



CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

COUNCIL CORNER

Update from Council Meeting — December 8th, 2015

- ⇒ The City held a Public Hearing last night to hear community feedback and decide on rezoning for the proposed condo and commercial development on Bill Murray Way (see image, right). Council received input from residents for and against the project. **After debate, and consideration of public input, in the general council meeting Mayor and Council voted 6:1 in favour of allowing the rezoning to move ahead.**
- ⇒ **Report from Chief Financial Officer** — The CFO provided information regarding capital works and purchases for 2016— including waterworks improvements, maintenance of the 2nd Avenue bridge, repairs to the Kaien Island docks, and reconstruction of several retaining walls around the city. **Council moved the recommendation that capital works and purchases expenditures be approved.** Further to her report, **the CFO recommended a cap of \$850,000 to 2016 community enhancement grants to minimize potential property tax increases.** Councillor Mirau requested to amend the resolution to require a report from staff evaluating grant applications according to specific community-oriented criteria. Council voted in favour of the amended resolution, and will evaluate the report from staff at the next Council meeting.
- ⇒ **The Mayor provided a further update on developments at the Innovation and Sustainability Community Pilot on affordable housing services for Prince Rupert**— where the Mayor is now Chair. The committee is developing a proposal for an affordable housing development that integrates social services such as support for mental health and addictions. The Mayor reported that the committee is currently assessing successful models in other communities to develop a unique proposal that caters to Prince Rupert's specific needs. The committee is made up of members from the Prince Rupert Aboriginal Community Services Society, North Coast Transition Society, the City of Prince Rupert, and Hecate Strait Employment Services Society.
- ⇒ **Council approved the recommendation from the Engineering Dept that the award for work on the Shoowatlans pump station be given to The Electrician.**
- ⇒ **Council moved to postpone the amendment of Zoning for the former Kanata School property from institutional to multi-family residential,** until they have the opportunity to meet with the developer to address outstanding questions.
- ⇒ **Council approved the recommendation from the Engineering Department to amend the bylaw to remove the highway dedication of City property adjacent to the Digby Towers property. This amendment will allow for redevelopment of the property to meet the developer's need for parking space.** It was noted that the pedestrian pathway next to the development would remain.
- ⇒ UFAWU-Unifor, the Union representing canning employees impacted by the closure at Canfisco, reported to Council on the impacts of the closure and requested support. Councillor Thorkelson and Councillor Mirau recused themselves due to conflict of interest or perceived conflict. **Council voted unanimously to support Unifor in their recommendation to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to develop:**
 - Adjacency policy to ensure benefit to local communities from the resource;
 - Policies of fleet separation and owner-operator similar to those implemented in Atlantic Canada
- ⇒ **Council approved a recommendation from Councillor Cunningham that staff review and provide feedback on the 1 km distancing rule regarding liquor licensing within City zoning.**

