

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of Pitt Meadows City Council held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Meadows Room of the Pitt Meadows City Hall, 12007 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, British Columbia.

PRESENT:

Elected Officials: Mayor D.F. MacLean
Councillor J. Becker
Councillor B. Bell
Councillor D. Bing
Councillor T. Miyashita
Councillor G. O'Connell
Councillor D. Walters

Staff
J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
D. Rear, Director of Corporate Services
K. Grout, Director of Operations & Development Services
L. Darcus, Director of Legislative Services
D. Jolley, Director of Fire & Rescue Service
K. Zanon, Economic Development Corporation CEO
M. Murray, General Manager: Community Development,
Parks and Recreation Services
A. Kopystynski, Manager of Development Services
L. James, Manager of Financial Services
L. Jones, Director of HR and Communications
B. Perrie, Assistant Fire Chief/Prevention
Superintendent D. Walsh, OIC Ridge Meadows Detachment
Cst. K. Doncaster, CPO Station Constable
L. Kelly, Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Miyashita, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bell, THAT the agenda for the December 17, 2009 Special Meeting of Council be adopted.

CARRIED.

B. REPORTS

1. 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan Finalization. (1700-06)

The Director of Finance summarized the process that began in August and has proceeded to this evening.

- October 13 – reviewed potential 2010 budget issues

1. 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan Finalization Cont'd. (1700-06)

- November 17 - Business plans distributed and available to the public
- November 24, 25, 26 – Business plan presentations
- December 3 – Budget Workshop
- December 15 - Financial Plan overview with opportunity for public input
- As well, significant items discussed in-depth prior to Business Planning included:
 - Arena
 - Turf Field
 - South Bonson Community Centre
 - Kennedy Road Bridge
 - McKechnie Drainage Area
 - Solid Waste Issues
 - Water Distribution and Charges
- January 19 – Target date to Regular Council

1.1 Capital Budget**(1) Review and Finalize Overall Capital Plan**

The draft capital budget set out in section 14 of the Business Plan binder was reviewed for clarification on any particular projects.

The draft capital budget was accepted in principle.

1.2 Operating Budget**(2) Review Utility Funds**

The water, sewer, solid waste, and drainage funds were reviewed highlighting key cost drivers and proposed rate increases.

The draft utility budgets were accepted in principle.

1. 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan Finalization Cont'd. (1700-06)**(3) Review General Fund**

Mr. Rear reviewed the changes in the General Fund which were noted on pages 10 and 11 of the package. Key issues highlighted were reductions in the subsidy from the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund, debt servicing costs and RCMP contract costs.

Non market change revenue was updated from the draft budget resulting in a reduction in the tax rate increase of 0.79%.

(4) Incremental Decision Packages and Options

Incremental decision packages as summarized on page 12 of the package were reviewed and discussed. It was decided to move forward with all but the Solid Waste Management Plan. The taxation impact of the ongoing programs is a 1.74% increase.

Council discussed at length the issue of the subsidy from the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund and the fiscal impact that it has and the benefits to eliminating the reliance on it earlier due to the debt service costs the City will be undertaking over the next few years. It was determined that the transfer to 2010 would be reduced by a further \$118,750, an additional 0.95% tax rate increase. The total budget subsidy for 2010 will be \$306,250, equivalent to a 2.45% tax rate increase.

Council also discussed the issue of large, long term capital projects beyond the scope of the five year plan. While there was general agreement on the idea of an additional provision for preparation for these types of challenges, it was decided to not proceed with additional taxation for 2010. Upon completion of the 2009 financial statements, Council will consider allocation a portion of the surplus for this purpose.

It was determined that long term capital planning is to be the subject of a workshop in the new year.

1. 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan Finalization Cont'd. (1700-06)

(5) Finalize 2010 Tax and Utility Rate Adjustments

Rate adjustments were finalized as follows:

- General Municipal – 6.45%
- Drainage Utility – 3.0%
- Solid Waste – 4.0%
- Sewer – 5.0%
- Water – 7.0% for flat rate charges and 14.0% for metered charges.

(6) Differential Rate Increases

There was a general discussion on further adjustments between the mill rates applied to the various classes as has happened in the past two years. It was determined that there would not be a similar adjustment for 2010.

(7) Resolution to Prepare Financial Plan Bylaw

MOVED by Councillor Bing, **SECONDED** by Councillor O'Connell, THAT Council direct staff to prepare the 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan bylaw based on the budgets and rate adjustments approved in principle through the business planning process – general municipal tax rate increase of 6.45%, drainage rate increase of 3.0%, solid waste rate increase of 4.0%, sewer rate increase of 5% and water rate increases of 7.0% for flat rate charges and 13.0% for metered charges.

CARRIED.

Staff was directed to prepare a press release outlining the reasons for the tax rate increase including the rise in protective services costs and the new capital projects, and the press release should outline the value of municipal services (e.g. daily cost to the tax payer for water, sewer, solid waste, police, fire, recreation and all other municipal services).

C. NOTICE OF SPECIAL (CLOSED) COUNCIL MEETING

D. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Becker, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bell, THAT this meeting now be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED.

Signed:

Certified Correct:

Mayor

Corporate Officer