



Minutes

Special Council Meeting

January 26, 2023, 5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers/Video Conference
10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road
Lake Country, British Columbia V4V 2M1

Council Present:

Mayor Blair Ireland
Councillor Tricia Brett
Councillor Heather Irvine
Councillor Michael Lewis
Councillor Todd McKenzie
Councillor Bib Patel
Councillor Cara Reed

Staff Present:

Tanya Garost, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Greg Buchholz, Director of Utilities
Trevor James, Chief Financial Officer
Jared Kassel, Director of Planning and Development
Darren Lee, Fire Chief
Matthew Salmon, Director of Engineering & Environmental Services
Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services
Matt Vader, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture
Shaun Lesowski, Parks and Facilities Manager
Scott Unser, Public Works Manager
Richard Wagner, Manager of Finance
Kiel Wilkie, Utility Manager
Steven Gubbels, Manager of Development
Caroline Barnhart, HR & Safety Manager
Brent Penner, Deputy Fire Chief
Kynan O'Rourke, Deputy Fire Chief
Ruth Sulentich, Economic Development and Public Engagement Specialist
Steve Petryshyn, Parks and Landscape Planner
Stacia O'Brien, Legislative Technical Clerk
Ryan Donn, Cultural Development Coordinator

Others Present

Youth Councillor Michelle Haji
Youth Councillor Sophia McLean

1. Call to Order

We acknowledge that we are conducting our business today on the unceded territory of squilx"/syilx (Okanagan) peoples. As a Council, we recognize the importance of doing our best to build respectful relationships that contribute to stewarding the land and waters in the community with integrity and consideration for future generations.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

The Mayor announced a hockey game between the Lake Country Fire Department and the Big White Fire Department on Sunday January 29, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2023-01-012 It was moved and seconded.

THAT the Special Council Meeting Agenda of January 26, 2023 be adopted with the following amendment:

Item 6. Public Comment;

AND THAT the Agenda be renumbered accordingly.

Carried.

3. Water Rate Increases

Seeking Council Direction for Proposed Water Rate Increases

2023-01-013 It was moved and seconded.

THAT consideration of an amendment to the Water Regulation and Rates Bylaw be deferred pending review of the Draft Water Master Plan by the Water Services Advisory Commission and Council;

AND THAT review of the Draft Water Master Plan take place at the earliest possible date.

Carried.

4. Council Authority to Approve Travel

Council authorization for members to attend various conferences and training in 2023

5. Budget Item

5.1 RFCD 2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan

2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan

The Mayor declared a recess at 7:40 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

Councillor Reed declared a conflict of interest due to a personal relationship and left the meeting at 9:21 p.m. She returned at 9:28 p.m.

Councillor Lewis declared a conflict of interest due to a business relationship and left the meeting at 9:37 p.m. He returned at 9:45 p.m.

The Mayor declared a recess at 9:40 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

2023-01-014 It was moved and seconded

THAT the Special Council Meeting of January 26, 2023 continue past 9:00 p.m.

Carried.

2023-01-015 It was moved and seconded

THAT staff be directed to report back with recommendations on applying the remaining COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant to the additional 2023 requests, to reduce taxation.

Carried.

2023-01-016 It was moved and seconded.

THAT item 5.1 RFCD 2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan be deferred to a Special Council Meeting on January 31, 2023.

Carried.

6. Public Comment

Ken Stocks, Bernau Court

Mr. Stocks expressed concerns with the rising tax rate. He expressed his belief that Council could be more creative with earning and raising money to pay for services. He suggested a change in the Homeowner Grant entitlement and becoming a part of greater Kelowna.

Sharon McCoubrey, Camp Road

Ms. McCoubrey inquired about processes that guide Council decision making. She inquired about the impact on the budget and service levels when the population increases.

Sol Bueno, Lodge Road

Mr. Bueno inquired about what the approximate tax increase would be for each residence with the rates currently before Council. He inquired about the need for increased policing and the portion of policing paid by the Federal Government. Mr. Bueno asked about the Development Cost Charges and the increased services being paid for by developers and residents. He asked if the District works with businesses to keep them operating within Lake Country.

Bob McCoubrey, Camp Road

Mr. McCoubrey expressed by his opinion that there seems to be too much focus on the size of the percentage increase versus making sure tax-payers receive good value for their money. During the election, he did not consider voting for the people that would make taxes lower, he voted for Councillors that would make responsible decisions. He asked why taxes be expected to go down or stay level when all other expenses have gone up.

The Mayor asked if there were any further comments from the gallery a first, second and third time. There were none.

7. Adjournment

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:17 p.m.

Mayor, Blair Ireland

Corporate Officer, Reyna Seabrook