

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 AT 7:30 PM

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Leonard
Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock, Sanders, Wade and Wergeland
Staff: Paul Murray, Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Hvozdanski, Director of Planning; Dwayne Halldorson, Manager of Underground Services; Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Councillor Gerrard and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: “That Council adopt the minutes of the September 15, 2014 Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.”

CARRIED

BYLAWS

1110-30
Ticket Bylaw

TICKET BYLAW – HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT TO UPDATE STAFF TITLE REFERENCES

Three Readings of the “Ticket Bylaw, 2010, Amendment Bylaw, 2014, No. 9296”. Housekeeping amendment to update staff title references (Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Assistant Licence Inspector).

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That Bylaw No. 9296 be introduced and read.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That Bylaw No. 9296 be read a second time.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That Bylaw No. 9296 be now passed.”

CARRIED

1110-30
Tax Exemption
Bylaw (Church
Exemptions)

TAX EXEMPTION BYLAW (CHURCH EXEMPTIONS) AMENDMENT

Three Readings of the “Tax Exemption Bylaw (Church Exemptions), 2012, Amendment Bylaw, 2014, No. 9298”. Housekeeping amendments to the list of previously identified churches receiving tax exemption.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Bylaw No. 9298 be introduced and read.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Bylaw No. 9298 be read a second time.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Bylaw No. 9298 be now passed.”

CARRIED

1110-30

Tax Exemption
Real Property
Bylaw

TAX EXEMPTION REAL PROPERTY BYLAW AMENDMENT

Three Readings of the “Tax Exemption Real Property Bylaw, 2012, Amendment Bylaw, 2014, No. 9299”. To include properties at 3814 Carey Road owned by the Capital Regional Hospital District, and on Darwin Avenue owned by the District of Saanich; and housekeeping amendments to other identified property to reflect changes in ownership.

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: “That Bylaw No. 9299 be introduced and read.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: “That Bylaw No. 9299 be read a second time.”

CARRIED

MOVED by Councillor Wergeland and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: “That Bylaw No. 9299 be now passed.”

CARRIED

1110-30

Zoning Bylaw-
Secondary Suites

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS – TO LEGALIZE SECONDARY SUITES NORTH OF MCKENZIE AVENUE

First Reading of “Zoning Bylaw, 2003, Amendment Bylaw, 2014, No. 9300”. To amend regulations in Section 5.24 (Secondary Suite – Rural and Single Family Zone) in order to legalize secondary suites in RS-zoned properties in the area north of McKenzie Avenue as outlined on the map.

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: “That Bylaw No. 9300 be introduced and read.”

CARRIED

with Councillor Derman OPPOSED

1110-30

Zoning Bylaw -
Housekeeping
Amendments

ZONING BYLAW – HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

First Reading of “Zoning Bylaw, 2003, Amendment Bylaw, 2014, No. 9301”. Housekeeping amendments to provide clarity, amend anomalies and keep the bylaw current.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That Bylaw No. 9301 be introduced and read.”

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION

1050-20
FortisBC Natural
Gas Operating
Agreement

APPROVAL OF FORTISBC NATURAL GAS OPERATING AGREEMENT

Report of the Administrator dated October 1, 2014 recommending Council approve the Operating Agreement with FortisBC Energy (Vancouver Island) Inc., as recommended by the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: "That Council approve the Operating Agreement with FortisBC Energy (Vancouver Island) Inc., as recommended by the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities."

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- Staff are to be congratulated on their hard work.
- It is important for residents to understand that gas rates will drop; the operating agreement will ensure that municipalities on Vancouver Island pay the same rate for natural gas as the rest of BC.

Councillor Derman stated:

- The operating agreement will bring the rates for natural gas in line with what municipalities on the mainland are paying and result in a rate reduction.
- He recognizes the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) for the work that was done on this initiative.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

5600-30
Swan Lake
Property Tax
Exemption

FINANCE, AUDIT AND PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE – SWAN LAKE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION STATUS

Recommendation from the September 4, 2014 Finance, Audit and Personnel Standing Committee that the management fee to the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary for 2014 be increased by \$4,830 to be paid from Contingency.

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: "That the management fee to the Swan Lake/Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary for 2014 be increased by \$4,830 to be paid from contingency."

CARRIED

2860-40
Roy Road

1170 ROY ROAD – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AND DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT – KORS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (DENISE KORS)

Recommendation from the August 11, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting that Council approve Development Variance Permit DVP00346 and Floodplain Development Permit DPR00567 for a proposed two lot residential subdivision.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Sanders: “That Council approve and issue Development Variance Permit DVP00346 and Floodplain Development Permit DPR00567 on Lot B, Section 5, Lake District, Plan 1521 (1170 Roy Road).”

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1500-01
Ballot Question

Xref:
1300-20

INFORMAL COMMUNITY QUESTION ON NOVEMBER’S BALLOT

Report from Mayor Leonard dated October 1, 2014 proposing an informal community question be included on the November 15th ballot asking Saanich voters if they support Council initiating a community-based review of the governance structure and policies within Saanich and our partnerships within the Region.

MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That an informal community question be included on the ballot for the November 15, 2014 Municipal Election that asks “Do you support Council initiating a community-based review of the governance structure and policies within Saanich and our partnerships within the Region?”

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- A community-based review will give the municipality the chance to discuss matters with the greater community and bring issues in line with today’s governance.
- There is a benefit in providing education to residents and identifying partnerships and commitments.

Councillor Derman stated:

- He thanks Mayor Leonard for bringing this initiative forward; there is a need to have a regional lens on issues and discuss a sustainable framework.
- A period for information gathering, education and public debate gives the electorate the opportunity to make an informed choice; this approach also allows the community a chance to get involved.

Councillor Brice stated:

- The motion looks to the future of Saanich; this is an appropriate time to go to the electorate.
- There will be no limit to the suggestions that may arise from the community during the review; suggestions could include how the municipality goes forward in the future and discuss efficiencies.
- The question is open, enabling, non-restrictive, and one that has value going forward.

 Councillor Wade entered the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- This process will open up a conversation with the community; the motion demonstrates that Council is walking the talk.
- A review will ensure discussion takes place about the current governance structure, partnerships within the region, and necessary changes.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- She appreciates that Council was involved in shaping the motion; Saanich prides itself on including the community in discussions.
- This is a timely review of governance and will raise awareness of the partnerships within the region.

Councillor Gerrard stated:

- This is the right question for the ballot; public consultation gives the community a chance to participate and look for efficiencies.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- A review will create an opportunity for residents to participate in the review of our governance structure.

Councillor Wade stated:

- She is grateful to have the opportunity to participate in the discussion.
- The question asks are whether we are serving the people of Saanich the best that we can; every government requires introspection on how they are providing service to the public.

Mayor Leonard stated:

- He appreciates that all members of Council support the motion; if the question is supported, it will be owned by the community.
- A community-based review will shape how Saanich is governed and how governance will occur in the region for the next generation and generations to come.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Councillor Wade left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

2560-35
Climate Change

A HEIGHTENED RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Report from Councillor Derman dated September 22, 2014 recommending Council:

- Refer the report to staff and relevant committees with a request for a report back detailing how Council might heighten its response to climate change;
- Ask staff to include, in all relevant future reports to Council, a section canvassing the climate change implications of the action being contemplated. It should be noted that this is already a policy contained in the Official Community Plan.
- Write a letter to senior governments highlighting the seriousness of the climate change crisis and requesting these governments to strengthen their climate change response through actions such as energy saving energy codes and regulations as well as new, more robust incentive programs designed to encourage citizens to respond; and
- Ask staff to explore partnerships with relevant entities such as BC Hydro with the intent of establishing a coordinated climate change response.

Councillor Derman stated:

- Climate change will have a severe impact on natural systems; the financial impact could dwarf past recessions.
- Saanich has shown leadership in terms of its response to climate change; substantial mitigation is required.
- The request to have a section in reports outlining climate change implications could be put into effect immediately.
- Climate change is the lens through which everything should be viewed.

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Brice: "That:

- 1. This report be referred to staff and relevant committees with a request for a report back detailing how Council might heighten its response to climate change;**
- 2. Council ask staff to include, in all relevant future reports to Council, a section canvassing the climate change implications of the action being contemplated. It should be noted that this is already a policy contained in the OCP;**
- 3. Council write a letter to senior governments to strengthen their climate change response through actions such as energy saving energy codes and regulations as well as new, more robust incentive programs designed to encourage citizens to respond; and**
- 4. Council ask staff to explore partnerships with relevant entities such as BC Hydro with the intent of establishing a coordinated climate change response."**

Councillor Murdock stated:

- Saanich is on the leading edge in relation to climate change response; he is proud of Saanich's climate action plan including the initiative to reduce emissions.
- It would be appropriate to refer the report to the Environment and Natural Areas committee to be discussed collaboratively with staff.
- Saanich is on track and making progress but there is still a long way to go in response to climate change.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- Council has had success engaging senior levels of government regarding climate change.
- Staff should compile a report outlining current partnerships; an annual reporting out of climate actions should be considered.
- The policy contained in the OCP to provide a section for climate change implications should be actioned immediately.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- She is pleased to support a report being prepared to address climate change.
- To promote buy-in from the community, residents need to be made aware of current partnerships.
- The report from staff should consider what we've done, where we're going and what can be done in the future; an update on climate action successes is also necessary.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Planning stated:

- Staff can provide a detailed list of initiatives in progress and scheduled for the future.

- The initial hiring of the Sustainability Coordinator was through funding from BC Hydro and Saanich currently has another staff member who is funded by BC Hydro.
- Saanich continues to work in partnership with BC Hydro; there are a vast number of other partnerships which will be highlighted in the staff report.

Councillor Brice stated:

- Saanich has already embarked upon some of the actions included in the motion and has achieved some significant climate action change.
- The staff report will assist with setting new goals and targets for the future.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- He is proud of the plans addressing climate change presently in place at Saanich; there is still work to be done.
- A staff report would assist in addressing next steps.

Councillor Gerrard stated:

- There is a long way to go to address climate change.
- Senior levels of government need to do their part.

Councillor Derman stated:

- The report should be referred to several committees who could meet together to discuss how to shape the final report.
- Providing climate change implications on staff reports should be implemented immediately.
- Staff should explore opportunities for further partnerships.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Adjournment On a motion from Councillor Brownoff, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:13 pm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the Committee of the Whole Meeting held October 6, 2014

2860-20
Lochside Drive

4639 LOCHSIDE DRIVE – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AMENDMENT – FOUR SEASONS SUNROOMS (TROY NELSON)

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: “That Council approve and issue Development Permit Amendment DPA00805 on Strata Lot 2, Section 8, Lake District, Strata Plan 1529, Together with an interest in the common property in proportion to the unit entitlement of the strata lot as show on Form 1 (4639 Lochside Drive).”

CARRIED

2110-40
Agriculture and
Food Security

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLAN AND TASK FORCE

**MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland:
“That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force marked Appendix “A” attached to the September 18, 2014 report of the Director of Planning; and**
- 2. Authorize that a consultant be hired through the Planning Department to coordinate the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force and draft an Agriculture and Food Security Plan.”**

CARRIED

In Camera Motion

**MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard:
“That pursuant to Section 19(e) and (i) of the Council Procedure Bylaw, 2007, No. 8840, the following meeting be closed to the public as the subject matters being considered relate to personal information about individuals considered for appointment, and legal advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege.”**

CARRIED

Adjournment

On a motion from Councillor Derman, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK

THE FOLLOWING WAS REPORTED FROM THE “IN CAMERA” COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 20, 2012

2870-30
Cedar Hill Cross
Road

4000 CEDAR HILL CROSS ROAD – PROPOSED ACQUISITION

“That Council authorize the sale of Parcel C (DD2202W) of Lot 33, Section 32, Victoria District, Plan VIP721 except part in Plan VIP81269, (4000 Cedar Hill Cross Road) to Habitat for Humanity Victoria in the amount of \$225,000 subject to the terms negotiated.”

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 AT 8:15 PM

Present: **Chair:** Councillor Sanders
Council: Mayor Leonard and Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock and Wergeland
Staff: Paul Murray, Chief Administrative Officer; Sharon Hvozdzanski, Director of Planning; Dwayne Halldorson, Manager of Underground Services; Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; and Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

2860-20
 Lochside Drive

4639 LOCHSIDE DRIVE – DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AMENDMENT – FOUR SEASONS SUNROOMS (TROY NELSON)

Report of the Director of Planning dated August 12, 2014 recommending Council approve Development Permit Amendment DPA00805 to vary the rear yard setback for a proposed addition to Strata Lot 2 of the existing two-family dwelling.

The applicant, T. Nelson, Four Seasons Sunrooms, presented to Council and stated that a variance for the rear yard setback is requested for the addition of a sunroom.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Nil

Motion: **MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Derman: “That it be recommended that Council approve and issue Development Permit Amendment DPA00805 on Strata Lot 2, Section 8, Lake District, Strata Plan 1529, Together with an interest in the common property in proportion to the unit entitlement of the strata lot as show on Form 1 (4639 Lochside Drive).”**

Councillor Brice stated:

- The Broadmead Area Residents' Association (BARA) supports the application; neighbours have been consulted and no concerns were identified.
- This is a modest addition.

Councillor Derman stated:

- This is a small addition; no concerns were identified.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

6840-20
 Sewer Service
 Area

1389 AND 1391 HASTINGS STREET/4127 AND 4129 HOLLAND AVENUE – INCLUSION IN SEWER SERVICE AREA

Report of the Acting Director of Engineering dated September 3, 2014 recommending Council approve including 1389 and 1391 Hastings Street/4127 and 4129 Holland Avenue in the Sewer Service Area, and that the necessary bylaw amendment be prepared.

In response to questions from Council, the Manager of Underground Services stated:

- Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) studied the existing septic systems

and deemed them failing; the owner is under an order from VIHA to connect to the municipal sewer system.

On behalf of the applicant, D. Burnham was in attendance to answer questions from Council.

PUBLIC INPUT:

A. Ross, on behalf of the Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Marigold, and Glanford, stated:

- The Residents Association supports this application; they are pleased that the application addresses health and environmental issues.

K. Bowbyes, Holland Avenue, stated:

- He questions whether there is an opportunity to further extend the sewer service area and include Gillie Road.

In response to questions, the Manager of Underground Services stated:

- Staff have reviewed the possibility of extending the sewer service area; some residents have already upgraded their septic systems, therefore there would not be enough interest to make extension of the sewer service area cost-effective.
- Several lots on Gillie Road are on a floodplain and cannot be built upon.

Motion:

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Wergeland: "That the application to include Lot 2, Block 1, Section 13, Lake District, Plan 1752 (1389 Hastings Street), Lot 1, Block 1, Section 13, Lake District, Plan 1752 (1391 Hasting Street), Lot 20, Block 1, Section 13, Lake District, Plan 1752 (4127 Holland Avenue) and Lot 21, Block 1, Section 13, Lake District, Plan 1752 (4129 Holland Avenue) in the sewer service area be approved."

Councillor Derman stated:

- Extending the sewer service area outside the Urban Containment Boundary is not desirable; extension of the sewer service area due to health issues is supportable.

Councillor Gerrard stated:

- Extending the sewer service area should only be done as a result of a public health issue; this application is supportable.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

2870-30
Commerce
Circle

101-4226 COMMERCE CIRCLE – REZONING TO A MODIFIED M-3 ZONE – OMNICORP HOLDINGS LTD.

Report of the Director of Planning dated September 4, 2014 recommending Council amend Sections 2 and 915 of the Zoning Bylaw to add a definition for "Medical Marijuana Production and Distribution", and to add this as a permitted use in the M-3 Industrial Park zone on Lot 1, Section 100, Lake District, Plan VIS4905 (Unit 101-4226 Commerce Circle).

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Planning stated that there will be no changes to the lighting presently provided around the building.

The applicant, R. Gagnon, Thunderbird Biomedical Inc., presented to Council and highlighted the following:

- In order to get and maintain a licence from Health Canada, professional standards are required, facilities have to be built to specific guidelines with multiple layers of security, and the operations of the facilities are thoroughly regulated.
- The licence for the facility is also conditional upon continued observation of the regulations.
- Exhaust air must be filtered and treated before it exits the facility; no noxious emissions are produced.
- There will not be an increase in traffic in the neighbourhood.
- Intrusion-based lighting is being used in the darkened areas adjacent to the greenbelt; neighbours have noticed a decrease in youthful partying in the greenbelt due to the lighting from this facility.
- Neighbours have the same enjoyment of their properties as they've always had.
- Partnership opportunities with universities are being explored and the addition of this facility provides employment opportunities for the municipality.

In response to questions from Council, the applicant stated:

- The product is shipped through bonded courier; the packages are standard with no external markings to indicate what it is.
- The applicant has two facilities in Victoria.

PUBLIC INPUT:

M. Todd, on behalf of the Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Marigold and Glanford, stated:

- The Residents Association has toured the facility and have no objections to the application.

R. Wanbon, Springridge Crescent, stated:

- He appreciates the information received from the applicant; he questions what the specific wording is for the amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, what the ramifications might be should the applicant move from this location, and whether other properties on Commerce Circle have had rezoning applications approved.
- He encourages more community engagement.

B. Gage, Springridge Crescent, stated:

- He questions what would happen if the business is sold.
- He is concerned that this is a family neighbourhood; further consultation should take place.

R. Crosby, Northridge Crescent, stated:

- There is concern that distribution is being added to the facility; he questions how distribution would affect commercial traffic.
- He would appreciate clarification that end user retail is not being considered.

P. Whitworth, Vice-President of the Royal Oak Community Association, stated:

- Community Association representatives toured the facility and had the opportunity to review the Business Plan and procedures.

- There will be no retail sales offered at this location; the impact on the neighbourhood and the commercial park will be minimal.

In response to questions, the Director of Planning, stated:

- The amendment to the Zoning Bylaw includes the new definition of medical marihuana production and distribution; direct retailing is not included in the amendment.
- The permitted use under the amended Zoning Bylaw, will apply to this property only.
- The zoning would remain if this property were sold; the use is heavily regulated by the Federal Government and Health Canada; any new operation that wished to run the same type of business would be obligated to meet the same standards as this applicant.
- Staff can provide a report as to other rezoning applications that have been approved in this commercial park.

In response to a question, the applicant confirmed that retail is not permitted under any circumstances under this licence.

Motion:

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Gerrard: “That a Public Hearing be called to further consider the rezoning application on Lot 1, Section 100, Lake District, Plan VIS4905, Together with an interest in the common property in proportion to the unit entitlement of the strata lot as show on Form 1 or V, as appropriate (101-4225 Commerce Circle).”

Councillor Derman stated:

- Staff have confirmed that retail sales are not allowed under the Zoning Bylaw amendment.

Councillor Gerrard stated:

- This industry is highly regulated by the Federal Government and therefore supportable.

Councillor Brice stated:

- This commercial location is the right place for this type of facility; the application was presented in a thorough manner.
- Residents will have the opportunity to express any further concerns at a Public Hearing.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- He supports the application proceeding to Public Hearing.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- The applicant should consider the specific comments and concerns voiced tonight; this is a better location than on farmland; it is in close proximity to the Canada Post Distribution Centre.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

2110-40
Agriculture and
Food Security

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PLAN AND TASK FORCE

Reports of the Director of Planning dated September 18, 2014 and October 3, 2014 recommending Council endorse the Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force, and that a consultant be hired through the Planning Department to coordinate the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force and draft an Agriculture and Food Security Plan.

PUBLIC INPUT:

H. Wolfe, Kincaid Street, stated:

- He is thrilled that this initiative has come forward.
- Processing and storage of food should be considered in the plan; the capacity to store food is a necessary component.
- The use of an outside consultant should be encouraged.
- A review of the Agricultural Land Reserve is a big challenge and there is concern that it may not be given adequate attention.
- Approximately 40% of farmland is not in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR); the land outside the ALR needs to be protected.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Planning stated:

- There will be an opportunity to explore all aspects of farming; input from stakeholders will be valuable.

Motion:

MOVED by Councillor Derman and Seconded by Councillor Murdock: "That it be recommended that Council:

- 1. Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force marked Appendix "A" attached to the September 18, 2014 report of the Director of Planning; and**
- 2. Authorize that a consultant be hired through the Planning Department to coordinate the Agriculture and Food Security Task Force and draft an Agriculture and Food Security Plan."**

Councillor Derman stated:

- He is delighted that this initiative has been brought forward; it is important that the plan highlight a way to ensure that farming remains viable and sustainable in the future.

Councillor Murdock stated:

- Food security means access to quality, affordable, local food; urban farming is an important element of food security.
- There is an abundance of farmland but it is not all in production; protecting that land and putting it into production will ensure that we can feed ourselves.
- This process should include reviewing the policies and regulations in place that might be placing restraints on farming; community input will be important.
- A number of funding opportunities exist through the Ministry of Agriculture.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

- She supports the hiring of an external consultant for this project; all age groups and multicultural communities should be included in the consultation process.
- There may be opportunities to lease out A-1 land or utilize municipal lands for farming.

Councillor Gerrard stated:

- Local farmers need to be supported; he appreciates this initiative.
- There may be opportunities for young farmers to lease land.

Councillor Brice stated:

- She hopes that the consultant would be able to look at other issues that may come up during the project.
- The public needs to appreciate and consume local produce.

Councillor Wergeland stated:

- Young people need to be encouraged to farm.

Councillor Sanders stated:

- Consumers need to support our locally grown produce.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

On a motion from Councillor Brownoff, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate

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MUNICIPAL CLERK