

DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday December 20, 1993 7:30 pm Caleb Pike House

PRESENT: Mayor McMinn, Councillors Johnson, Joy, Revelle, Roessingh, Vogel and Williams

Mayor McMinn called the Meeting to order at 7:35pm.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS: Nil

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

Special Meeting

MOTION 37/93 Moved by Councillor Johnson December 13, 1993 seconded by Councillor Vogel and resolved that, the Minutes from the Special Council Meeting of December 13, 1993 be adopted as read. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Nil

REPORTS:

Administration and Finance

Councillor Williams had nothing to report.

Environment

Councillor Revelle informed Council that he had read some of the information provided by Mr. van Barneveld and advised that the information package received at the December 13, 1993 Council Meeting seems to be primarily for information only. The information appears to be part of an ongoing, long term process, and that Mr. van Barneveld's main point is that the Capital Regional District should look at long term planning for air pollution and growth. The letter of acknowledgement being sent to Mr. van Barneveld should also ask for information on any further meetings on this topic.

Councillor Joy informed Council that the Ministry of Forests is testing air around the lower mainland to determine the effects of air pollution on trees, and that Mr. van Barneveld may want Council to consider an air monitoring station in the District of Highlands. Councillor Revelle informed Council that the CRD has a Healthy Air 2000 Plan and that maybe we could get some further information from them on this matter.

Councillor Joy stated that Derek Mallard had a meeting with MLA Moe Sihota, Minister of Environment, at which he asked about the upgrading of the Island Highway and suggested that there needs to be a different approach.

Councillor Joy suggested that Council consider its position and then writing to the Minister of Environment about the proposed Island Highway.

Mayor McMinn suggested that the feelings of the residents of the Highlands be obtained first and that this may be an issue to be put in the community circular.

Parks and Recreation

Councillor Joy stated that in view of major proposals such as the Gowland Range it is important to meet with the CRD Parks Committee and that he will approach them to arrange a meeting. Councillor Joy informed Council that CRD Director Leonard was on a CFAX talk show and he called and asked him about help for the Highlands in obtaining the Gowland Range as a park, the gist of Mr. Leonard's response was that there is only \$3,500,000.00 for Regional Parks and most of it is needed for operations and maintenance, so there is no money for a purchase of the Gowland Range. Councillor Joy suggested a meeting with CRD Parks to discuss this issue.

Mayor McMinn advised that it is hard to say when publicity for acquiring this area as park should be generated, he wonders what would be best in order to assist the Nature Conservancy in their efforts to acquire these lands. Mayor McMinn stated that it is normal procedure for the Regional Parks Department to go to each municipality and point out the benefits of a potential park acquisition, and that once all the municipalities have been approached then consideration is given to purchasing the lands.

Councillor Joy stated that the CRD is currently only levying 1/2 mil for regional parks, although they can increase the rate to 1 1/2 mils, but this may not be a good time to raise taxes. He suggested that this would be a good time to open discussion with the CRD regarding park acquisition. Councillor Joy stated that he would like to see one or two more people from the community on a Parks Committee and that a notice seeking volunteers be placed in the next newsletter.

Mayor McMinn stated that Council does need to discuss what items should go in the community circular as Council also needs a citizens committee to explore the future municipal hall requirements and options.

Protective

Councillor Johnson informed Council that both fire departments did a Santa tour and also had a joint christmas party. She will work on setting up the Fire Committee in January 1994 as required by the Letters Patent.

Mayor McMinn informed Council that he has received a letter from John Craig advising him that the west Highlands firefighters would be happy to have Barry Ford as the overall Fire Chief.

Public Works

Neighbourhood

Councillor Roessingh informed Council that he has received a request Watch from the East Highlands Neighbourhood Watch group for signs to be put up at the entrance to Highlands on Munns Road, at Woodridge Road and further along Munns Road to indicate that the area is a Neighbourhood Watch area.

MOTION 38/93 Moved by Councillor Joy seconded by Councillor Williams and resolved that, permission be granted for placement of Neighbourhood Watch signs on Munns Road and on Woodridge Place. CARRIED

Entrance Signs Councillor Vogel stated that he would like to see welcome signs marking the boundaries of the District of Highlands and that basic signs should be considered at this point in time with consideration given to more elaborate signs in the future. It was the consensus of Council that the Administrator obtain pricing for some municipal boundary signs.

Road Maintenance

Councillor Joy informed Council that he has in the past dealt with the Ministry of Highways on various issues and knows some of the staff both at Highways and at the contractors. He recently mentioned to one of the staff his concerns regarding the repair work done on the Millstream Road bridge. They promised to fix it but nothing has been done yet. Councillor Joy also asked if the pot holes could be fixed as the edge of the road is falling apart.

Councillor Williams stated that it is possible to fix potholes at this time of year.

Councillor Joy suggested that a representative from the road maintenance company be asked to come to a meeting with Council.

Councillor Vogel stated that we need to see if the maintenance contract is being met.

Additional discussion took place regarding upgrading of road and engaging the services of a road consultant.

Municipal Offices

Councillor Williams informed Council that he will set up a committee to review the options for establishing a municipal hall.

Planning

Councillor Vogel informed Council that he will be looking for a advisory planning committee, especially to review the community plan. He asked whether there is a description for a planning and zoning committee.

Mayor McMinn suggested that a description of duties and responsibilities be prepared for all advisory committees and Committees of Council.

Councillor Roessingh informed Council that he has heard that Mr. Plasterer is planning on selling off a portion of property North of Munns Road, is this one lot or two. Councillor Roessingh stated that some residents may be concerned that Council is going to upgrade all of the zoning and may panic.

Mayor McMinn stated that he thinks the current zoning should be kept while a revision of the Official Community Plan is being discussed, with minor exceptions.

Councillor Vogel stated that Council may also consider some changes regarding subdivision for relatives, but there is no serious intent to do wholesale changes, some minor changes should be done although they may seem major to those persons affected.

Councillor Johnson stated that she would like to go with the current Official Community Plan for now and then create a new one allowing for lots of time for public input.

Mayor McMinn stated that Council should review the existing Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Bylaw to see if any immediate changes are needed.

Councillor Johnson asked what procedure is followed for removing a permitted use from a zone.

The Administrator advised that a rezoning bylaw is prepared for Councils consideration, given first readings if acceptable, a Public Hearing is held and then the bylaw receives final readings if Council wishes to proceed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor McMinn stated that he had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nil

BYLAWS:

Board of Variance Bylaw No. 8, 1993

MOTION 39/93 Moved by Councillor Johnson seconded by Councillor Williams and resolved that, Board of Variance Bylaw No. 8, 1993 be reconsidered and finally passed and adopted. CARRIED

Mayor McMinn suggested that a notice be placed in the community circular asking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Variance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Communication

MOTION 40/93 Moved by Councillor Joy seconded by Councillor Williams and resolved that, the item of Community Communication be added to the Agenda. CARRIED

Discussion took place on the various methods and procedures involved in communicating information to the residents of the Highlands.

Nuclear Free Zone

MOTION 41/93 Moved by Councillor Revelle seconded by Councillor Roessingh and resolved that, the item of Nuclear Free Zone be added to the agenda. CARRIED

Councillor Revelle stated that other municipalities have bylaws establishing nuclear free zones and suggested that we obtain copies in order to see what is involved.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION 42 /93 Moved by Councillor Joy seconded by Councillor Revelle and resolved that, the Meeting be adjourned. CARRIED 9:20 pm

Mayor

Clerk