

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Deputy Mayor S. Tyers presided. Councillors present were S. Bujtas, L. Christiansen, J. Cordeiro, B. Downie, and M. Prevost. Mayor C. Leclerc was absent. Also in attendance were H. Avison, Chief Administrative Officer, D. Block, Director of Development Services, A. Thompson, Clerk, and K. Kofoed, Executive Assistant.

**MOVE TO IN-CAMERA
SPECIAL COUNCIL:**

***Meeting Called to Order at
7:15 p.m. – Move to In-
Camera Special Council***

(No. 071)

MOVED/SECONDED to move In-Camera and close the meeting to the public pursuant to Division 3, Section 90 (1)(a) of the Community Charter to discuss matters relating to personnel.

Carried Unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING:

Deputy Mayor Tyers advised that Council agendas and minutes are available for viewing on the City's home page at www.terrace.ca and that Council meetings are webcast on the City's website and the past minutes have been archived.

ADDENDUM:

There was no Addendum.

DELEGATIONS & GUESTS:

***Rich Toomey, Terrace &
District Chamber of
Commerce – 2015
Business Tax Review***

Mr. Toomey thanked Council for the opportunity to present and introduced himself as a Director of the Terrace and District Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber).

The downturn in the forest industry during the 1990s resulted in a decrease of the City's industrial tax base. The majority of the City's tax revenue comes from residential and business taxpayers, with major and light industry in Terrace only generating about 6% of revenues.

Based on the figures from the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development, Tax Rates and Tax Burden report, Terrace currently has the second highest business to residential tax ratio in the Province.

The calculation takes the tax rate (be it business or industry) and divides it by the residential tax rate which results in a tax class multiple that shows how all communities in the Province compare. For every dollar a property tax payer in Terrace pays, a business owner pays \$4.73.

The Chamber understands that the property tax burden should be shared between property owners and businesses, but does not believe Terrace businesses should shoulder an unfair portion of it.

The proposed major projects for the region are outside of Terrace's boundaries, however Terrace is the service centre for Northwest BC. The business tax rate may be a consideration for new businesses looking to purchase or rent property in Terrace or existing businesses that wish to expand.

The Skeena Industrial Development Park will help reduce the pressure on property and business tax payers, but it may be years before the park becomes developed and the City sees any significant tax revenues from it.

Mr. Toomey suggested that if the 2014 residential property tax rates increased 25 basis points from 5.857 to 6.107, this would increase total residential taxes by \$230,000 and would allow a decrease to the business tax by the same amount. The average cost to property owners would be \$54 per property. The corresponding impact of the reduction in business taxes would be \$449 per property. This also reduces the 4.73 multiple to 4.34.

Homeowners are entitled to the homeowner grant and additional age-related grants, however businesses are not eligible for grants to reduce their property taxes.

The Chamber encouraged Council to be sensitive to the high tax burden already placed on businesses in Terrace, and to strive to reduce this tax burden.

Deputy Mayor Tyers thanked Mr. Toomey for his presentation and advised the matter would be further dealt with under the "Correspondence" portion of

this meeting's Agenda. (See Resolution No. 077).

PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS:

There were no Petitions or Questions.

MINUTES:

***Regular Council Minutes,
February 10, 2015***

(No. 076)

MOVED/SECONDED that the Regular Council Minutes of February 10, 2015 be read on this day and that such Minutes as read set out all the business before Council that day and fully and properly record all of the resolutions and bylaws passed and adopted by Council at that meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (OLD BUSINESS):

There was no Old Business.

CORRESPONDENCE:

***Rich Toomey, Terrace &
District Chamber of
Commerce – 2015
Business Tax Review***

(No. 077)

MOVED/SECONDED that the presentation from the Terrace & District Chamber of Commerce regarding business taxes be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

***Committee of the Whole
➤ January 26, 2015***

(No. 078)

MOVED/SECONDED that the January 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendation:

1. GREG CANO, TRANSCANADA – TRANSCANADA COASTAL GASLINK PROJECT UPDATE

There were no recommendations at this time.

Carried Unanimously.

Committee of the Whole
➤ **February 4, 2015**

(No. 079)

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 4, 2015 Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendation:

1. DANIELLE MYLES, MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OVERVIEW

There were no recommendations.

Carried Unanimously.

Committee of the Whole
➤ **February 10, 2015**

(No. 080)

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 10, 2015 Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendation:

1. TESSA GILL, PACIFIC NORTHWEST LNG – PROJECT UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

There were no recommendations.

Carried Unanimously.

Committee of the Whole
➤ **February 11, 2015**

(No. 081)

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendation:

1. GREG STEVES, HOUSING POLICY BRANCH – TERRACE HOUSING ACTION PLAN

There were no recommendations.

Carried Unanimously.

Committee of the Whole
➤ **February 13, 2015**

(No. 082)

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendation:

1. LANCE MACDONALD, TELUS – TELUS: INVESTING IN TERRACE

There were no recommendations.

Carried Unanimously.

Committee of the Whole
➤ **(Finance, Personnel & Administration Component)**
February 17, 2015

(No. 083)

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 17, 2015 Finance, Personnel and Administration Component of the Committee of the Whole report be adopted with the following recommendations:

1. COMMUNITY GRANTS

It was recommended that the following Community Grant Funding be approved for 2015:

Volunteer Terrace	7,500
Caledonia Dry Grad	2,020
Bread of Life Soup Kitchen.....	1,000
Green Thumb Garden Society.....	5,000
Terrace & District Arts Council.....	22,500
Skeena Valley Model Railroad Assoc.	685
Greater Terrace Beautification Society.....	500
Helping Hands of Terrace.....	15,295
Skeena Diversity Society	<u>5,500</u>
TOTAL TO DATE.....	\$60,000

2. TERRACE COMMUNITY FOREST GRANTS

It was recommended that the following Terrace Community Forest grants be approved for 2015:

COT Ferry Island.....	8,000
COT Howe Creek Trails	5,000
My Mountain Co-op	15,000
Snow Valley Nordic Ski Club.....	15,000
Terrace Off Road Cycling Assoc.	7,500
Northwest Science and Innovation.....	1,500
Skeena Valley Snowmobile Assoc.....	10,000
Terrace Salmonid Enhancement.	9,925
Caledonia Secondary Outdoors Club.....	10,000
Dr. REM Lee Hospital Foundation.....	10,000
K'san Society.....	4,920
Mtn Remo Backcountry Society.....	10,000
Terrace Downtown Improvement Area.	12,000
Skeena-Nass Centre for Innovation	5,000
Terrace Community Foundation	10,000
Frank Trail Improvements.....	<u>4,500</u>
TOTAL TO DATE.....	\$138,345

3. COMMUNITY PARTNERS FUNDING

It was recommended that the \$20,000 capital funding request from the Terrace & District Museum Society be approved.

It was also recommended that the PNGI contract for downtown litter pickup services for \$26,497 be approved.

Carried Unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
(FOR INFORMATION
ONLY):**

Committee of the Whole
➤ ***Development
Services Component,
January 26, 2015***

MOVED/SECONDED that the January 26, 2015 Development Services Component of the Committee of the Whole report be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 084)

Committee of the Whole
➤ ***Development
Services Component,
January 26, 2015***

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 10, 2015 Development Services Component of the Committee of the Whole report be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 085)

SPECIAL REPORTS:

***Memo – Director of
Development Services,
Terrace Housing Action
Plan – February 2015***

MOVED/SECONDED that Council receive the housing report titled "Terrace Housing Action Plan" for information and that this document be referred to the Housing Committee for further review and that the Committee identify priorities and consider recommendations for specific implementation tasks and actions to address housing needs and gaps in the community as identified in the report.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 086)

**Memo – CAO, NCLGA
Resolutions**

(No. 087)

MOVED/SECONDED that the City of Terrace bring forward the following to the North Central Local Government Association's Annual General Meeting for consideration:

WHEREAS British Columbia has one of the highest rates of poverty in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the price of poverty is borne by all British Columbians through higher justice system costs, greater demands on the health care system, increased pressures on community services and reduced economic productivity;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia is the only province in Canada without a poverty reduction strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM advocate to the Provincial Government to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in BC by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.

And

WHEREAS policing resources are being extensively utilized to deal with mental health and addictions issues across the Province;

AND WHEREAS this drain on policing resources makes it challenging for police services to focus on their primary responsibilities of preventing and investigating crime, and maintaining peace and order in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to ensure that the level of resourcing and facilities for providing mental health and addiction services are increased throughout the Province to allow for improved access and treatment for those suffering from mental health issues, including addictions.

Carried Unanimously.

Memo – Corporate Administrator, City of Terrace Communications and Engagement Plan Update

MOVED/SECONDED that the Terrace Communications and Engagement Plan Update be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 088)

Housing Committee Minutes, January 16, 2015

MOVED/SECONDED that the January 16, 2015 Housing Committee Minutes be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 089)

Housing Committee Minutes, February 13, 2015

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 13, 2015 Housing Committee Minutes be received for information and that Administration be directed to work with K'san Society on the application for funding from CMHC for a housing project.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 090)

Memo – Senior Building Inspector, December 14, 2014 Building Synopsis

MOVED/SECONDED that the December 2014 Building Synopsis be received for information as amended.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 091)

BYLAWS:

Bylaw Amendment Animal Control Bylaw, Project No. ADP-02-1503 (Adoption)

MOVED/SECONDED that the Bylaw Amendment Animal Control Bylaw Project No. ADP-02-1503 be read by title only and adopted.

Carried Unanimously.

(No. 092)

NEW BUSINESS:

(No. 093)

MOVED/SECONDED that a letter be sent to Patti Chapman thanking her for serving as Chair on the Terrace Public Library board for eight years.

Carried Unanimously.

**Councillor J. Cordeiro –
Regional District of Kitimat-
Stikine Board Report
(Verbal)**

Councillor Cordeiro gave a recap of the February 20, 2015 Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) Board meeting.

**Deputy Mayor S. Tyers –
Regional District of Kitimat-
Stikine Board Report
(Verbal)**

Deputy Mayor S. Tyers gave a recap of the February 21, 2015 Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) strategic planning session.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
FROM THE MEDIA:**

There was one question from the Media.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED/SECONDED that the February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting of Council be now adjourned.

(No. 093)

Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Deputy Mayor

Alison Thompson

Clerk