



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	January 7 2025
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Sarah Fowler
Councillor Cheryl Northcott **by video**
Councillor Brenda Lenahan
Councillor Ryan Moore

Staff Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer **by video**
Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance **by video**
Amanda Knibbs, IT Coordinator

Guests Sgt. Greg Young, Nootka Sound RCMP

Public 5 members of the public. **2 by video**

A. Call to Order Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

B. Introduction of Late Items None.

C. Approval of the Agenda **Fowler/ Moore: VOT 0001/2025**
THAT the Agenda for the January 7, 2025 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

E. Public Input # 1 None.

F. Adoption of the Minutes ¹ **Minutes of the December 3, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting (10:00 a.m.)**

Moore/Lenahan: VOT 0002/2025

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 3, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2 Minutes of the December 3, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting (1 p.m.)

Moore/Lenahan: VOT 0003/2025

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 3, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3 Minutes of the December 3, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Moore/Lenahan: VOT 0004/2025

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of December 3, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4 Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting.

Moore/Lenahan: VOT 0005/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison meeting minutes of December 11, 2024 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None

H. Business Arising

1 Nootka Sound RCMP -Village of Tahsis quarterly report

Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment

Moore/Lenahan: VOT 0006/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Sgt. Greg Young from the Nootka Sound RCMP detachment presented the quarterly report to the council, highlighting the number of files investigated, the types of incidents handled, and the presence of officers in the community. He also mentioned the new detachment building and the focus on mental health and training for officers.

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

I would like to wish our citizens a Happy New Year and all the best for 2025.

Today, we reviewed our wellhead protection plan. This plan looks at the operation of the waterworks and our water quality testing. To date, water quality is good and there are no issues. We will also be considering our capacity to respond quickly to failures in equipment.

At our last Comox Strathcona Regional hospital Board meeting, we increased unconditional grants to clinics in small communities from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This money is used to purchase minor supplies and equipment as decided by individual clinics such as ours.

The new fire hall project is well underway with projected completion around April. A new home for our fire trucks and equipment will be most welcome.

The sewer upgrade project is nearing completion. The final part of this project involves decommissioning the north plant while retaining the holding tank as a failsafe, should there be a disruption in the pumps or piping between there and the upgraded south plant. We are considering renovating part of the brick building of the north plant to become a public washroom as it is adjacent to the shore park as well as the new Sani dump station that will soon be operational.

The renovation of the museum and tourist info centre has commenced and includes strengthening the building and its foundations, building a new wheelchair ramp, stairs and a covered porch. A modern fully accessible washroom will be installed. The new building will be reopened by summer. We have established a community consultation page on the Tahsis website. Comments and input from the public is welcomed, with the deadline for input being January 31st.

As you probably know, a 7,500+ litre diesel spill occurred on December 14 at the Grieg Fish Farm near Esperanza. Fuel was overflowing for about 12 hours due to human error. The diesel fuel was spread by tides and rough weather in three directions: toward Zeballos, the open ocean and toward Tahsis. This will have detrimental effects for shellfish and sea life in general. Some of the volatile elements of the spill could evaporate, with the rest washing ashore or sinking over time. Efforts to have Tahsis included as a party to the monitoring process has been rebuffed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, although local first nations have been included. This issue again underscores the harm that open net fish farms bring to our environment and wild fisheries. I will continue to advocate moving to land-based fish farms, so that our salmon fishery can be allowed to recover and rebuild stocks. Tahsis depends on our sport fishery and we shouldn't be forced to take these economic hits.

Comox Strathcona Solid Waste Management has recently signed a deal with Fortis to purchase methane gas produced by the regional landfill in Cumberland through decomposition. This will eliminate methane emissions at the site and help to mitigate operational costs through sale of the gas. This will provide enough energy to heat between 600 and 1100 homes.

Early this year, provincial legislation will mandate that short-term rental hosts will be required to register and to post their registration number, with penalties for non-compliance. Hotels, motels, strata hotels, timeshares, fishing lodges, and specific geographic areas (e.g., First Nations treaty lands) are excluded unless opted in. For more information, phone Service BC at 1-800-663-7867 or google Government of British Columbia's STR Regulations Overview.

Property values in the Village of Tahsis have increased 23.31% in 2024 - the highest on Vancouver Island.

Councillor Fowler

No report.

Councillor Northcott

No report.

Councillor Lenahan

No report.

Councillor Moore

No report.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0007/2025
THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

K. Bylaws

None.

L. Correspondence

1 December 9, 2024 email to Mayor and Council from Peter Sinclair, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank Society Re: Construction of their Food Recovery and Distribution Centre to Nanaimo to serve communities across Vancouver Island.

2 December 6, 2024 email from Cathy Peters, BC anti human trafficking educator, speaker and advocate beamazingcampaign.org to Mayor David and Council Re: Tariffs coming, UNDRIP impact, drugs/sex trafficking.

3 December 4, 2024 email from Theresa Dennison , Executive Director, Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) to Mayor and Council Re: Follow up on AVICC's first virtual webinar " Finishing Strong: Confidence and Courage in Turbulent Times" held on November 28, 2024.

4 December 6, 2024 email from the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) to Mayor and Council Re: 2024 AVICC AGM & Convention- 2nd call for resolutions and convention information.

5 Email from Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), First Nations Health Authority- Health Through Wellness, Island Health an Metis Nation British Columbia Re: Health Impacts of the Winter Season- Information for Community Health Partners and Local Governments.

6 December 12, 2024 email Theresa Dennison, Executive Director, Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) Re: Supplementary document prepared by DFO to support Consultation relating to Themes 3 and 4 of the Draft Salmon Aquaculture Transition Plan for BC.

7 December 16, 2024 email from Councillor Trish Mandewo, UBCM President to Mayor Martin Davis and Council Re: Canada Community-Building Fund: Second Community Works Fund Payment for 2024/2025.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0008/2025
THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0009/2025

THAT correspondence items # 1 and 4 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

- 1 **December 9, 2024 email to Mayor and Council from Peter Sinclair, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank Society Re: Construction of their Food Recovery and Distribution Centre to Nanaimo to serve communities across Vancouver Island.**

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0010/2025

THAT a letter of support be sent to the Loaves and Fishes Community Food Bank Society.

CARRIED

- 4 **December 6, 2024 email from the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) to Mayor and Council Re: 2024 AVICC AGM & Convention- 2nd call for resolutions and convention information.**

Discussion followed.

M. New Business

- 1 **At the December 11, 2024 Standing Committee of Business Liaison the committee made the following recommendations to Council:**

Lenahan: COW 0097/2024

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison make the following recommendations to Council with regards to short term actions around tourism infrastructure and community beautification:

THAT a public, portable washroom with a wooden enclosure be installed at the waterfront this summer; and

THAT the Village work collaboratively with the garden volunteers to beautify the boulevard in front of Tahsis Supermarket and work on a hanging basket project to beautify Village properties; and

THAT a theme for the Village is explored, possibly in conjunction with the Museum and Information Centre Project; and

THAT at "Pete's Farm" parking and accessibility be improved; and

THAT some basic signage is installed.

CARRIED

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0011/2025

THAT these recommendations be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0012/2025

THAT Council endorse these recommendations from the Standing Committee of Business Liaison December 11, 2024 meeting

CARRIED

N. Public Input #2

A member of the public spoke to the potential of Pete's Farm being a historical site

A member of the public commented that a parks and recreation budget should be separated from the public works budget to allow council to better allocate funds for things like beatification.

Public Exclusion

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0013/2025

THAT this meeting is closed to the public in accordance with section 90 (1) (k) of the Community Charter- negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public, and 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

CARRIED

Recess

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0013/2025

THAT the Regular Council Meeting recess at 8:01 p.m. to go into the in camera meeting.

CARRIED

Reconvene

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0029/2025

THAT the Regular Council Meeting reconvene at 9:47 p.m..

CARRIED

Rise and Report

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0021/2025

THAT Council Rise and Report at the January 7, 2025 Regular Council meeting that Council approved issuing a Notice of Disposition for Lot 608 subject to subdividing the property to create a park dedication for the area to the east of the road to the foreshore and subdividing the road as a titled parcel.

CARRIED

Fowler/More: VOT 0024/2025

THAT Council Rise and Report at the January 7, 2025 Regular Council meeting that Council approved the following 2025 Strategic Priorities:

CARRIED

- 1 Implement the action items from the Strategic Economic Development Strategy including promoting tourism. (Tourism promotion includes partnering with the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation whenever possible and focussing on outdoor recreational activities.) – carry over from 2024.
- 2 Replace the Recreation Centre heating and ventilation systems (including controls). – amended carry over from 2024.

Councillor Lenahan - registered "Opposed"

- 3 Develop a plan to re-purpose Captain Meares School east wing for municipal and community purposes, including space for the Tahsis library.
- 4 Complete tasks listed in the Asset Management Plan Improvement Recommendations, specifically, on-going condition assessments and repairs of the wastewater system and condition assessment of local roads
- 5 Update the Village website to improve communication and accessibility, including implementing a newsletter to residents.
- 6 Develop and implement a local trail maintenance and minor repair plan to rehabilitate and restore local trails, including bridges, to improve safety and walkability.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0027/2025

THAT Council Rise and Report at the January 7, 2025 Regular Meeting Council that Council decided to commission a risk assessment study for the steep slope area to the north of Lot 1, Plan VIP24450, DL16, Nootka Land District & DL595.

CARRIED

O. Adjournment

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0030/2025

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

CARRIED

**Certified Correct this
7th day of January 2025**



Chief Administrative Officer