

**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**February 10, 2025, 8:40 a.m.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
3400 30 Street, Vernon BC**

Mayor and Council
Members Present: Mayor V. Cumming

T. Durning
K. Fehr
K. Gares
B. Guy
A. Mund
B. Quiring

Administration
Present: P. Weeber, Chief Administrative Officer

E. Hamming, Director, Financial Services
J. Rice, Director, Operation Services
K. Poole, Director, Corporate Administration
L. Yost-Johnstone, Director, Human Resources
T. Barton, Director, Planning and Community Services
S. Wood, Corporate Officer
C. Isles, Deputy Corporate Officer
D. Devries, Manager, Transportation
D. Lees, Manager, Protective Services
J. Hewitt, Manager, Communications and Grants
J. Winqvist, Communications Officer
R. Nuriel, General Manager, City Planning
T. Silverthorn, Manager, Tourism
W. Miles, Senior Planner
R. Zubick, Community Safety Coordinator
T. Leroux, Manager, Occupational Health and Safety
J. Baumgart, Coordinator, Crime Prevention

Also Present: Supt. B. MacLeod, OIC, Vernon RCMP

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Cumming called the meeting to order at 8:41 am.

As Mayor of the City of Vernon, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation.

1.a Move to Committee of the Whole

Moved by: Councillor Gares

Seconded by: Councillor Quiring

THAT Council move to the Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

2. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING AND RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Mayor Cumming reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:40 am and requested a motion to move to In Camera.

Moved by: Councillor Quiring

Seconded by: Councillor Mund

THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter as follows:

(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; and

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

CARRIED

3. RECONVENE TO OPEN COUNCIL AT 1:30 PM

Mayor Cumming reconvened the Regular Open meeting at 10:48 am and recessed until 1:30 pm.

As Mayor of the City of Vernon, and in the spirit of this gathering, I recognize the City of Vernon is located in the traditional territory of the Syilx People of the Okanagan Nation.

3.a Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Durning

Seconded by: Councillor Fehr

THAT the Regular Council Meeting Agenda of February 10, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED

3.b Adoption of Minutes and Receipt of Committee of the Whole

Moved by: Councillor Gares

Seconded by: Councillor Quiring

THAT the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025 be adopted;

AND FURTHER, that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025 be received.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5. GENERAL MATTERS

5.a Presentation - RCMP 2024 Fourth Quarter (October - December) Report, Superintendent, B. MacLeod

Superintendent, Blake MacLeod, OIC, Vernon RCMP provided Council with the Fourth Quarter Report for October to December 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Guy

Seconded by: Councillor Durning

THAT Council receives the RCMP Fourth Quarter Report for 2024 (October - December), as provided by Superintendent, Blake MacLeod, OIC, Vernon RCMP.

CARRIED

6. COUNCIL INQUIRIES

Moved by: Councillor Mund

Seconded by: Councillor Durning

THAT Council direct Administration to provide a report for the purchase and installation of a digital scoreboard at Kal Tire Place, for consideration in the 2025 budget, with a possible funding source of the Kin Race Track Park Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

7. ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

Moved by: Councillor Gares

Seconded by: Councillor Guy

THAT Council receive the Administration Updates dated February 10, 2025 for information.

CARRIED

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. MATTERS REFERRED

9.a Declassified Motion from the In Camera Meeting held February 10, 2025

Third Renewal Lease - RDNO/Vernon Public Art Gallery (0912-02)

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute a third and final renewal lease with the Regional District of North Okanagan, for the use by the Vernon Public Art Gallery, for a term of five years commencing on March 1, 2025 and ending on February 28, 2030 for an approximately 5,879 ft² portion of the Parkade Building at 3208 31 Avenue, Vernon, with the basic annual rent payable for year one of the third renewal term of \$13.20 per square foot, year two \$13.40, year three \$13.60, year four \$13.80, and year five \$14.00;

AND FURTHER, that Council declassify the resolution and remove from In Camera.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.a 2024 Protective Services Community Safety Unit Year End Report (4000-10)

Moved by: Councillor Gares

Seconded by: Councillor Mund

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "2024 Protective Services Community Safety Year End Report" dated February 10, 2025 and respectfully submitted by the Manager, Protective Services.

CARRIED

10.b 2025 Annual Tourism Plan (6900-01)

Moved by: Councillor Quiring

Seconded by: Councillor Durning

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "2025 Annual Tourism Plan" dated January 30, 2025 and respectfully submitted by the Manager, Vernon Tourism.

CARRIED

10.c Official Community Plan Amendment Application for 580 Commonage Road (3340-20)

Councilor Durning left the meeting at 2:56 pm and returned at 2:58 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Quiring
Seconded by: Councillor Gares

THAT Council support, in principle, Official Community Plan Application OCP00103 to amend the Future Land Use designation from RAGR – Rural/Agriculture and ALR – Agricultural Land Reserve to Commonage Hillside Neighbourhood for the North ½ of the South West ¼ of Section 17, Township 9, ODYD, Except Plans M12623 and KAP63397. The North West ¼ of Section 17, Township 9, ODYD, Except Plans M12623 and KAP63398, The South West ¼ of Section 19, Township 9, ODYD, Except Plans B974 and 5164. The Fractional West ½ of Section 18, Township 9, ODYD Except Part Formerly Known as District Lot 737 ODYD, The Part of the South West ¼ of Section 19, Township 9, ODYD Shown on Plan B974 Except Plan 5164, The East ½ of Section 18, Township 9, ODYD Except: (1) Part Formerly Known as DL 737, ODYD (2) Plan KAP64786, The South ½ of Section 20, Township 9, ODYD Shown on Plan DD1222 Except Plans 5164 and KAP63395, The South East ¼ of Section 19, Township 9, ODYD Except Plans 192 and 5164, The Part of the South West ¼ of Section 20, Township 9 ODYD Lying West of Plan DD1222 Except Plans 192 and 5164 and That Portion of Section 18, Township 9 ODYD Formerly Known as District Lot 737 ODYD (580 Commonage Road) as outlined in the report titled “Official Community Plan Amendment Application for 580 Commonage Road” dated January 15, 2025 and respectfully submitted by the Senior Planner, Current Planning;

AND FURTHER, that Council’s support of OCP00103 is subject to:

1. Commitment to design and build Apollo Road Extension to 580 Commonage;
2. Commitment to build a multi-use corridor along Commonage Road and Mission Road to the DND lands;
3. Dedication of a minimum of 120 ha (296 ac) of park land to the City of Vernon to establish a new Natural Area Park to protect the sensitive southwest facing grassland ecosystem;
4. Protection of an additional 142 ha (350 ac) of environmental sensitive and natural areas as part of the new Neighbourhood;
5. Commitment to build a comprehensive trail network through the subject properties as part of the new Neighbourhood;
6. Registration of a Section 219 Restrictive Covenant that 46% or 1,832 units meet the definition of Attainable Housing and/or Affordable Housing in perpetuity;
7. Construction of two new water reservoirs to service the new Neighbourhood and provide benefit to the overall water system;
and

8. Adoption of an Official Community Plan Bylaw Amendment to create the Commonage Hillside Neighbourhood designation.

AND FURTHER, that Council has considered appropriate consultation opportunities for OCP00103 and supports the following consultation opportunities in addition to the statutory public hearing:

- a. Hosting of a Public Open House;
- b. Referral to the City of Vernon Advisory Planning Committee for review and a recommendation to Council;
- c. Referral to the City of Vernon Climate Action Committee for review and a recommendation to Council;
- d. Referral to the City of Vernon Housing Advisory Committee for review and a recommendation to Council;
- e. Referral to the Regional District of North Okanagan for review and comment; and
- f. A summary report, outlining the results of the community engagement, be provided to Council one month prior to consideration of first and second reading.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed at 4:23 pm and reconvened at 4:31 pm.

10.d Okanagan Basin Waterboard Grant Application for Polson Park Hydrogeology and Data Analysis (6140-20)

Moved by: Councillor Mund

Seconded by: Councillor Fehr

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Okanagan Basin Water Board Grant Application for Polson Park Hydrogeology and Data Analysis" dated January 29, 2025 and respectfully submitted by the Coordinator, Parks Projects;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Administration to submit a grant application for Polson Park hydrogeology and data analysis in the amount of up to \$30,000 to the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) grant program, as a component of the Water Management Initiative of the Okanagan Basin Water Board;

AND FURTHER, that if successful, Council authorize Administration to execute the agreement and amend the 2025 budget contained in the 2025 - 2029 Financial Plan by reducing the Capital Design funding of \$125,000 for the groundwater monitoring study for Polson Park by the grant funding received.

CARRIED

10.e Road Closure and Sale of Part of 11 Street (0911-20)

Councillor Quiring declared a conflict of interest as the applicant is a client of his firm MQN Architects and left the meeting at 4:33 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Mund

Seconded by: Councillor Fehr

THAT Council direct Administration to close that 870.2 m² (9,367 ft²) portion of 11th Street, as shown on Plan EPP139414, Attachment 2 in the report titled "Road closure and sale of part of 11 Street" dated January 31, 2025, and respectfully submitted by the Land Agent;

AND FURTHER, that that Council authorize Administration to negotiate the sale of the road closure area, as shown on Plan EPP139414, Attachment 2 in the report titled "Road closure and sale of part of 11 Street" dated January 31, 2025, and respectfully submitted by the Land Agent;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Administration to fund the legal fees and administrative costs of the road closure up to \$5,000 from the Land Sale Reserve.

CARRIED

Councillor Quiring returned at 4:36 pm.

10.f Occupational Health & Safety - Staffing Request (2510-01)

Moved by: Councillor Durning

Seconded by: Councillor Guy

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Occupational Health & Safety - Staffing Request" dated January 28, 2025, respectfully submitted by the Manager, Occupational Health & Safety;

AND FURTHER, that Council approves a full-time three-year term, Advisor, Critical Risk position at a total cost of \$368,171 funded from the Certificate of Recognition Audit program funds.

CARRIED

10.g Climate Action Advisory Committee 2025 School District Appointment

Moved by: Councillor Quiring

Seconded by: Councillor Gares

THAT Council appoint Jenn Comazzetto as a member, with Mark Olsen as the alternate, to the Climate Action Advisory Committee, as the School District 22 Board representative for a one-year term ending December 31, 2025.

CARRIED

10.h 2025 Application to Fly the Vernon Pride Flag

Moved by: Councillor Mund

Seconded by: Councillor Guy

THAT Council approve flying the Vernon Pride flag on the Community Flag Pole, as provided by the Corporate Flag Policy, from June 2 to June 30, 2025.

CARRIED

10.i 2025 Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) Conference - Attendance

Moved by: Mayor Cumming

Seconded by: Councillor Guy

THAT Council approve Councillor's Guy and Durning, and Mayor Cumming to attend the 2025 Southern Interior Local Government Association Conference, to be held in Merritt BC from April 29 – May 2, 2025.

11. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

11.a Road Closure Bylaw 6003 - 11 Street

Councillor Quiring declared a conflict of interest as the applicant is a client of his firm MQN Architects and left the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Gares

Seconded by: Councillor Durning

THAT Bylaw 6003, "11 Street Road Closure Bylaw 6003, 2025", a bylaw to close and remove the dedication as highway located at 11 Street, be read a first, second and third time.

Councillor Quiring returned at 4:41 pm.

12. COUNCIL INFORMATION UPDATES

12.a Mayor and Councillors Reports

All members in attendance provided an update on their activities and meetings attended.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

13.a Correspondence

13.a.1 Letter dated January 29, 2025 from F. Young - Request for Letter of Support re: Route 97 BC Transit Expansion

Moved by: Councillor Guy

Seconded by: Mayor Cumming

THAT Council provide a letter of support to the Ministry of Transportation and BC Transit for enhanced public transit connectivity between Vernon, Lake Country and Kelowna by expanding BC Transit Route 97 to include the existing Route 90.

CARRIED

13.a.2 Response Letter dated January 27, 2025 from Mayor Cumming to The Honourable Brenda Bailey, BC Minister of Finance re: Speculation and Vacancy Tax Consultation Invitation

13.a.3 Letter dated December 16, 2024 to Mayor Cumming from The Honourable Brenda Bailey, BC Minister of Finance re: Speculation and Vacancy Tax Consultation Invitation

13.b Minutes from Council Committees

13.b.1 Advisory Planning Committee - January 14, 2025

13.b.2 Climate Action Advisory Committee - November 27, 2024

14. RESOLUTION TO RECONVENE CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Cumming requested a motion to move In Camera and recessed the regular meeting at 4:53 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Fehr

Seconded by: Councillor Durning

THAT the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter as follows:

(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; and

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

CARRIED

The Regular meeting reconvened at 4:59 pm.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Regular Council meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Mayor

Corporate Officer