



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
 Councillor, Jonah Anstett – via zoom
 Councillor, Jessica Clement
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport
 Councillor, Doreen Lambert

CAO, Daniela Dyck
 CFO, Yogi Bhalla
 DPW, Brian Bennewith

EXCUSED:

Media – 1
 Public – 4

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Ashcroft on Monday February 12, 2024, to order at 6:02 pm.

“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Nlaka’pamux people.”

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday, January 22, 2024 M/S Davenport / Clement <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Monday, January 22, 2024 be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-25
2.2	Minutes of the Public Hearing held Monday, January 22, 2024 M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Public Hearing Held Monday, January 22, 2024, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-26
2.3	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, January 22, 2024 M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, January 22, 2024 be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-27

3. DELEGATIONS

<p>3.1</p>	<p>Equality Project – PowerPoint Presentation – Weather Centers</p> <p>Shelly Magwood – Founder of the Equality Project thanked Council for the opportunity to present to them today, noting the usual presenter sends regrets. The Equality Project (EP) was founded in 2014 Ms. Magwood noticed a need in the community and acted on a solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There seemed to be a shortage of food and hungry people – worked on food security. • Noticed so many useful items were going into the landfill – coordinated a building that could receive donations which could be handed out to those in need. • Now there is a homeless concern. • The Equality Project is meeting weekly with stakeholders to solve the problem. • Cost of living among other issues is displacing many people and our region is seeing an influx from other areas. • EP is working at connecting them to other services and moving them on due to the housing shortage and no shelter services. • In order to help these vulnerable people we must be able to put in some time, love and care. • Many people resorting to living in RV's, tents, hotel rooms, or worse. • Commented on low-income stats provided in the power point for our region. • In 2023 EP saw a drop in services – due to flood but put up 72 people in motels. • Not a good solution as the motel staff is dealing with the stigma, overdoses etc. • EP wants to provide for these people, as a first step EP wants to establish a warming centre in Cache Creek, Ashcroft, and Clinton with the support of the respective Council's. • Need council support to open warming centres with EMCR funding to cover expenses. • EP opened during the recent cold snap staffed by volunteers. • Provided 15 nights accommodation to 3 individuals. <p>Here today to encourage Council to consider developing a new Emergency Plan under the recently revised Emergency Act to address severe weather.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Magwood noted Ashcroft HARS initiative and suggested Council consider adapting the plan to include provisions for extreme cold weather as well. • Ms. Magwood also asked Council for a letter of support to the EP in support of their funding application to BC Housing to develop a shelter and required services. <p>Mayor Roden thanked Ms. Magwood for her presentation and the Equality Projects efforts to provide services to the communities most vulnerable citizens.</p> <p>Mayor Roden asked for clarity regarding the warming centre: wondering if a warming centre in Ashcroft would compliment the Equality Projects services?</p>	
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	<p>Ms. Magwood noted a warming centre in Ashcroft would compliment the EP's services as transportation is challenging. Ms. Magwood also noted the EP's long-term goal is to have an overnight shelter and the EP is working on a 5-year plan; however, she does not want to confuse the overnight shelter with the request tonight. Tonight, she is asking for support for warming centres and a letter of support for funding opportunities.</p> <p>Mayor Roden asked if wrap around services would be needed to support an overnight shelter - Wrap around services would be necessary.</p> <p>Cnclr. Davenport – asked what does a warming centre look like? Drop in facility with Wi-Fi, coffee, socialization opportunity, and other essential services, encouraging each community to establish their own warming centres.</p>	
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4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.

No public input was received.

5. **BYLAWS/POLICIES**

5.1	<p>The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidated Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 866, 2023 M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, The Corporation of the Village of Ashcroft Consolidation Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 866, 2023 be adopted.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-28
5.2	<p>Village of Ashcroft Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 822, Amendment Bylaw No. 864, 2023 M/S Lambert / Davenport <i>THAT, Village of Ashcroft Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 822, Amendment Bylaw No. 864, 2023 be adopted.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-29
5.3	<p>Village of Ashcroft Zoning Bylaw No. 823, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 865, 2023 M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, Village of Ashcroft Zoning Bylaw No. 823, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 865, 2023 be adopted.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-30

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – Development Variance Permit #2023-01/02 Purpose: For Council to consider Development Variance Permit No. DVP 2023-01/02 to reduced front setback from the required 7.5m to 5.49m, reduced interior side setback from the required 3m to 2.17m, and reduced number of parking stalls from 1.4 per unit to 63 off-street and 9 on-street stalls which provides 1 parking stall per apartment unit.</p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-31

	<p>M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, Development Variance Permit No. DVP 2023-01/02 to enable front setback of 5.49m, reduced interior side setback of 2.17m, and reduced number of parking stalls (63 off-street and 9 on-street) be approved for Lot 1, District Lot 378, KDYD, Plan 6889 located at 1500 Government Street, Ashcroft be approved.</i></p>	
6.2	<p>CAO Report – Council Attendance at SILGA & UBCM Conventions Purpose: Seeking Council’s guidance in accordance with Policy C-05-2021 regarding the selection of Council members who will participate in the SILGA and UBCM Conventions for the year 2024. It should be noted that the Mayors costs are shared with the TNRD at 50%. M/S Roden / Lambert 1. <i>THAT, Mayor Roden, Councillor Lambert and Councillor Anstett attend the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) Convention for 2024 and that Mayor Roden, Councillor Davenport and Councillor Clement attend the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention for 2024.</i> It was noted that the Councillors attending SILGA this year would be given the opportunity to attend UBCM next year.</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-32</p>
6.3	<p>CAO Report – Council Appointment to Policy Review Committee Purpose: Seeking Council’s appointments to Policy Review Committee M/S Clement / Anstett 1. <i>THAT, Mayor Roden and Councillor Clement be appointed to the Policy Review Committee and that Councillor Anstett be appointed as the alternate.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-33</p>
6.4	<p>CFO Report – Curling Club Insulation Upgrades using LGCAP Funds Purpose: To allocate LGCAP funds towards curling club insulation upgrades M/S Clement / Davenport <i>THAT, Council approve allocation of \$25,000 to upgrades to insulation for the curling club.</i> Clarification provided: Worthwhile investment to maintain our building and the project fits within the LGCAP program. Building would be more energy efficient. It is favourable to retain existing services, until it becomes untenable. Falls within good asset management practices.</p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-34</p>
6.5	<p>EDT Report – NDI Marketing Initiatives Grant Application Purpose: Request Council rescind Resolution No. R-2024-19 to NDI Marketing Initiative funding stream due the proposed additional items that involved an approximate increase of \$8,000 and that Council support the revised application in the amount of up to \$20,000. M/S Clement / Lambert 1. <i>THAT, Council for the Village of Ashcroft rescind Resolution No. R-2024-19, previously approved by Council on January 22, 2024, regarding the application to the Northern Development</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-35</p>

	<p><i>Initiative Trust's Marketing Initiative funding stream in the amount of \$24,965.</i></p> <p>M/S Anstett / Clement</p> <p>2. <i>THAT, Council for the Village of Ashcroft extends its full support for the submission of an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust's (NDIT) Marketing Initiative Funding stream seeking financial assistance of up to \$20,000, and further that Council is committed to matching the funds as a line item in the 2024 Village of Ashcroft budget.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-36</p>
FOR INFORMATION		
6.6	<p>CAO Report – Capacity Funding for Local Government Housing Initiatives Program</p> <p>Purpose: Provide Council with a brief report outlining the funding allocation for the Village of Ashcroft under the provinces Capacity Funding program to assist with accelerating development processes including scope and guideline limitations.</p>	
6.7	<p>CAO Report – Snow Survey Information from EMCR</p> <p>Purpose: To present an update to Council regarding the snowpack status in the South Thompson region.</p>	
6.8	<p>CFO Report – Preliminary Budget Discussion</p> <p>CFO Bhalla cautioned Council that he feels we are heading into a hard landing and full recession and is budgeting accordingly. Interest rate increases are impacting British Columbians particularly the middle class.</p> <p>Areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortis - commodity costs. \$559 but total bill is \$3,125 example I • Cost of living is escalating exponentially, cautioned Council that we must keep this in mind when budgeting and keep property taxes affordable. • TNRD solid waste costs continue to increase, tipping fees are climbing, opting out of Gold Country Communities Society services last year landed Ashcroft's TNRD requisition to a 3.9% increase overall. • Benefits costs and WorkSafe expenses are also increasing. <p>CFO Bhalla presented the Project list itemized from critical to low and highlighted projects for 2024, noting projects require grant funding to leverage costs.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla guided Council through the draft budget with a proposed 3.5% increase discussion guided Council through the impacts to the General Operating, Water and Sewer funds.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla focused Councils attention to the highlighted items which are items that have changed for this year's budget.</p> <p>Utilized surplus to cover unexpected expenses ie: Fire Hall, hot tub, water pumping costs etc.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla will schedule 2 meetings to finalize the budget one at an Open Council meeting the other is the legislated public presentation of the Financial Plan.</p>	
6.9	<p>BEO Report – Bylaw Enforcement Update – 2023 Final Quarter</p> <p>Purpose: To provide Council with detail updates and status of the bylaw files for the past quarter</p>	

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) – Sale of Cache Creek Property For Information	
7.2	2024 SILGA Forest and Wildfire Management Webinar Save the Date – February 28th 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Any Council members interested in participating in the webinar should email SILGA directly to receive the link at: yoursilga@gmail.com	
7.3	DSCS 2024 Grad Class – Requesting a monetary donation or donation for a raffle/auction or becoming a Corporate Sponsor for the 2024 Grad Classing M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, Council donates a basket of Ashcroft swag to a maximum of \$150 - \$200 value to the DSCS grad class.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-37
7.4	Marilyn & Andy Anderson Bloomin Paintbrush Art Studio and Garden – 2024 Street Market (Farmers’ Market) M/S Clement / Roden <i>That the Village facilitate a meeting between the Andersons and the Farmers Market coordinators to find a mutually beneficial solution.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-38
7.5	Ashcroft 4H Club – Requesting Free Use of the Community Hall for Monthly Meetings and Special Events such as Speech Night M/S Roden / Lambert <i>THAT, Council approves the Ashcroft 4H Club request for free use of the Community Hall for monthly meetings and special events.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-39
FOR INFORMATION		
7.6	City of Abbotsford – Letter to UBCM Municipalities re Support for Resolution	
7.7	TNRD Press Release – Thompson Nicola Regional Library Welcomes TRU Nursing Students as Community and Health Navigators	
7.8	Interior Health – News Release – New BC Cander Center in Kamloops Moves Forward	
7.9	School District No. 74 (Gold Trail) – New Superintendent of Schools, Vessy Mochikas effective May 8, 2024 M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, Council sends a letter welcoming Vessy Mochikas the new Superintendent of Schools for School District #74 to the community.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-40

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager – Motion Tracker	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS

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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert Brought forward a Notice of Motion for Council to consider the following at the next Regular Meeting of Council on February 26, 2024: 1. Moving Council Report to verbal format 2. Discuss how Closed Meeting Agendas should be delivered to Council.	

12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1

12.1	M/S Roden / Lambert <i>That Council move to a Closed Meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1(c) labour relations or other employee relations.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-41
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13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

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14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Village of Ashcroft Council for Monday February 12, 2024, at 8:15 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, February 12, 2024.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor