THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

REGULAR MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
Councillor, Marilyn Anderson
Councillor, Jonah Anstett
Councillor, Nadine Davenport
Councillor, Debra Tuohey

Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer
Yoginder Bhalla, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Bennewith, Director of Public Works

Media – 1

EXCUSED:

Due to the Public Health Officer Ministerial Order M0192, the February 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council is closed to the public but will be broadcast by the HUB Online Network.

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Roden called the meeting to order at 6:02.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to add or delete Agenda items
M/S Roden / Davenport
"That the Agenda for Monday February 8, 2021 be amended to include a late item from Telus requesting a letter of support to be added under Correspondence for Action."
CARRIED – Unanimous – R-2021-37

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented or as amended
M/S Tuohey / Anstett
"THAT the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday, February 8, 2021 be adopted as amended."
CARRIED – Unanimous – R-2021-38

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, January 25, 2021 **M/S Anstett / Anderson** *"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, January 25, 2021 be adopted as presented."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-39

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1	Jamie Vieira, Manager Environmental Services & Coleen Hougan, Invasive Plant Management Coordinator – TNRD Invasive Plant Program – Member Municipality Proposal Jamie and Coleen provided a summary of the program and services that the TNRD Invasive Plant management Program provides. Highlights include: • Program is currently operational in the Electoral Areas (EA's) of the TNRD • Residents in the EA's are able to access the service at no cost to weed control for invasive weeds on private lands • Many requests from municipal residents are received requesting the same service, support to these residents is not included in the current program • Invasive species identified in the Ashcroft area include: Japanese Knotweed, Tree of Heaven, Hoary Alyssum, Giant Hogweed (not in the region yet but in Fraser Valley) What is an invasive species: non-native plant species that can cause harm to the environment, economy and society. Mitigation strategies provided under the TNRD program include: • Landowner assistance • Financial assistance, $100/K per year in rebates to property owner, equipment rental free of charge • In person weed assistance – site assessment and expert recommendations • Biological control – insects, not available with all plants • Regional coordination • Coordinate weed control for other partners – MOTI, Red Cross • Facilitate invasive plant management • Staff acts as experts • Education and outreach • Media – social, radio, TV, newspaper • Schools • Community Groups • Public events – Seedy Sunday, Farmers Markets etc. COST/Process Majority of the program is funding by taxation 350K/year collected by taxation from EA's 50K/year grants Land owner assistance in the regional area is 100 % free Incremental cost of adding municipalities = Ashcroft $10k/year max or budget 2.5% of total program budget Service Establishment Bylaw would need development for those municipalities that wish to opt in Taxation is planned for implementation in 2022.	

3.2	Mike Dedels, Wildfire Invasive Plant Management Coordinator – Invasive Plant Control in the Village of Ashcroft. A Red Cross funded program through the TNRD Red Cross funding for invasive plant control was implemented after the Elephant Hill Wildfire Program provides free treatment of invasive species weed control on private land Assistance with work on municipal land and roads Ashcroft is invited to participate; this could work in conjunction with the summer student program with training and supervision The intent of the program also includes: • Expanding outreach and education • Survey and enhanced biocontrol's • Map invasive plant infestations • Plan for the future	

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.

There were no questions received via live-stream or email.

5. BYLAWS

5.1	N/A	

6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	CAO Report – NDIT Community Spaces – Community Garden Funding **M/S Anderson / Anstett** *"That Council endorses the Village of Ashcroft grant funding application to Northern Development Initiative Trust under the Community Spaces funding stream for the development of a Community Garden in the downtown core; and further that Council support the project throughout its duration."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021- 40
FOR INFORMATION		
6.2	CFO Report – Year-End Financial Review CFO Bhalla presented the year-end financial report to Council noting that all year end entries are complete. Current year end position is considered as balanced, Auditors will review financials this month Brief review of each fund **General Revenue:** Provided highlights of various accounts providing explanations of variances surplus/shortfall Overall, the Village is well balanced operationally **Sewer Operating Fund** Lift Station is showing a variance, as the project didn't begin in 2020 **Water operating Fund**	

	Operational deficit – caused by pumping costs and BC Hydro cost increases What is driving the increased costs? Power usage has increased significantly and Hydro costs continue to rise, freshet also caused excessive power consumption as the WTP was on an elevated cleaning cycle and public water consumption has increased by 14% **Mitigation** Public education – water conservation Consider water meters (expensive, requires other software updates, has to be grant driven to afford implementation) Track solar generation and determine Hydro offset Expand solar generation to offset Hydro costs **Other;** Switching to MIA as our insurance provider saved the Village $53,000 Staff revalued replacement costs of assets to align insured costs to actual replacement costs **Asset management mapping update** CFO Bhalla highlighted updates to the online infrastructure mapping showing the PW side of the system, Water/sewer lines demonstration highlighting how new infrastructure is added to the system. Noted that approval is required by DPW adding an audit feature ensuring information is accurate Council thanked CFO Bhalla for the report.	

7. CORRESPONDENCE

	FOR ACTION	
7.1	Easter Scavenger Hunt – Donation Request **M/S Anstett / Davenport** *"That Council approves the Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt request and donate a 2021 Family Season Pass to the Ashcroft Pool."* **M/S Roden / Tuohey** *"That the Village of Ashcroft provide $200 from the public relations fund as a donation to the organizers for the Easter Scavenger Hunt."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-41 CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-42
7.2	Kathleen Kinasewich – Request for Street Art in the Round **M/S Roden / Anderson** *"That Council approves the Request for Street Art in the Round, an Elizabeth Fry collaboration with Kathleen Kinasewich to allow art work to be displayed on the fence at the back of the E-Fry and Municipal building."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-43
Late Item	Telus Letter of support **M/S Roden / Anstett** *"That Council approve staff to send a letter of support as per the template provided, to Telus, in support of their grant application for funding to expand the broadband service in the Village of Ashcroft."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-44
	FOR INFORMATION	
7.3	NDIT – 2021 Grant Writing Support – ND Project Number 7194 20	
7.4	NDIT – 2021 Business Façade Improvement Program – ND Project Number 7060 40	

7.5	MP Brad Vis – Letter to School District No. 74 – Support for Transfer of Asset to the Ashcroft HUB Society	
7.6	Invitation to Council to meet with MP Brad Vis on February 11, 2021 – A meeting has been scheduled for this day in the afternoon	
7.7	Flip Chart Information Correspondence – February 8, 2021	
	M/S Roden / Tuohey *"That the Information Correspondence be received and filed."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-45

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager **M/S Roden / Anderson** *"That the Task Manager be received and filed."*	CARRIED Unanimous R-2021-46

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1	N/A	

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

10.1	N/A	

11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden - Report	
11.2	Councillor Anderson	
11.3	Councillor Anstett	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Tuohey	

12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

12.1	N/A	

13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1	N/A	

14. ADJOURNMENT

M/S Roden / Anderson
"That the Regular Meeting of Council for February 8, 2021 be adjourned at 7:25 pm.
CARRIED – Unanimous – R-2021-47

Certified to be a true copy of the
Minutes for the Regular Meeting of
Council held Monday February 8, 2021

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Daniela Dyck,	Barbara Roden,
Chief Administrative Officer	MAYOR