

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Jay Vermette and Councillors Aleta Wallace, Virginia Wilkins and Richard Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Champagne, C.A.O. and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC GALLERY: 4 people

A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:

09-112 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

09-113 MOVED Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 21, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 2009 Seniors Housing Opportunity – Staff Report

The Administrator provided an overview of the potential Seniors Housing opportunity for the District of Wells. The Administrator said that the District of Wells had been identified as one of nine potential communities in British Columbia that could receive senior's housing units, and that the District of Wells should know whether or not the community had been chosen by the end of May 2009. The Administrator noted that the best site for the potential senior's housing complex identified by the BC Housing representative and District of Wells' staff was the area of the Wells-Barkerville Community School field located directly across from the Wells Fire Hall. The Administrator said that if the District of Wells was chosen as a location the potential site would need to be rezoned, and public input on the location would be solicited at that time. Councillor Wilkins asked if the Geothermal heating being installed at the Wells-Barkerville Community School could be used to heat the proposed senior's housing. The Administrator noted that this might be possible, but that it would need to be a separate project. Councillor Wright asked what the housing units would look like. The Administrator noted that they were modular in design, but aesthetically pleasing. The Administrator provided a design example that provided an overview of what the senior's housing could look like. Councillor Wright thanked staff for acting quickly on the project. Mayor Vermette asked staff how much space would need to be used at the Wells Barkerville Community School field to accommodate the project. The Administrator noted that the size would be approximately the same area as what is currently used for the outdoor ice rink. Mayor Vermette asked if the District of Wells had full ownership of the Wells-Barkerville Community

School. The Administrator noted that the District of Wells owned the property free and clear.

- 09-114** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council receive the update on the proposed joint Federal/Provincial partnership to create new homes for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Carried Unanimously

2. Memorandum of Understanding – Wells-Barkerville Cemetery Administration
The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District of Wells and Friends of Barkerville for the administration of the “new” portion of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery. Councillor Wright asked if the MOU contained information on maintenance of the cemetery. The Deputy Clerk noted that the MOU stated that the Friends of Barkerville would endeavour to continue maintaining the cemetery, and did not place any obligations on the District of Wells. Councillor Wright asked who currently had the cemetery records. The Deputy Clerk noted that Bill Quackenbush, the curator of Barkerville Historic Town currently maintained the records. Councillor Wilkins asked if the District of Wells could apply for funding for ongoing maintenance of the cemetery. The Deputy Clerk noted that the District of Wells would look at all funding sources as they became available. Councillor Wright suggested that the MOU include a clause that the Friends of Barkerville appoint a representative responsible to liaise with the District of Wells in regards to the administration of the “new” portion of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery.

- 09-115** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve the District of Wells entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Barkerville Cariboo Goldfields Historical Society for the transfer of responsibilities for the administration of the “new” portion of the Wells-Barkerville Cemetery from the Friends of Barkerville to the District of Wells, conditional on the Friends of Barkerville assigning a specific representative to liaise with the District of Wells in regards to the administration of the cemetery.

Carried Unanimously

3. Pooley St. Signage Project – Staff Report
The Administrator provided an overview of the costing methodology used to estimate the budget for the Pooley St. Signage Project report, and noted that there was a lack of interest from the local business community in regards to building a cooperative advertising sign. Councillor Wright noted that the cost of the sign seemed overly expensive. The Administrator noted that the high sign costs were based on the costs of installing the current Pooley St. signs, stating that there are strong winds at the potential location, and that the sign base would need to be placed in concrete in order to ensure that it was secure. Mayor Vermette asked what the cost of the exposed aggregate blocks on Pooley St. was. The Administrator noted that he did not know off-hand but could provide the information after the meeting.

- 09-116** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council receive this report and not proceed with the construction of a District of Wells owned sign for commercial advertising at the Ball Diamond site fronting the intersection of Highway 26 and Pooley Street.

Carried Unanimously

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Additional Council meeting for 2009 Tax Rates Bylaw
- 09-117** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council consider a special Council meeting at either of the following times in order to pass the District of Wells Bylaw No. 103, 2009 Tax Rates:
- Tuesday, May 12 at 11:45 AM
 - Thursday, May 14 at 11:45 AM

Carried Unanimously

Mayor Vermette and Councillor Wright noted that an evening meeting would be better for them. There was general acceptance that holding the meeting in the evening was the best choice.

- 09-118** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council authorize a special Council meeting to be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 14 in order to pass the District of Wells Bylaw No. 103, 2009 Tax Rates.

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 09.04.18 Linda Davis, President, Wells Seniors Association re: Request for free or discounted Wells Fitness Centre passes for seniors.
- 09-119** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the 09.04.18 letter from Linda Davis, President, Wells Senior's Association re: Request for free or discounted Wells Fitness Centre passes for seniors be referred to staff for a follow-up report.

Carried Unanimously

- 09-120** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the Wells Seniors Association representatives be given permission to speak.

Carried Unanimously

Linda Davis and Neva Hohn, members of the Wells Seniors Association, spoke to the request for free or discounted Wells Fitness Centre passes for seniors. The Administrator provided an overview on the need to prepare a report, noting that the financial implications of free or discounted Wells Fitness Centre passes needed to be examined.

2. 09.04.20 John Strohmaier, Provincial President, CUPE Local 873 re: Motion calling on the provincial government that oversees the BC Ambulance Service for a return to the bargaining table with an independent third-party mediator.
- 09-121** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the 09.04.20 letter from John Strohmaier, Provincial President, CUPE Local 873 re: Motion calling on the provincial government that oversees the BC Ambulance Service for a return to the bargaining table with an independent third-party mediator be received.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Wallace asked if a motion supporting the BC Ambulance Service would be appropriate.

- 09-122** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the District of Wells call on the provincial government to ensure that the BC Ambulance Service receives the support it requires to provide the service we deserve.
Carried Unanimously

3. 09.04.20 John Turner, Board Chair, United Way of Prince George re: *Northern Scoping Exercise*.

General discussion took place in regards to the *Northern Scoping Exercise*. Councillor Wright asked if we could contribute by encouraging their scoping exercise without donating money or volunteer staff time.

- 09-123** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 09.04.20 letter from John Turner, Board Chair, United Way of Prince George re: Northern Scoping Exercise be received.
Carried Unanimously

4. 09.04.30 Billy Barker Days Society re: Invitation to participate in the 36th annual Billy Barker Days Parade on July 18, 2009.

- 09-124** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the 09.04.30 letter from the Billy Barker Days Society re: Invitation to participate in the 36th annual Billy Barker Days Parade on July 18, 2009 be received.
Carried Unanimously

Councillor Wright noted that the District of Wells could put a float in the Billy Barker Days Parade pulling the Wells Historical Society Model T or the 1927 Hudson Truck belonging to Wells resident John Jennings. The Deputy Clerk suggested that the float be referred to the Wells Spirit Committee.

- 09-125** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the invitation to participate in the 36th annual Billy Barker Days Parade on July 18, 2009, along with any float possibilities be referred to the Wells Spirit Committee.
Carried Unanimously

G. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. District of Wells Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 102, 2009

- 09-126** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council give final reading to and approve the District of Wells Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 102, 2009.

Carried Unanimously

2. District of Wells Bylaw No. 103, 2009 Tax Rates (separate attachment)
The Administrator gave an overview of the District of Wells Bylaw No. 103, 2009 Tax Rates.

- 09-127** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council give first three readings to the District of Wells Bylaw No. 103, 2009 Tax Rates.
Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

4. Emergency Planning & Protective Services Committee Minutes

- 09-128** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Emergency Planning & Protective Services Committee Minutes be received.
Carried Unanimously

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 09-129** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as circulated:
1. 09.04.06 Robert Hobson, President, UBCM re: Election Readiness Strategy.
 2. 09.04.21 Robert Hobson, President, UBCM re: Acceleration of Community Works Funds Payments.
 3. 09.04.27 Frank Leonard, Chair, Municipal Finance Authority of BC re: MFA Program Dividends.
 4. 09.04.29 Joy Wang, Fulun Dafa Association of BC, re: Falun Dafa Month, May 2009.
 5. 09.04.30 Danyta Welch, Policy and Program Officer, UBCM re: 2008 School Community Connections Program – Strengthening the Connection (2nd Intake).
 6. 09.04.30 Danyta Welch, Policy and Program Officer, UBCM re: 2009 West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative – Base Funding.
 7. 09.04.30 Neil Hastie, President and CEO, Encorp Pacific (Canada) re: Product Stewardship System in BC.

Carried Unanimously

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wallace provided an overview on the Sustainability Conference in Williams Lake that she and Councillor Wilkins attended in April.

Councillor Wilkins provided more information on the Sustainability Conference in Williams Lake that she and Councillor Wallace attended, noting that the event organizer, Carla Glessing, would be willing to come to the community and provide information on a starting a local sustainability committee. Councillor Wilkins also said that she noticed a lot of water in the field of the new Pooley St. ball park, and wondered if there was a way to increase drainage in the field. The Administrator noted that once the snow had completely melted staff would review the drainage situation.

Councillor Wright noted that concerns had been raised at the recent Wells Chamber of Commerce meeting in regards to the condition and care of the Fred Wells Cairn. Councillor Wright suggested that staff ask the Public Works Superintendent to investigate it further. Councillor Wright also said that he'd heard of a number of problems in regards to Telus phone hook-ups in the District of Wells and suggested that the administrator contact Telus. The Administrator asked for clarification in regards to the problems. Councillor Wright noted that most of the problems were generated from the Wells Apartments. The Administrator noted that if Councillor Wright could provide the phone numbers for the affected lines staff would investigate it further.

Mayor Vermette noted that the care and condition of the Fred Wells Cairn needed to be investigated further.

2. Staff:
The Administrator noted that he would be accompanying Councillor Wilkins and Councillor Wallace to the North Central Municipal Association Convention in Dawson Creek and would be out of town until May 9, 2009.
3. Public Gallery:
Carol Pinette reminded Council and staff that Claire Kujundzic's art exhibit was available to view at the Wells-Barkerville Community School prior to it being transported to the Two River's Art Gallery in Prince George. She also noted that she had a Telus contact number for the Administrator to phone in regards to the telephone problems in the community.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

09-130 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:04 PM.

Carried Unanimously

John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

Gary Champagne, CAO