

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday November 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

## MINUTES

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Jay Vermette and Councillors Judy Campbell, Neil Ferrier, Virginia Wilkins and Richard Wright

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Champagne, CAO; Dennis Manuel, Superintendent of Public Works and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

**PUBLIC GALLERY:** 5 persons and one media representative

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:**

**07-292 MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 16, 2007

**07-293 MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Minutes be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Barkerville Connector – Community Consultation Response (Road Connection Analysis available at District of Wells office)

The Administrator provided Council with an overview of the Barkerville Connector – Community Consultation Response Form, noting that the Barkerville Heritage Trust had made a public presentation to the community and this was an opportunity for the District of Wells to provide their feedback. A general discussion took place in regards to the Barkerville Connector

**07-294 MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the District of Wells write a letter of support for the proposed Barkerville Connector between Bowron River Road and Purden Lake to the Barkerville Heritage Trust

Carried Unanimously –

Councillor Campbell abstained from voting due to employment conflict

**E. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**07-295 MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as circulated

1. 07.10.01 Craig Daniell, Chief Executive Officer, BC SPCA re: UBCM Support for Provincial Regulation of Exotic Animals
2. 07.10.05 Sue Clark, Program Officer, Local Government Program Services re: 2006 Emergency Planning Grant Completion

3. 07.10.19 Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services re: BC Asia Twinning Tool Kit: Opening BC Communities to the World (Twinning Tool Kit available from Deputy Clerk)
4. 07.10.19 Learning Services Branch, BC Public Service Agency re: Asia Pacific Intercultural Awareness and Communication Courses
5. 07.10.24 Ken Cameron, Chief Executive Officer, Homeowner Protection Office re: Homeowner Protection Amendment Act Comes into Effect November 19, 2007
6. 07.10.29 Minister Stan Hagen, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts re: Meeting at UBCM in regards to Barkerville Historic Town  
Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 07.10.19 Jon Wolbers, Chair, Cariboo Regional District re: Cariboo Chilcotin Promotional Video funding request  
Councillor Wilkins asked for more background on the Cariboo Chilcotin Promotional Video. Mayor Vermette noted that the promotional video included the whole Cariboo – Chilcotin area; including the Wells, Barkerville, Bowron Lake area, and that it was almost complete. Councillor Wright and Councillor Campbell both noted that 100,000 copies seemed like a lot of copies of the video. Mayor Vermette noted that the videos were supposed to be distributed to Visitor Centres throughout the region, including Wells.  
**07-296 MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the District of Wells support the Cariboo Chilcotin Promotional Video funding request in the amount of \$101.00.  
Carried Unanimously
2. 07.10.24 Lynn Yurkas, Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run re: Mail Run Envelopes  
The Administrator noted that the District of Wells has typically purchased Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run Envelopes in the past, including 100 in 2006. The Administrator also provided Council with an overview of the general plans for the Wells portion of the 2008 Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run. General discussion took place in regards to the 2008 Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run.  
**07-297 MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the District of Wells purchase 200 Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run envelopes and use them for all regular correspondence to help promote the event.  
Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. District of Wells Committees  
The Administrator noted that Council committees should be appointed by the Mayor at the first meeting of December for the upcoming year, and that Council members should consider which committees they would like to be considered for.  
**07-298 MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the District of Wells Committees update be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. Council Planning Session

The Administrator noted that it was time to start organizing an administrative planning session that would not only provide direction for the upcoming year, but for the following five years. The Administrator said that the process would involve a number of steps, including public consultation meetings, and that the first action was for staff and Council to meet. The Administrator proposed Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> as a potential date for staff and Council to meet. The Administrator said that the planning would be a more involved process than in the past couple of years, as the community had achieved most of the goals that it had previously set. Mayor Vermette noted that a public consultation process was a good idea, and said that the presentation that the Administrator had given at the Cariboo Regional District Regional Planning Session was the best of the four municipalities in attendance, and that he would like to see it presented at the next Council meeting. Council members were to confirm availability for the November 30<sup>th</sup> date with the Deputy Clerk.

**07-299** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the tentative date for the Administrative Planning Session be November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Banquet Room of the Wells Community Hall.

Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

1. Public Works Report

The Public Works Superintendent reported on water, sewer and road maintenance work conducted over the past month.

2. Fire Chief Report

The Fire Chief noted that the BC Lotteries Gaming Access funding for purchasing new fire turn-out gear and equipment had been deposited in the Wells Fire Brigade bank account.

**07-300** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Public Works Report and Fire Chief Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

3. Community Forest Update – Mayor Vermette

Mayor Vermette noted that the District of Wells was pleasantly surprised when they received a phone call telling them they were going to be offered a Community Forest, especially since the previous attempts to secure a Community Forest had been turned down. Mayor Vermette said that representatives from the District of Wells and the Wells Community Forest group had met with Ted Traer, a Woodlot Forester from the Ministry of Forests and Range in Quesnel, and that Mr. Traer said that there areas around Peters Creek and Ruchon Creek that were being looked at for the Wells Community Forest. Mayor Vermette said that based on information he'd received from a local forester the raw log value of the proposed areas could be \$75,000 per 5000 cubic meters, and that the Community Forest would be for 5000 cubic meters

per year for five years. Mayor Vermette said that the Wells Community Forest group was looking at other areas that could possibly be acquired from Timber Forest License (TFL) holder West Fraser that were closer to the community. The Administrator said that it was important to gather as much information as possible on the possibility of the Community Forest. Councillor Campbell said that it is great that the District of Wells is being offered to the community, but that the proposed Peters Creek area was in the visual corridor plan and there would be challenges in acquiring the wood. Councillor Wright noted that congratulations needed to go to the Wells Community Forest committee for persevering on the issue. Councillor Ferrier noted that the areas that were being tentatively offered were good economically, as opposed to areas closer to the community that might not have as much value.

**07-301** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Wells Community Forest update be received.

Carried Unanimously

4. Council Procedures Report – Chief Administrative Officer

The Administrator provided Council with a report that formalized how to take complaints from the community. The report noted that all complaints needed to be in writing in order to give Council and staff time to respond properly, and that complaints involving staff members needed to be sent directly to the Mayor or Administrator and handled in Camera. The Administrator emphasized that the process did not limit complaints or discussion between members of the community and individual Council and staff members, but that it merely formalizes the process of taking official complaints to Mayor and Council as an official body. Councillor Wright confirmed that it was complaints to Council as a whole, not to individual Councillors that were being discussed.

**07-302** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** Council approve the motions in the Council Procedures Report:

1. That all complaints brought forward to Council concerning municipal matters shall be submitted in writing, signed by the correspondent(s) and placed on the Regular Council agenda under either Correspondence or Delegations.
2. That all complaints made to Council regarding individual members of Staff or Council shall be submitted directly to the Mayor or the Administrator in writing and signed by the correspondent(s) and brought forward to Council in a restricted meeting.

Carried Unanimously

I. **BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Councillor Wright asked whether or not Bylaw No. 99, 2007 Unsightly Premises Bylaw was going to be brought forward at this meeting. It was noted by the Administrator that the Bylaw was scheduled to be brought forward on the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting, as minor changes needed to be made to the document, and due to the fact that the Manager of the Wells and District

Chamber of Commerce was unable to attend the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council meeting.

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wilkins noted that there was an incident last week regarding a bear cub in the community and the need to consider non-lethal alternative for managing bears. Mayor Vermette suggested writing a letter asking what the process is in regards to bear management in the community. Councillor Campbell concurred with Mayor Vermette, saying that staff could write a letter asking the process involved with bear management, especially communications, due to the high number of bear sightings in the community over the summer. Mayor Vermette said that resolving the issue of bear sighting communications would have to be a two-part process. First a Ministry response in regards to who communicates bear sighting information, but the second part would be to have a local, District of Wells plan for notification in regards to bear communication management.

**07-303** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** staff write a letter to both local Conservation Officers and the local RCMP asking what the process is in regards to bear sighting notification in the Wells and Barkerville area, and for clarification in regards to the roles of the local RCMP and local Conservation Officers.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Wilkins also asked Councillor Campbell to play the bagpipes at the Memorial Ceremony at the Wells Legion on Remembrance Day. General discussion took place in regards to the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Wells Legion, and who would be laying the wreathes for the District of Wells.

Councillor Campbell noted that she had an excellent holiday in Scotland and found the conference she attended very beneficial in her role as Chief Executive Officer of Barkerville Historic Town.

Mayor Vermette noted that at the 2007 UBCM Conference he met with Kevin Richter, the Regional Director for the Southern Interior Region for the Ministry of Transportation, and that Mr. Richter had promised to visit Highway 26 to examine the speed limit and road condition issues raised by the District of Wells. Mayor Vermette noted that Mr. Richter visited the community on October 31<sup>st</sup>, and gave the District of Wells representatives indications that approximately 34 km of Hwy 26 that was in dire need of repair would get it, and that the highway repair needs to be done sooner as opposed to later and would be moved up the priority list. Mayor Vermette also said that there were positive indications given in regards to the possibility of raising the speed limit on Highway 26 from 80 km/h to 90 km/h.

2. Staff:  
The Deputy Clerk noted that there would be a Community Dinner on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Banquet Room of the Wells Community Hall and that there was a Flu Vaccine Clinic in the Banquet Room of the Wells Community Hall scheduled for Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

3. Public Gallery:  
Carol Pinette, a member of the public gallery, noted that the RCMP in Prince George didn't seem to care about the safety of local residents during the last bear sighting in the community. Carol Pinette also said that she had noted a lot of visitors this summer that were stopping in Wells before going to Barkerville.

Rick Galbraith, a member of the public gallery, said that there seemed to be a lack of accommodations available in the community and said that High Speed Internet availability was suffering due to capacity constraints. Councillor Campbell noted that there was a Barkerville Housing Task Force that was examining the issue of accommodation in the community. The Deputy Clerk noted that Ms. McGregor, the Marketing and Economic Development Officer for the District of Wells was working with ABC Communications to examine the High Speed Internet capacity issues in the community of Wells. Mr. Galbraith asked if there was a community policy on Internet service in the community. The Administrator noted that the District of Wells did not have a policy on Internet service in Wells, but that the District of Wells helped to bring the High Speed Internet service to the community, and if there were grants that would help to bring more capacity to the community they would look into it.

The Wells Chronicle Editor, Aleeta Wallace, noted that any copy or advertising for the December issue of the Wells Chronicle was due on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

**07-304** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Carried Unanimously

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John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

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Gary Champagne, CAO