



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of a Regular meeting of Council
Held and transmitted electronically via the temporary Council Chambers located
at 38 King George Street, Lake Cowichan, BC
on Tuesday, February 28th, 2023.

PRESENT: Mayor Tim McGonigle, Chair
Councillor Carlyne Austin
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: Ronnie Gill, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McGonigle called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **AGENDA**

No. R.0013/23
Agenda

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

No. R.0014/23
Regular Council

- (a) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the minutes of the Regular meeting of Council held on January 24th,
2023 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

5. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

- (a) John Mountain, BC Labour Heritage Centre Board member and Patricia Foster, Kaatza Historical Society were on hand to seek council support of BC Labour Heritage Centre's nomination of Darshan Singh Sangha who was a grassroots organizer of the IWA and strong voice for the minority South Asian workers in the community. Mr. Sangha's dedication and contributions helped to make this community prosper.

No. R.0015/23
Referral

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the Committee recommend that the request by the BC Labour Heritage Centre Board to honour Darshan Singh Sangha be referred to the next Committee of the Whole to be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 2023.

CARRIED.

- (b) Barry o'Riordan, Manager, Economic Development Cowichan made a presentation on the Regional District's economic development activity and updated Council on a number of topics, as follows:
- State of the Cowichan Economy Report with highlights on population demographics, household income, employment sectors, job vacancy rates, inward migration, farm consolidation and housing challenges;
 - Update with respect to Internet and Cellular Connectivity Strategy which includes four individual community plans for Dididat First Nations, Cowichan Lake Region, Cowichan Station and Thetis and Kuper Islands;

- Workforce Housing Strategy with respect to engagement clusters that include establishing framework and vision, brainstorming of ideas and the drafting of the strategy;

He further gave an update on the proposed Economic Development Strategic Plan with a timeline of Fall 2023/Winter 2024s. The plan includes the following;

- Strategic Focus on business retention and attraction, investment attraction, Vancouver Island tech attraction, circular economy and industrial land servicing;
- Food processing and food security;
- Technology with a strategy for connectivity, tech curriculum and attraction; and
- Film and Tourism.

The strategic plan should be published in the next few weeks. Mr. O’Riordan advised that certain priorities will be completed by 2026.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Action Items:

None.

(b) Information or Consent Items

- (i)** The correspondence item from the Union of BC Municipalities regarding the 2022 Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment - Approval Agreement & Terms and Conditions of Funding was treated as information.

7. REPORTS

(a) Council and other Committee Reports

- (i)** Moved: Councillor Austin
 Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
 that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 14th, 2023, be approved, with the following:

1—Support for Beaver Creek Restoration Project

that the Town of Lake Cowichan send a letter of support to the Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society for its Beaver Creek Restoration Project;

2—Fire Department - Incident Report

that Council approve the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report in the amount of \$10,977.38 for December 2022;

2—Appointment of Ohtaki Delegation Representative

that Mayor McGonigle be appointed as the Town’s representative on the 2023 Ohtaki Delegation.

CARRIED.

No. R.0016/23
 Committee of
 the Whole

Cowichan Lake
 Recreation Commission

- (ii)** Councillor Frisby gave a verbal report on his attendance at the Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission meeting held January 26th, 2023.

He advised that the meetings are held the 4th Thursday every two months with the next meeting of the Commission to be held on Thursday, March 23rd, 2023.

Vancouver Island
 Regional Library

- (iii)** Councillor Austin reported on the annual general meeting of the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board held on January 28th, 2023 at the Nanaimo Vancouver Island University.

Advisory Planning
 Commission

- (iv)** Councillor Austin gave a verbal report on the Advisory Planning Commission. She advised that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 23rd, 2023.

- Community Forest Co-operative (v) Mayor McGonigle reported on his attendance at the Cowichan Lake Forest Co-operative Director appreciation dinner held at the Honeymoon Bay Lodge. He further reported that the Forest Co-op has gifted the 2023 Ohtaki student delegation \$2000 which was presented at the recent meeting held February 27th, 2023.
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (b) **Other Reports**
 (i) Councillor McGonigle gave a verbal report on the Regional Board meetings that were held on February 8th, 2023, and February 22nd, 2023. He stated that he would forward the budget details as they become available so their impact on the taxpayers may be determined.
- Community Outreach Team (ii) Councillor Austin did not attend the recent Outreach Team meeting.
 Councillor Austin reported that she had attended the Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) in Nanaimo, BC.
 Mayor McGonigle requested that the minutes of the Outreach meetings be forwarded to Council members for their information.
- Our Cowichan (iii) Councillor Sandhu gave a verbal report on her attendance at the recent meeting held on February 9th, 2023 where goals and objectives of Our Cowichan had been reviewed and established, as follows:
 1. Recognize and respond to emerging issues in Cowichan;
 2. Promote health and wellness;
 3. Continue to focus on identified issues and opportunities; and
 4. Foster the health and vitality and the sustainability of our network.
 Councillor Sandhu advised of an upcoming Free Care Planning workshop to be held on March 10th and 31st, 2023 from 10:00 am to 12 noon at Cowichan Hospice to discuss plans for future health care needs.
 Councillor Sandhu also reported on the upcoming poverty communication session scheduled for March 15th, 2023, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Ramada Hotel. The session will discuss the priorities of improving the lives of those living in poverty
 The next meeting for Our Cowichan will be held in May 2023.
- Cowichan Watershed Board (iv) Councillor Sandhu reported that the Cowichan Watershed Board meeting was held on February 27th, 2023, in the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board room. She spoke on the presentation “Setting the Course” which will be forwarded to all members of Council for their information.
 The Annual General Meeting is to be held on March 8th, 2023 and the next meeting of the Cowichan Watershed Board will be held March 27th, 2023.
- (c) **Staff Reports**
 (i) The Chief Administrative Officer’s staff report on Subdivision Works and Services Bylaw was treated as information.
 (ii) The Chief Administrative Officer’s staff report on Council Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw was treated as information.
 (iii) The Chief Administrative Officer’s staff report on the Development Permit for #9-537 Point Ideal Drive, legally described as Strata Lot 9, District Lot 13, Cowichan Lake Land District, Plan VIS5120 (PID:025-100-556) was treated as information.

No. R.0013/23
Emergency Operations
Centre Funding

(iv) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that Council approve the making of a grant application under the Emergency Operations Centres & Training Funding Stream for 2023 through UBCM to maintain or improve an EOC;

and that it further provides assurance that it would support all the proposed activities under the plan and would undertake the overall proper fiscal management of the grant.

CARRIED.

No. R.0014/23
Community Preparedness
Grant Funding

(v) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that Council approve the Cowichan Valley Regional District apply for, receive, and manage the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Emergency Support Services 2023 grant funding up to \$150,000 on behalf of the Town of Lake Cowichan.

CARRIED.

No. R.0015/23
Capital Expenditures Prior
to Budget

(vi) Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that Council approve the budget expenditure of up to \$100,000 for the paving of Nelson Road West prior to the finalization of the 2023 budget; and further that Council approve the budget expenditures of up to \$100,000 for the issuance of tenders for each of the River Road water main upgrade design work and 100 Houses water main upgrade design work prior to the finalization of the 2023 budget.

CARRIED.

8. BYLAWS

No. R.0016/23
Subdivision Works and
Services Bylaw
No. 1082-2022

(a) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Subdivision Works and Services Bylaw No. 1083-2022” be read a third time.

CARRIED.

Council Remuneration
and Expenses Bylaw
No. 1084-2022

(b) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw No. 1084-2022” be amended to read as follows:
Section 9(g)1 If there is malice proven with a damaged tablet or lost, the elected official is responsible for the cost of replacement unless the tablet is proven defective.

In Favour: Councillor Sandhu and Councillor Frisby
Opposed: Councillor Austin and Councillor Vomacka and Mayor McGonigle

DEFEATED.

No. R.0017/23
Council Remuneration
and Expenses Bylaw
No. 1084-2022

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw No. 1084-2022” be read a third time.

Opposed: Councillor Sandhu

CARRIED.

No. R.0018/23
Zoning Amendment
Bylaw No. 1087-2023 –
School District Properties
for Daycare

(c) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1087-2023” be read a first and second time.

CARRIED.

No. R.0019/23
Zoning Amendment
Bylaw No. 1088-2023 –
149 Cowichan Lake Road

- (d) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1088-2023”
be read a first and second time.

CARRIED.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

State of the Cowichan
Economy – Winter 2023
Report

- (a) The Cowichan Valley Regional District State of the Cowichan Economy
Winter 2023 report was dealt with earlier in the meeting with the
delegation’s presentation.

Workforce Housing
Strategy Report

- (b) The Cowichan Valley Regional District Public Engagement Plan – Workforce
Housing Strategy Report was dealt with earlier in the meeting with the
delegation’s presentation.

10. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

Mayor McGonigle shared his wishes for a speedy recovery and return of the
Chief Administrative Officer.

He also wished to thank the Public Works crew for responding to the latest
snowfall.

On a serious note, a recent police incident involving a number of vehicles and
crew members, Mayor McGonigle stated that the irresponsible and
dangerous actions of the onlookers in video recording and posting to social
media platforms could well have jeopardized the safety and well-being of
those dealing with the situation.

11. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Budget meeting is to be held on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023, at 4:30 pm in the
temporary Council Chambers located at 38 King George Street and live
streamed.

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

13. **IN CAMERA**

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

No. R.0020/23
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the meeting be adjourned. (7:50 pm)

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____.

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor