

Minutes of the 10:00 am Wednesday, June 14, 2023, Town of Qualicum Beach Regular Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Office, 660 Primrose Street, Qualicum Beach, BC

PRESENT: Council: Mayor Teunis Westbroek
Councillor Scott Harrison
Councillor Anne Skipsey
Councillor Petronella Vander Valk
Councillor Jean Young

ALSO PRESENT: Staff: Lou Varela, CAO
Heather Svensen, Corporate Administrator
Bob Weir, Director of Engineering and Operations
Luke Sales, Director of Planning
Raj Hayre, Director of Finance (via teleconference)
Rebecca Augustyn, Planner

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am acknowledging that the meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council adopted, by unanimous consent, the June 14, 2023 Regular Council meeting agenda.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Councillor Skipsey requested that the item of correspondence received May 19, 2023, regarding the draft resolution supporting biodiversity, be removed from the consent agenda for consideration.

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT Council endorse the following resolution, and directs staff to send copies to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and local governments in the region, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

WHEREAS British Columbia and Canada have committee to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the *Together for Wildlife* Strategy;

WHEREAS protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a *Local Natural Areas Protection Fund* to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adopted, by unanimous consent, the following items from the consent agenda:

- (1) **Correspondence Log** – June 14, 2023 – For Information
- (2) **Monthly Fire Department Report** – May 2023 – For Information
- (3) **Monthly Building Permit Report** – May 2023 – For Information
- (4) **Monthly Bylaw Report** – May 2023 – For Information

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Council approved, by unanimous consent, the minutes of the following meetings:

- March 1, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting
- March 15, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting
- March 23, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting
- March 29, 2023 Special Council meeting
- May 10, 2023 Special Council meeting
- May 11, 2023 Special Council meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff noted the May 3, 2023 meeting minutes, as attached to the agenda, were incorrect and the correct version had previously been approved by Council.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (1) **May 24, 2023 Regular Council Meeting – Notice of Motion** (Councillor Harrison)
Councillor Harrison MOVED and Mayor Westbrook SECONDED,
WHEREAS the Provincial and Federal governments did not provide funding for the revitalization of rail service in Qualicum Beach as of the March 14, 2023 date required by the BC Court of Appeal; and
WHEREAS several participating First Nations have withdrawn their support for the Island Corridor Foundation;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Council sends a letter to the provincial government questioning if the Town would be required to add signalization to the nearby railway crossing if the Town installs a traffic light at the intersection of Memorial Avenue and First Avenue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (2) **Oceanside Community Track at Ballenas Secondary School**

The following motion was deferred from the May 24, 2023 regular Council meeting, where it was MOVED by Councillor Harrison and SECONDED by Mayor Westbrook:

THAT the Town of Qualicum Beach commit to providing \$71,200 to the Oceanside Track Steering Committee in additional financial support for the final funding needs required to build a 6-lane running track at Ballenas Secondary School, using funds from the Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

Mayor Westbroek MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT the motion on the floor be amended by replacing the value of \$71,200 with \$18,600, to bring the Town's total contributions to the Oceanside Track at Ballenas Secondary School to \$75,000.

CARRIED

Opposed: Councillor Harrison

In Favour: Mayor Westbroek; Councillor Skipsey; Councillor Vander Valk; Councillor Young

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

THAT the Town of Qualicum Beach commit to providing \$18,600 to the Oceanside Track Steering Committee in additional financial support for the final funding needs required to build a 6-lane running track at Ballenas Secondary School, using funds from the Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

- (1) **Regional District of Nanaimo Liquid Waste Management Plan Amendment**, Sean De Pol, Senior Manager for Wastewater Services, appeared before Council to present the Regional District of Nanaimo's plan to amend its Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP).

Mr. De Pol presented the liquid waste management plan amendment for the Regional District of Nanaimo, discussing the wastewater treatment services provided to Qualicum Beach, French Creek, and Parksville. The liquid waste management plan is focused on wastewater management, capital projects, source control, education, and inflow and infiltration programs. More information can be found at www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/lwmp-amendment.

- (2) **Pickleball Lines on the Qualicum Beach Tennis Courts**
Greg Bach and Ada Sarsiat, Arrowsmith Tennis Club, appeared before Council to speak in opposition to painting pickleball lines on the existing tennis courts in town.

Council noted that this topic will be discussed at the next regular Council meeting on July 19, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) **Regional District of Nanaimo Northern Community Sewer Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 889.79, 2023**

Mayor Westbroek MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT the Council of the Town of Qualicum Beach consents on behalf of the electors to the adoption of "Regional District of Nanaimo Northern Community Sewer Local Service Amendment Bylaw No. 889.79, 2023"; AND FURTHER THAT the Regional District of Nanaimo be notified accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (2) **Pollinator Pathways and Climate Change – Arrowsmith Naturalists** – letter received April 19, 2023

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Vander Valk SECONDED, THAT the item of correspondence received April 19, 2023 regarding Pollinator Pathways and Climate Change from Arrowsmith Naturalists be referred to staff for the purpose of providing a report to Council at an upcoming meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (3) **Outdoor Roaming Cats** – letter received April 24, 2023
Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Mayor Westbrook SECONDED, THAT Council instructs staff to refer consideration of outdoor roaming cats to the 2024 Strategic Planning and Budget processes.

Councillor Skipsey, with the consent of Mayor Westbrook, withdrew her motion.

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Mayor Westbrook SECONDED, THAT staff be directed to increase public education efforts regarding outdoor roaming cats.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- (4) **St. Mark's Initiative – Climate Action Strategy** – letter received May 19, 2023
Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Vander Valk SECONDED, THAT Council refers the St. Mark's Initiative – Climate Action Strategy to the Select Committee on Environment for consideration prior to the half day workshop on Climate Change Mitigation.

CARRIED

Opposed: Councillor Harrison; Councillor Young

In Favour: Mayor Westbrook; Councillor Skipsey; Councillor Vander Valk

BYLAWS

- (1) **Zoning Amendment and Development Permit: 230 Second Avenue West**
Councillor Vander Valk MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT consideration of third reading for the bylaw titled "Town of Qualicum Beach Land Use and Subdivision Bylaw No. 580, 1999 Amendment (230 Second Ave W) Bylaw No. 580.137, 2022" be deferred to the July 19, 2023 regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

Opposed: Councillor Harrison; Councillor Young

In Favour: Mayor Westbrook; Councillor Skipsey; Councillor Vander Valk

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

- (1) **General Government** (Mayor Teunis Westbrook)
Mayor Westbrook requested that Councillor Skipsey's Notice of Motion be considered prior to his Committee and Liaison report, to allow Staff Sergeant De Coen an opportunity to provide feedback.

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Mayor Westbrook SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to lower the speed limit on Highway 19A from the roundabout at Memorial Avenue to the Town boundary at Laburnum Road to 40 km/hr during the busy summer months (from June 21 to September 22, 2023) as a one-year pilot project to be assessed.

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Mayor Westbrook SECONDED, THAT the motion on the floor be amended by striking the words “during the busy summer months (from June 21 to September 22, 2023)”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

THAT Council direct staff to lower the speed limit on Highway 19A from the roundabout at Memorial Avenue to the Town boundary at Laburnum Road to 40 km/hr as a one-year pilot project to be assessed.

MOTION FAILED

Opposed: Councillor Harrison; Councillor Vander Valk; Councillor Young

In Favour: Mayor Westbrook; Councillor Skipsey

Mayor Westbrook commented on the following:

- Chief Recalma of Qualicum First Nation will be holding a ‘Walk of Tears’ on June 23, 2023 starting at 9:30 am, departing from the Qualicum First Nation band office.
- Celebrating Nation Public Works week by attending the open house event on May 25, 2023 hosted by the Town’s Parks, Public Works, and Fire Departments, extending thanks to staff for putting together an educational and fun event.
- Meeting with MP Gord Johns regarding airport noise complaints.
- Joining the Seniors Activity centre team for the upcoming Alzheimer’s fundraising walk.
- On May 26, 2023, attended a meeting with Island High regarding healthcare needs in the region.
- Attending Family Day on May 28, 2023, commenting that it was one of the best Family Day events he’s ever attended, expressing thanks to the volunteers and staff for their hard work putting together the event.
- Meeting with elementary students at Qualicum Beach Elementary School, discussing improving playgrounds and other recreational facilities.
- Attending the Air Cadets annual ceremonial review.
- Attending the Arrowsmith Water Service Committee, discussing water release management.
- Meeting with representatives from the Qualicum Beach Tennis Club with Councillor Skipsey.
- Attending an event at Kwalikum Senior Secondary School regarding various environmental issues.

(2) **Public Safety** (Councillor Scott Harrison)

Councillor Harrison commented on the following:

- June 13, attended a meeting of the "100 Fine Gentlemen Who Give a Damn," noting that the Arrowsmith Restorative Justice Society was the chosen program for funding.
- June 13, attended the Oceanside Health and Wellness Network housing forum; credit was given to Susanna Newton for advocating the establishment of a regional task force to address the needs of vulnerable populations and the growing housing challenges, exemplified by the high average home price of \$950,000 in the region.
- June 1, all members of Council participated in an event at Oceanside Hospice unveiling the 'Wind Phone', an unconnected phone where visitors can hold one-way conversations with deceased loved ones.
- May 30, the BC Non-Profit Housing Association presented the "naughty list", a list of BC municipalities that need to do more to build housing of all types.
- June 12, attended the Public Open House, discussing the Cameron Lake fire, gas powered leaf blowers, and speeding on Memorial Avenue.
- June 21, an event to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day will be held in Parksville.

(3) **Parks & Recreation** (Councillor Anne Skipsey)

Councillor Skipsey commented on the following:

- Attending the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) round table, noting that MABRRI will be taking over the Brant Wildlife Festival, and commenting on a location for a sign to promote the region's UNESCO designation.
- Extended congratulations to the Kwalikum Senior Secondary School's golf team, who won the Provincial Championships.
- Wished Mayor Westbroek a happy birthday.

(4) **Community Development** (Councillor Petronella Vander Valk)

Councillor Vander Valk commented on the following:

- May 31, attended the Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association board meeting.
- June 7, attended an workshop regarding the services and costs of RCMP policing in the community.
- June 13, attended the Oceanside Health and Wellness Society forum on housing.

(5) **Arts & Culture** (Councillor Jean Young)

Councillor Young commented on the following:

- Attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference, voting on resolutions regarding infrastructure bills, mental health coverage, funding for resources to address homelessness, and extending the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers.

- Attended the Vancouver Island Regional Library board meeting, discussing expanding the library.
- Attending meetings regarding Communities in Bloom, noting this year's theme is youth stewardship.
- Attending Family Day Committee meetings, extending thanks to staff and volunteers for their work on the event.
- Attending the Public Open House, discussing noise pollution, speeding on Memorial Avenue, and wildfire mitigation, food security, parking commercial vehicles on residential roads, and maintenance issues at the Train Station.
- Attending the Oceanside Health and Wellness task force on homelessness.

STAFF REPORTS

(1) Corporate Administration

(a) 2022 Annual Municipal Report

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT Council approve the Town's 2022 Annual Report as presented at the June 14, 2023 regular Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(b) 2020 - 2022 Motion Indices Review

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Mayor Westbroek SECONDED, THAT the following resolutions of Council be rescinded:

- 20-026 - THAT staff be instructed to arrange a Committee of the Whole meeting in the Fall/Winter of 2020 to evaluate and review all 2020 events to see where improvements; changes, etc. can be made.
- 20-137 - THAT Council directs staff to refer discussion on the waterfront walkway to the Committee of the Whole.
- 20-210 - THAT the Pacific Board Culture Society be invited to submit a management and design plan to undertake upgrades to the skate park; AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize a lease with Pacific Board Culture Society for the upgrade and management of the skate park.
- 20-273 - THAT Council that directs staff to produce a report on the purchase of light trucks with electric drive trains.
- 20-302 - THAT Council instructs staff to bring back a report to Council identifying options to sign 357 Burnham Road as public property.
- 20-313 - THAT Council refer the request from the November 18, 2020 delegate Jonathan Parker to consider allowing outdoor burning on large properties for dead or decadent trees back to staff to provide a report.
- 21-057 - THAT staff be directed to work with the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers on a comprehensive assessment of Grandon Creek.
- 21-089 - THAT staff be directed to notify participants of the backyard chicken pilot project that the project will not be continuing, and that they have one year to phase out and remove their backyard chickens.

- 21-194 - THAT staff be directed to bring back the report on encroachments to Council and that the Town hold off on any encroachment charges until Council have had a chance to review the policy by September, 2021.
- 21-199 - THAT staff present a report on the Town's participation with the Kw'umut Lelum Step Up! Program for indigenous youth work placements.
- 21-216 - THAT the Tree and Vegetation Management Plan be amended to contain a clear pathway to a desired condition, including definitive actions around a street tree policy, a tree canopy coverage policy, a vegetation management plan for redevelopment, and a strategy to retain forested areas within the Town boundaries.
- 21-255 - THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report on the establishment of a Steering Committee for a housing diversity initiative with the goal of preparing a housing plan for Qualicum Beach; AND FURTHER THAT the report include proposed terms of reference for the Committee; options for stakeholder consultation; a timeline for completing the housing plan and budget considerations; AND FURTHER THAT the report be utilized to assist Council in prioritizing this strategic initiative when the strategic plan is revisited this fall.
- 22-073 - THAT Council directs staff to allocate up to \$15,000 funding from Community Development to support a demonstration project on lower Grandon Creek to restore and stabilize the riparian area through forest ecosystem management.
- 22-224 - THAT staff be directed to provide information to short-term vacation rental owners to bring short-term vacation rentals into compliance.
- 22-262 - THAT staff be directed to review the Town's policies on boulevard improvements.
- 22-344 - THAT Council directs staff to draft a policy regarding the control, operation, and usage of old Engine #2.
- 22-383 - THAT Council direct staff to contact the Provincial Government of BC to research the possibility of the Town of Qualicum Beach participating in the 'Electric Scooter Pilot Project' with a report back to Council for an information update, and possible subsequent direction, in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022.
- 22-426 - THAT Council defers further consideration of "Town of Qualicum Beach Tree Protection Bylaw No. 559, 1995, Amendment (Estate Properties Tree Expansion) Bylaw No 559.03, 2022" until there has been public consultation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(c) 2023 Special Event Approval - Qualicum Woods Residents' Association & Arrowview Electric Community Picnic

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT the request from the Qualicum Woods Residents' Association and Arrowview Electric to host a community picnic at Christleton Park (Chester Road, Qualicum Beach) on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm, be approved in principle, subject to event organizers working with staff to ensure Town requirements are met.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(d) **Qualicum Beach Café – Change to a Liquor Licence Application**

Councillor Vander Valk MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT Council authorizes staff to provide a letter of consent for the Qualicum Beach Café to submit their “Change to Hours of Liquor Service (outside Service Hours) Application” for a licensed establishment at 2690 Island Highway West, Qualicum Beach;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Qualicum Beach does not wish to provide comment on the application from the Qualicum Beach Café to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch for a permanent change to Liquor Licence No. 073938 to change the hours of service to 9am to 12am, daily.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(2) **Financial Administration**

(a) **2022 Financial Information Report**

Councillor Vander Valk MOVED and Councillor Young SECONDED, THAT the Town of Qualicum Beach 2022 Financial Information Report be received and approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(3) **Planning**

(a) **Development Variance Permit: 441 Memorial Avenue**

Councillor Young MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT Council directs staff to fulfill statutory notification requirements for Council consideration of issuance of a Development Variance Permit for 441 Memorial Avenue at a future meeting of Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Vander Valk SECONDED, THAT the meeting be recessed for five minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEETING RECESSED: 12:30 pm

MEETING RESUMED: 12:35 pm

(4) **Engineering & Operations**

(a) **Age-Friendly Transportation Plan Update – For Information**

Richard Drdul, the Town’s transportation consultant, attended the meeting by teleconference and provided a comprehensive overview of the Age-Friendly Transportation Plan. Staff have begun collecting information for the next in-depth review, which will include the Highway 19A safety study, to be presented before the end of the year.

Councillor Skipsey MOVED and Councillor Vander Valk SECONDED, THAT the meeting exceed the three-hour timeframe.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(b) **Waterfront Expansion Phase 1 Ditch Infill Parking – Parking Prohibition**

Mayor Westbroek MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT Council direct staff to initiate a trial for the placement of four (4) temporary crosswalks on Highway 19A at the ends of the new parking improvements, as per the map attached to this memorandum dated June 14, 2023; AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to maintain “no parking” signage as per the current Ditch Infill Parking Project design.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Westbroek MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED, THAT Council instructs staff to explore potential measures for installing temporary barriers in locations along Highway 19A where parking is to be prohibited (opposite the Shore Restaurant and public washrooms).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(c) **BC Hydro Lease Lights Update** – verbal update from staff

Mayor Westbroek MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT Council directs staff to attempt to request a meeting with BC Hydro officials prior to the 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(d) **Urban Tree Planting Presentation**

The Director of Engineering provided a presentation that was originally presented to the Select Committee on Environment and Sustainability regarding urban trees, the challenges they pose, and various efforts by the Town to address these issues.

(e) **Saahtlam Park Archaeological Impact Assessment**

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT Baseline Archeological Services Ltd. be directed to proceed with the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for the Saahtlam Park properties as outlined in their cost estimate dated May 12, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REVIEW OF COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Comments for this regular Council meeting were received by 12:00 pm two business days following the meeting (June 16, 2023). Submissions were distributed to all Council, and a brief summary of the comments are as follows:

- Susan Lloyd, Qualicum Beach, regarding the Age-Friendly Transportation Plan update.

ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Vander Valk MOVED and Councillor Skipsey SECONDED, THAT Council adjourns the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:10 pm

Certified Correct:

Heather Svensen
Corporate Administrator

Teunis Westbroek
Mayor