

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, July 5, 2021
Erwin Stege Community Center - Conference Room

Regular Meeting – 7:00 pm

(1) CALL TO ORDER:

(2) MINUTES:

- a) Accept minutes of the June 7, 2021 regular meeting

(3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS: None

(4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

(5) CORRESPONDENCE: None

(6) REPORTS: None

(7) BYLAWS: None

(8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Council Schedule:

- August 9 Regular Council Meeting
- September 13 Regular Council Meeting
- October 4 Regular Council Meeting

- b) Associate Membership – MIABC – RGL Building Inspection Services

- c) Revised Policy – Fire Inspections

- d) Opening of Facilities – BC Restart Plan

Closed Session, Section 90.1 (e) and (g) Community Charter Act, regarding land and potential litigation

Adjournment

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 7, 2021
ERWIN STEGE COMMUNITY CENTRE
CONFERENCE ROOM

1) CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor G. Lowry
Councillor A. Berg
Councillor B. Henwood
Councillor G. Burns
Councillor J. Hobenshield
Councillor R. Sturney
Councillor M. Weeber

STAFF PRESENT: W. Hunt
R. Carlé
R. Smith

2) MINUTES:

RESOLUTION 8039/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the minutes of the May 3, 2021 regular meeting be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

3) PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS:

- a) RDKS Economic Development Officer Maggie Hall and Economic Development Intern Walsham Tenshak presented two billboard designs promoting New Hazelton that will be located between Smithers and New Hazelton. The project is being funded through Northern Development's Economic Development Capacity Building Fund. Council opted for the Ross Lake billboard design.

4) UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

5) CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) National 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline

RESOLUTION 8040/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton write a letter of support for the creation of a national 988 suicide prevention hotline.

CARRIED

- b) Hazelton Indigenous Court Opening Ceremony

RESOLUTION 8041/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton receive the Upper Skeena Counselling & Legal Assistance Society request for a donation towards the Opening Ceremony of the Hazelton Indigenous Court for information.

CARRIED

6) REPORTS:

- a) Councillor Burns – Reported that four applicants applied for the 2021 District of New Hazelton Scholarships. Anela Croft and Scott Barnes were awarded the scholarships.
- b) Councillor Hobenshield – Reported on the Hazelton District Public Library annual general meeting.
- c) Mayor Lowry – Reported on the RDKS board meeting. The board approved putting \$6,000 towards the Fire Training Center for the Volunteer Fire Department.

7) BYLAWS:

- a) 2021-2025 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 361, 2021

RESOLUTION 8042/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton 2021-2025 Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 361, 2021 be given its first and second readings.

CARRIED

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) District of New Hazelton Annual Report

RESOLUTION 8043/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the District of New Hazelton 2021 Annual Report be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

9) CLOSED SESSION (8:00 pm):

RESOLUTION 8044/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 90.1 (e) and (g) of the Community Charter, regarding land and potential litigation.

CARRIED

8:44 pm – Meeting reopened to the public.

10) ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION 8045/21

MOVED & SECONDED

That, the meeting be adjourned 8:45 pm.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT THIS

DAY OF

, 2021

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MAYOR

POLICY MANUAL

(Fire Inspections)

PREPARED BY:

Committee of Enquiry
Administration

AUTHORIZED BY:

Council

DATE OF ISSUE OR REVISION

February 18, 2002
Resolution No. 4930/02
Revised: July 5, 2021

Whereas the Fire Services Act requires the District of New Hazelton to provide for regular system of inspections of hotels and public buildings in the municipality.

Whereas the District of New Hazelton may authorize persons, in addition to the local assistant to exercise within the municipality some or all of the powers under Sections 21 to 23 of the Fire Services Act.

Now, therefore, the council of the District of New Hazelton hereby adopts the policy of

- performing fire inspections once per year;
- performing follow up inspections as required, unless time constraints and monies do not allow for their completion;
- requiring appointed individuals will keep a record of their inspections and findings concerning each building inspected on file;
- The inspections to be done by the appointed individuals will be as follows:
 - Private residences on a request basis only; and
 - All hotels and public buildings as defined in the Fire Services Act once per year.

And, it will be the policy of the District of New Hazelton to not cause undue hardship in enforcing the Fire Services Act, but to obtain compliance with the act by persuasion and education whenever possible.

Inspections may be performed by:

- The Building Inspector; or
- The Fire Chief

FIRE INSPECTIONS POLICY

Revision/Review Log

[illegible]

BRIEFING NOTE

Prepared by: Wendy Hunt

July 5, 2021

Reason for Briefing Note

BC's 4 Step Restart Program is a staged re-opening plan to bring the province and its residents back to "normal".

Background

Much of the world has been on some form of lockdown for the past 15 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the vaccine and many people following the Public Health Orders, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Public Health Officer has announced an official Restart Program for BC that consists of 4 steps and is based on immunization rates and hospitalizations. As of July 1, 2021, BC has moved to Step 3.

Step 3 allows for more options in terms of business re-opening, in-person events as well as in-person dining. Masks are still recommended in public indoor settings and residents are encouraged to engage in careful social contact. Step three consists of the following:

- Return to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings and sleepovers;
- Increased capacities for both indoor and outdoor organized gatherings with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place;
- Fairs and festivals can operate with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in Place;
- Canada-wide recreational travel is permitted;
- No group limit for indoor and outdoor dining;
- Liquor service restrictions are lifted;
- Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs can operate with a limited capacity;
 - Businesses must operate based on a new sector COVID-19 Safety Plan
- Continued return to the workplace;
- Seminars and bigger meetings allowed;
- Indoor fitness classes allowed, usual capacity;
- Limited indoor spectators allowed.

Workplaces will be transitioning from a COVID-19 Safety Plan to a Communicable Disease Prevention Plan. While we are not 100% sure what that means, early indications are simply a recommended policy to ensure handwashing, coughing and sneezing protocols and encouraging and supporting your staff to stay home when they are not feeling well. These plans are strictly for workers and in compliance with WorkSafeBC's new directives and are separate from the COVID-19 Safety Plans that businesses are required to have for the public.

Step 4 will be the final step in the re-opening plan. The earliest date that the Province will move to Step 4 is September 7, 2021. Step 4 will see the following:

- Masks in public indoor settings will be a personal choice;
- Normal social contact;
- Increased capacity at large organized gatherings, like a concert;
- Canada-wide recreational travel;
- Businesses will continue to operate based on new COVID-19 safety guidelines and their updated COVID-19 Safety Plans;

- Workplaces will be fully re-opened;
- Return to normal sport competitions with an updated COVID-19 Safety Plan in place;
- Increased outdoor and indoor spectators.

Update

The District has been receiving calls from persons/parties wishing to rent our facilities as news of the re-opening is spreading. Staff have, with Council's knowledge, approved the use of the Erwin Stege Community Center for the mass vaccine clinics held by Northern Health, the Provincial Election, the RDKS Zoning Open House, and most recently the Indigenous Courts (which have yet to come to fruition other than training days).

Stage 3 of the BC Restart Plan still required the use of masks and has placed limits on the number of people at indoor gatherings. If the District were to open its facilities for public use, it would mean that staff would be required to ensure that the protocols are being followed by those using the facilities.

Administration is requesting Council's consideration of keeping all facilities closed with the exception of Provincial, Federal, or local government uses, until such time as the Province has entered into Stage 4.

Recommendation

That council pass the following resolution:

That, the District of New Hazelton facilities remain closed until further notice. Openings will be reassessed after the Provincial government enters the BC Restart Step 4. Exclusions to this closure includes Federal, Provincial, and local government usage as approved by the Chief Administrative Officer or her designate.