



CITY OF WEST KELOWNA
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 29, 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2760 CAMERON ROAD, WEST KELOWNA, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Gord Milsom
Councillor Rick de Jong
Councillor Stephen Johnston
Councillor Garrett Millsap
Councillor Carol Zanon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councillor Tasha Da Silva
Councillor Jason Friesen

Staff Present: Paul Gipps, CAO
Sandy Webster, Director of Corporate Initiatives
Jason Brolund, Fire Chief
Brad Savoury, Director of Legal Services
Brent Magnan, Director of Development Approvals
Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer
Natasha Patricelli, Legislative Services Assistant

1. CALL THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

It was acknowledged that this meeting was held on the traditional territory of the Syilx/Okanagan Peoples.

This meeting was open to the public and all representations to Council form part of the public record. This meeting was webcast live and archived on the City's website.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded

Resolution No. C298/23

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5. MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Gord Milsom stated that the past two weeks have been a difficult time for our community. On behalf of Council, his heart goes out to families who lost their homes to the McDougall Creek Wildfire, and to those who have lost homes to other wildfires in the region. The priority is to get those who are evacuated back home as safely and quickly as possible. As we move from response to recovery, Mayor Milsom thanked Westbank First Nation for opening a resiliency center for members of our community continuing to be impacted by the wildfire. Mayor Milsom mentioned that dramatic and shocking images of the McDougall Creek Wildfire brought national and global attention to West Kelowna. He expressed his appreciation for all the emails, text messages and phone calls expressing concern for our well being, and for providing ongoing support and encouragement. Mayor Milsom also thanked our West Kelowna fire fighters, BC Wildfire Services and the fire fighters from so many other communities for saving thousands of homes, and for saving key municipal infrastructure, including our new water treatment plant. These achievements are truly a testament to key decisions made by our protective service leaders, from lessons learned from past wildfires, from heroic actions by firefighters, members of the RCMP and others. We are also grateful to our community for their quick response to evacuation orders. This traumatic and devastating wildfire has been a test of our community's strength and character. We are so proud of the bravery of all front line protective workers, the dedication of city staff working long hours, the compassion of so many volunteers and the generosity of businesses for all kinds of support. We are proud of our region coming together at this time of crisis. Together we will rebuild and recover.

6. DELEGATIONS

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. DIVISION REPORTS

8.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

8.1.1 Update on the McDougall Creek Wildfire

It was moved and seconded

Resolution No. C299/23

THAT Council endorse the State of Local Emergency declared on August 17, 2023, for one week by Mayor Gord Milsom in response to the wildfire imminent threat to West Kelowna; and

THAT Council endorse the extension of the State of Local Emergency authorized by Mayor Gord Milsom extended on August 23, 2023, for a further week set to expire on August 31, 2023; and

THAT Council consider and authorize that a further week extension for a State of Local Emergency until September 7, 2023, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.1.2 2023 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Public Notification & Evacuation Route Planning

It was moved and seconded

Resolution No. C300/23

THAT Council approves the grant application submitted by the Regional District of Central Okanagan to apply, receive, and manage the 2023 UBCM CEPF Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning grant funds on behalf of of the City of West Kelowna.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8.2 FINANCIAL SERVICES

8.3 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

8.4 RECREATION AND CULTURE

8.5 ENGINEERING / PUBLIC WORKS / PARKS

8.6 CORPORATE INITIATIVES

8.7 FIRE RESCUE SERVICES

Fire Chief Brolund provided Council with an update on the McDougall Creek Wildfire. He thanked Mayor Milsom and Mr. Gipps for their support and leadership in this historical event. Chief Brolund updated Council on the new evacuation alert which was imposed in the community due to the imminent

threat of a potential ember shower from the increased wind. Returning residents home remains top priority.

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

11. ADJOURNMENT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

MAYOR

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES MANAGER/CORPORATE OFFICER