

MINUTES of a Town Council meeting held in the Bear Pit, Town/Regional District Office, Town Square, Fort Nelson, BC on Monday, September 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT

Mayor Clarke -Mayor
Councillor Allen
Councillor Bumstead
Councillor Morey
Councillor Unruh

STAFF

Pat Bailey -Administrator
Debbie Walker -DCS
Stacey Loe -Recording Secretary
Randy McLean -Treasurer
Bruce Hupman -DOP
Barclay Pitkethly -Grants Co-ordinator

MEDIA/PUBLIC

Director McCartney -NRRD
Director Sime -NRRD
Alt. Director Blake -NRRD
Alt. Director Novotny -NRRD
Brent Hodson -FN News
Bevin Boynton -ICBC
Shelly Middleton

1. Call to Order
A quorum being present, Mayor Clarke called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Adoption of Agenda
MOVED by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the agenda for the September 9, 2002 Town Council meeting be amended to include the following:
 - Cpl. Mike Savage, Program Coordinator, Fort Nelson Detachment, Re: Drug Free Zones Program
 - Fort Nelson Fall Haul, For Discussion
 - Correspondence, Donald E. Taylor Re: Future of Rail Link, September 6, 2002 Council/Board Information Package

and thereafter, be adopted for implementation.

CARRIED

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
September 09, 2002
Page 2

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

3. Town Council
August 12, 2002
MOVED by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the minutes from the Town Council meeting held August 12, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED
4. Special Town Council
August 21, 2002
MOVED by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the minutes from the Special Town Council meeting held August 21, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED
5. Public Hearing
Re: Town of Fort Nelson
Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. 570, 1999 Amendment
August 26, 2002
MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the minutes from the Public Hearing, Re: Town of Fort Nelson Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 570, 1999 Amendment held August 26, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED
6. Public Hearing
Re: Town of Fort Nelson
Zoning Bylaw No. 571, 1999 Amendment
August 26, 2002
MOVED by Councillor Morey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the minutes from the Public Hearing, Re: Town of Fort Nelson Zoning Bylaw No. 571, 1999 Amendment held August 26, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED
7. Special Town Council
August 26, 2002
MOVED by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the minutes from the Special Town Council meeting held August 26, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED

INFORMATION PACKAGES

8. Council/Board Information Package
August 16, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Allen
that the Council/Board Information Package dated August 16, 2002
be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Council/Board Information Package
August 23, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Allen
that the Council/Board Information Package dated August 23, 2002
be received for information.

CARRIED

10. Council/Board Information Package
August 30, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Allen
that the Council/Board Information Package dated August 30, 2002
be received for information.

CARRIED

11. Council/Board Information Package
September 6, 2002 **MOVED** by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Allen
that the Council/Board Information Package dated September 6,
2002 be received for information.

CARRIED

PROCLAMATIONS

12. Subway Day for CHILD,
Thursday, September 19, 2002
Proclaimed Mayor Clarke proclaimed Thursday, September 19, 2002 as
"Subway Day for CHILD" in the Town of Fort Nelson.

PETITIONS/DELEGATIONS

13. Bevan Boynton, ICBC
Re: Future of Public Insurance,
Request for Resolution
of Support

Mayor Clarke thanked Mr. Boynton for attending the meeting, and invited him to begin his presentation.

Mr. Boynton informed that he was an employee of ICBC and a member of the Office & Professional Employees' International Union (OPEIU), Local 378, and was speaking on behalf of the 60 members who lived and worked in North Eastern BC.

Mr. Boynton then reviewed the reasons that the OPEIU, Local 378 was opposed to the privatization of auto insurance, during which the following points were noted:

- There are approximately 4,700 ICBC employees who live and work within the province of British Columbia.
- If public auto insurance was to be abolished, all of the road safe programs spearheaded by ICBC would end.
- The ICBC road improvement programs reduce accidents, injuries and claims costs.
- ICBC spends over \$60 million per year on road safe initiatives, including crosswalks, road improvements, police counter attack programs, redlight cameras, and the road sense program.
- If the programs were not funded by ICBC, the burden of the cost would be transferred to taxpayers.
- In 1990, ICBC invested more than 200 projects throughout the Province.
- Private insurance rates are set based on age, gender, marital status, and/or geographical location. Therefore, many British Columbia drivers could experience large increases in their rates, leading to a larger number of uninsured drivers.
- If private insurance does not work, there would be no possibility of returning to public insurance because of the requirements in the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade Services.

Mr. Boynton thanked Council for the opportunity to make his presentation, and noted that the information provided, and more, could be obtained at the www.saveicbc.com website.

13. (Cont'd)

MOVED by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation was founded in 1963 as a direct result of the Wooten Royal Commission that investigated shoddy practices of private insurance companies, and;

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation is mandated to provide fair rating which does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, marital status nor postal code, and;

WHEREAS statistics show that over 99% of all motorists carry valid insurance in BC, unlike other jurisdictions where the incidence of uninsured motorists are as high as 30%, and;

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation contributes \$60 million per year on road safety initiatives which is 30 times more than all private insurance carriers combined in the province of Ontario, and;

WHEREAS safer roads make our communities better places to live, and;

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation provides over 6000 direct jobs and many more in supporting business including, independent brokers, autobody shops, glass shops and others;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Town Council call upon our local MLA, the Minister responsible for ICBC and the Premier of the Province of British Columbia to preserve universal public auto insurance, which does not discriminate, which decreases uninsured motorists and provides for road safety initiatives that benefit our Town.

OPPOSED - Councillor Morey - Believes it pertinent to review all aspects of the situation prior to supporting such a resolution.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOVED by Councillor Morey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bumstead that the Office of Professional Employees' International Union, Local 378 request for support of the "Don't Wreck Public Auto Insurance" initiative be deferred to the next regular Town Council meeting for further review.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

14. Wide Sky Disposal 1989 Ltd.
Re: Interest in Purchasing
5303 - 44th Avenue,
For Consideration

Discussion ensued regarding Wide Sky Disposal's letter of interest in the property located at 5303 - 44th Avenue, during which it was noted that the counter offer made by the Town to Redde Pressure and GD Cornish had been accepted and therefore the purchase had been finalized.

As required by the Local Government Act, an ad was placed in the paper indicating that the property was being sold to the adjoining property owners. Wide Sky Disposal had seen the advertisement and interpreted it to mean the property was for sale to the highest bidder. Treasurer McLean explained the procedure to Mr. Batten, Wide Sky Disposal, who requested the letter be forwarded to Council.

* Administration was **requested** to forward correspondence to Wide Sky Disposal 1989 Ltd. outlining the procedure for the sale of land by the Town, as required by the Local Government Act, and advising of the final outcome with respect to 5303 - 44th Avenue.

15. City of Burnaby, Office of the Mayor
Re: Recommended Amendments to
Proposed Community Charter,
For Consideration

Discussion ensued regarding the City of Burnaby's correspondence pertaining to the proposed Community Charter, during which it was noted that they were primarily seeking clarification of those sections of the Community Charter most open to interpretation.

It was suggested that a special meeting be held for Council and Board members to review the Community Charter in detail prior to attending the UBCM Convention.

* It was **agreed** that a Special Town Council meeting to review the Community Charter in detail, be held on Monday, September 16, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

16. District of Kitimat
Re: Alcan Power Sales,
Request for Resolution of Support &
Request for Meeting

MOVED by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that

WHEREAS Alcan had been given exclusive and perpetual access to valuable water resources owned by the people of British Columbia for the purpose of aluminum production;

AND WHEREAS the use of all electricity generated by this public resource, as indicated in the 1949 Industrial Development Act and the 1950 Agreement, is to be used exclusively for aluminum production and for the promotion and development of the district and of other industries in the vicinity of the works;

AND WHEREAS the Company is now positioning its business activities with the intent of power sales of electricity away from the vicinity of the works;

AND WHEREAS sale of electricity to the BC Hydro grid and for export inevitably results in less industrial activity in Kitimat, and henceforth less jobs, wealth and prosperity for Kitimat, the North and all of British Columbia;

NOW THEREFORE the Town of Fort Nelson supports the District of Kitimat's position that all electricity generated from Kemano is to be used for aluminum production in Kitimat or other industrial activity in the vicinity of the works, in accordance with the letter and intent of the 1949 Industrial Development Act and the 1950 Agreement.

CARRIED

17. Cpl. Mike Savage, Program
Coordinator, Fort Nelson
Detachment Re: Drug Free
Zones Program

MOVED by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that Cpl. Mike Savage, Program Coordinator, Fort Nelson Detachment be advised that the Council for the Town of Fort Nelson approves the proposed two block radius drug free zone around each school AND the use of the Bear Logo on the Drug Free Zone advertising sheets, AND FURTHER the use of the Public Works Department personnel to install the Drug Free Zone signage at each of the school zones.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

18. Zoning and Planning Review Committee
August 9, 2002
- MOVED** by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the minutes of the Zoning and Planning Review Committee meeting held on August 9, 2002 be received for information.

CARRIED

BYLAWS/POLICIES

19. For Adoption
The Town of Fort Nelson,
43rd Street and Primary Water
Main System Improvements
2002 Loan Authorization
Bylaw No. 623, 2002
- MOVED** by Councillor Allen, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the Town of Fort Nelson, 43rd Street and Primary Water Main System Improvements 2002 Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 623, 2002 be adopted.

CARRIED

20. For First, Second & Third Readings
The Town of Fort Nelson
2003 Tax Exemption
Bylaw No. 630, 2002
- Discussion ensued regarding the list of tax exemptions. Clarification was requested on the criteria utilized for a property to be tax exempt.

It was noted that at the time of construction, Dorothy's Place had received a reduction in the cost of the property, with the understanding that they would be paying the taxes in future years.

It was suggested that representatives from the Women's Resource Society were most likely unaware as to the process for applying for a tax exemption.

DCS Walker indicated that there were specific criteria contained in the Local Government Act outlining which properties were eligible for tax exemptions, noting that places of public worship were an automatic exemption.

Councillor Allen suggested that consideration should be given by Council to support organizations such as quality public daycare.

20. (Cont'd)

Administrator Bailey advised that consideration of such a tax exemption would be contingent on the foundation of the Daycare, ie: whether it was a public or private facility.

It was further noted that most communities do not make tax exemptions common knowledge as they would then be inundated with requests, and some municipalities permitted no tax exemptions.

MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Bumstead that the rules of procedure be suspended and that the Town of Fort Nelson 2003 Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 630, 2002 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

21. For Third Reading
The Town Of Fort Nelson
Zoning Amendment
(Temporary Permits)
Bylaw No. 631, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Morey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the Town of Fort Nelson Zoning Amendment (Temporary Permits) Bylaw No. 631, 2002 be given third reading as amended.

CARRIED

22. For Adoption
The Town of Fort Nelson
Temporary Use Fees and Charges
Bylaw No. 632, 2002

MOVED by Councillor Unruh, **SECONDED** by Councillor Morey that the Town of Fort Nelson Temporary Use Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 632, 2002 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS/VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

23. Fort Nelson Fall Haul

DOP Bruce Hupman requested consideration to eliminate the additional bins placed in the Regional District during the Fall Haul, due to additional costs and staff constraints, and suggested only offering the curb-side pick up within Town limits. He further noted that a date should be set for the Fall Haul.

23. (Cont'd)

Discussion ensued regarding the bins located in the Regional District during which the following points were noted:

- This spring, the bins located in the Rural Residential area were utilized improperly, with unacceptable items being placed either in or around the bins. This resulted in several days of clean up following the Spring Fling.
- Items such as entire car bodies were placed in the rural residential bins.
- Within the Town limits, if the items were not acceptable, the Town staff left them at the curb-side, on the owner's property.
- The rural residential bins required emptying up to five times per day, and would be still overflowing.
- If the rural residential bins were eliminated, Council needed to find a way to make the program equal for ALL residents of the community, regardless of where they resided.
- There was not enough man power or trucks to do curb-side pick up in the rural residential area.

MOVED by Councillor Morey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the public be advised that curb side pick up and rural residential bins will not be available for the annual Fall Haul slated to be held September 28, 2002 up to and including October 06, 2002 and that the Fort Nelson Landfill be made available, during the Fall Haul, for all residents of the Town to dispose of house hold garbage during regular landfill hours.

CARRIED

24. Correspondence,
Donald E. Taylor
Re: Future of Rail Link

MOVED by Councillor Morey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that Mr. Taylor be advised that the Council for the Town of Fort Nelson supports the closure of the 1200 mile gap in the North American rail system from the State of Alaska with existing continental rail facilities at Prince George, Fort Nelson or Dease Lake, BC. and further, supports the establishment of a 24 member bilateral commission to study matters relating to the future rail link.

CARRIED

25. Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor Bumstead, **SECONDED** by Councillor Unruh that the September 09, 2002 Town Council meeting be declared adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the minutes of a Town Council meeting held on Monday, September 09, 2002.

Mayor Harry Clarke, Chair

Debbie Walker, Town Clerk

Stacey Loe, Recording Secretary