

Minutes of a Committee of the Whole Meeting

Meeting #: CoW5/2021
Date: May 31, 2021
Time: 4:04 pm
Location: City Hall, Courtenay, BC, via video/audio conference

Attending:

Mayor: B. Wells, via video/audio conference
Councillors: W. Cole-Hamilton, via video/audio conference
D. Frisch, via video/audio conference
D. Hillian, via video/audio conference
M. McCollum, via video/audio conference
W. Morin, via video/audio conference
M. Theos, via video/audio conference

Staff: G. Garbutt, CAO, via video/audio conference
D. Bardonnex, Fire Chief, via video/audio conference
I. Buck, Director of Development Services, via video/audio conference
J. Nelson, Director of Financial Services, via video/audio conference
K. O'Connell, Director of Corporate Support Services, via video/audio conference
S. Saunders, Director of Recreation, Culture, & Community Services, via video/audio conference
N. Borecky, Manager of Information Systems, via video/audio conference
M. Fitzgerald, Manager of Development Planning, via video/audio conference
R. Matthews, Executive Assistant/Deputy Corporate Officer, via video/audio conference

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and the Class Order (mass gatherings), Council meetings will be conducted virtually and live-streamed on the City of Courtenay's YouTube channel.

The Mayor respectfully acknowledged the lands on which the meeting was conducted is the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

In acknowledgment of the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children buried at former Kamloops Indian Residential School on the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation in Kamloops, BC, the Mayor made the following statement:

“Today we are pausing our planned City Council meeting to acknowledge the tragic discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, BC.

This discovery is the confirmation of long-held assertions by Indigenous families and First Nations in BC and across Canada that their children, tragically and forcibly separated from their loved ones and their rich cultures, never returned home.

We mourn the loss of these innocent children, some believed to be as young as three years old.

We do not yet know their names or where they are from.

While this discovery may be a shock to many, it is sad proof for residential school survivors and families who have been sounding the alarm about these lost children for many years.

This was just one of over 100 residential schools across our country, including five here on Vancouver Island. Over more than a century, 160,000 children in Canada were forcibly removed from their families. These children were subjected to unimaginable cruelty, experimentation, and abuse; and the deliberate erasure of their language, traditions, and spirituality. The goal of residential schools was to “Kill the Indian in the Child” with the last one closing in 1996.

While we hope this discovery will allow some families to find closure, we acknowledge that there are countless others who are waiting for news of their family’s own lost children.

We will now pause for one minute of silence in honour of these children and to reflect on the tragic, dark legacy of all residential schools in Canada.”

Following the Mayor’s statement, a minute of silence was held.

1. DELEGATIONS

1.1 Truck Loggers Association

Moved By Hillian

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT the presentation by Bob Brash, Executive Director, Truck Loggers Association, be DEFERRED to the June 7th, 2021 Regular Council meeting.

Carried

Council wished to attend an evening community vigil for the 215 Indigenous children found buried at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, BC. To accommodate time sensitive bylaws on the Special Council Agenda prior to Council's departure, the following motion was introduced:

Moved By Cole-Hamilton

Seconded By Morin

THAT Council WAIVE NOTICE and AMEND the start time of the May 31st, 2021 Special Council Meeting to occur immediately after Item 2.1.1 "Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Re-Implementation" of the Committee of the Whole Agenda.

Carried

2. STAFF REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Financial Services

2.1.1 Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Re-implementation

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By McCollum

THAT the May 31st, 2021 staff report "Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Re-implementation" be received for information.

Carried

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

THAT based on the May 31st, 2021 staff report "Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Re-implementation" that Council approve proceeding with the application to the Ministry of Finance to implement the Municipal and Regional District Tax within the City of Courtenay; and

THAT Council endorse the City of Courtenay Municipal and Regional District Tax Levy Bylaw No. 3041, 2021; and,

THAT Tourism Vancouver Island be authorized as the designate organization for tourism program implementation, and;

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with drafting a contract with Tourism Vancouver Island to administer the tourism and destination marketing programs and MRDT for Council approval.

Carried

Council passed a motion to recess the Committee of the Whole meeting at 4:21 p.m.:

Moved By Hillian
Seconded By Morin

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting be RECESSED until after the May 31st, 2021 Special Council Meeting.

Carried

Council passed a motion to reconvene the Committee of the Whole meeting at 4:25 p.m.:

Moved By Hillian
Seconded By Morin

THAT the May 31st, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting do now RECONVENE.

Carried

3. RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

3.1 Councillor McCollum - Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy

Moved By McCollum
Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

WHEREAS the City of Courtenay Council voted unanimously to recognize the climate crisis and to apply a climate lens to every aspect of their new Official Community Plan and to set as a strategic priority, "actions to address Climate Change mitigation and adaptation"; and

WHEREAS the use of fossil fuels are understood to be the world's greatest contributor to climate altering, greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS the MFA Fossil Fuel Free Short-Term Bond Fund has, since its inception, outperformed the FTSE Canada Short Term Overall Bond Index; and

WHEREAS the "Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia (MFA) believes that investment processes that incorporate ESG [Environmental, Social, Governance] factors and other broad systemic issues can lead to better investment outcomes"; and

WHEREAS the MFA now requires that all but one of its pooled funds incorporate ESG through adherence to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment (UN PRI), and other Canadian Financial institutions offer securities and pooled investment funds that select for ESG factors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct staff to review and report back on an investment policy that can achieve the following considerations:

- 1) Divest from fossil fuels companies, by supporting fossil fuel free investment portfolios, such as the MFA Fossil Fuel Free Short-Term Bond Fund and build on the examples of fossil fuel free investment strategies from other municipalities such as Vancouver and Victoria;
- 2) Select investments that make positive contributions to ESG factors; and
- 3) Align investment with the Sec.183 of the Community Charter, and best practices for investing public funds.

Carried

3.1.1 Background Document - Memo: Municipal Finance Authority's (MFA) Fossil Fuel Free Investment Options

The memorandum "Municipal Finance Authority's (MFA) Fossil Fuel Free Investment Options" was received for information.

3.1.2 Background Document - Memo: ESG [Environmental, Social, Governance] and Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) Pooled Investment Funds

The memorandum "ESG [Environmental, Social, Governance] and Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) Pooled Investment Funds."

3.2 In Camera Meeting

Moved By Frisch

Seconded By Hillian

THAT a Special In Camera meeting closed to the public will be held May 31st, 2021 at the conclusion of the Regular Council Meeting pursuant to the following subsections of the *Community Charter*:

- 90 (1) (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- 90 (1) (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;
- 90 (1) (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#);
- 90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in

the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;

- 90 (2) (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

Carried

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By McCollum

Seconded By Cole-Hamilton

That the meeting now adjourn at 4:38 p.m.

Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT

Corporate Officer

Adopted this 7th day of June, 2021

Mayor