrespect exhibited by the Union to be intolerable and advised Council that she supported them.

LEFORD LAFAYETTE

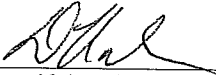
Leford Lafayette said that he was upset and that he had been harassed at work but that no one did anything. This was the reason he cited for wanting to get more involved in the Union.

ADJOURNMENT:
481-14

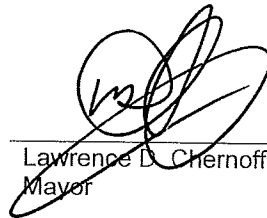
Moved and seconded,
that the meeting adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

Carried.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Diane Kalen-Sukra
Deputy Director of Corporate Services



Lawrence D. Chernoff,
Mayor