



MINUTES OF DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

PUBLIC HEARING

MEETING HELD AT MUNICIPAL HALL

270 CITY CENTRE, ON MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor P. Germuth

Present: Councillors: E. Empinado, M. Feldhoff, L. Gibson
(All Via WebEx) R. Goffinet, T. Marleau, M. Zielinski

Present: Staff:

- Via WebEx W. Waycheshen, CAO
- Via WebEx A. Ramos-Espinoza, Director of Engineering
- Via WebEx A. Lucas, Director of Planning
- Via WebEx D. Rutsatz, Director of Finance
- Via WebEx M. Gould, Director of Leisure Services
- Via WebEx M. Dewar, Director of Economic Development and Communications
- Via WebEx T. Bossence, Fire Chief
- Via WebEx C. McCulley, Director of Operations
- Via WebEx K. Enders, Deputy Director of Corporate Administration
- Via WebEx C. Brown, Planner

The Public Hearing is being held pursuant to the Local Government Act to consider the FireSmart OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 1968, 2020.

The Chief Administrative Officer introduced Bylaw 1968 and stated that the Bylaw is to amend the Official Community Plan to support FireSmart principals, direct further programs for education and awareness of wildfire risks and mitigation measures to protect homes and property, and direct future planning activities.

This bylaw was given first reading on March 16, 2020, public notice was issued, agency referrals were sent, an open house was scheduled and a public hearing date was set. Due to COVID the open house did not proceed and instead a virtual open house was held. The May 4, 2020 Public Hearing was cancelled pending a new engagement plan.

Council approved a new engagement plan on February 16, 2021, public notice was issued, agency referrals letters were sent, a virtual open house was held on March 2, 2021 and the public hearing was scheduled for and is being held tonight, March 15, 2021.

Staff recently discovered that the public notice incorrectly references a virtual open house date as May 2, 2021. The newspaper published for two consecutive weeks correctly referencing March 2, 2021. The public notice on the website did not. Staff have not been contacted by anyone stating they missed the meeting due to the incorrect date. And as it was not a legislated meeting, if Council is prepared, they are still able to listen to the public input tonight, close the public hearing and consider the bylaw for second and third readings plus adoption. If Council feels another virtual open house is needed tonight's public hearing can be adjourned tonight to March 29, 2021, to meet the March 31, 2021, grant deadline. If that is the direction, staff will post on social media and on the website for another virtual open house to be held early the week of March 22, 2021. Any comments received at that time will be compiled and presented in a staff report on March 29, 2021 for the Public Hearing.

There were no written comments submitted.

Mayor Germuth called for public input three more times. No other input was offered.

Councillor Feldhoff asked staff how many people participated in the virtual open house from the public? And how did staff reach out to developers of properties in the greenbelt zones, especially Strawberry Meadows?

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that there was one attendee at the virtual open house. That staff has not reached out to developers or construction companies at this time. The reasoning is the original bylaw last year had the Official Community Plan policies plus the changes that were proposed for the zoning. This one on page 57 of the (15 March 2021) agenda is only the Official Community Plan amendments and not the zoning. Staff have flagged that any of the detailed work to be considered needs to be referred to the building contractors, homeowners and the public. Staff are comfortable with this bylaw as it is limited solely to the Official Community Plan amendments and any of the future details will still need to come forward and undergo a more rigorous consultation schedule.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Mayor

Corporate Officer