

Notes on January 24 regular Council Meeting
Paula Johanson for Watchdoggers Group

Attending: Mayor Maja Tait, Al Beddows, Jeff Bateman, Tony St-Pierre, Ebony Logins, Megan McMath

Staff attending: McInnis, Mushata

QUICK SUMMARY

A nice quick and clear-headed council meeting today.

Summed up quickly:

- An energy company, VDQ-NRG, wants to buy 5 acres in Sooke and turn all our garbage into fuel & carbon black & biochar, leaving 10% unburnable/unrecyclable and getting rid of 70,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually. They'll visit Sooke in March to talk.
- Two lots on Maple Park now zoned to provide sewage connections for 12 lots.
- McInnis is optimistic about sewage expansion program; good response from survey, grant application being done.
- Now that bylaw permits council & committee meetings to be all-virtual or part-virtual, staff observes that it has been taking a lot of IT work to support, for which there is no manpower or \$ budgeted.
- Everyone agrees rat poison is bad.

REPORT ON THE MEETING

JBateman corrected page 24 of the minutes to the proper title "Manager of Planning"

Mayor Tait asked staff to forward her email to the Wounded Warriors saying can't be at both ends of the event, will find a councillor to attend the Victoria end.

With amendments, minutes accepted.

. DELEGATIONS

7.1. Waste to Energy VDQ-NRG

- Presentation by James Kernaghan

Delegation-VDQ-NRG

JK says his group would hire 21 jobs, & turn 40,000 tons waste annually from Sooke & area to carbon black & distilled fuel, reducing 72,000 tons of greenhouse gas annually.

Wants to discuss locations.

MT asked if it would handle biosolids from wastewater treatment, JK says yes and without dehydrating them first.

JK says needs about 5 acres, needs space to store fuel, trucks driving materials to site.

Ebony Logins asked if they have land or want it?

JK says will find land, inspect it, and buy it. Is doing same in Saskatchewan.

EL asked is this first plant?

JK says yes, looking for good place with garbage. Pandemic is a factor. Sooke District reached out to him. He'd reduce the driving of waste to Hartland dump. Sooke's a good example for other communities cuz it's pretty.

EL asked profit-sharing with Sooke"

JK says yes, sharing profits to become a utility.

Jbateman asked if he's spoken to CRD.

JK says yes, preliminary, Capital region not interested. We think commercial haulers will make it viable in Sooke are. Including Langford & west shore.

JK this process used in over 300 private companies. He's got a standing order for distillate fuel to a place in California, could use all the waste in BC

Tony StP asked about wastes from the process.

JK fuel to export, carbon black to export, water, biochar ash, can't use glass, ceramic, minerals, gyproc, asbestos - they go to a tip.

TS asked can you use hogfuel

JK says yes, and hospital waste, recovering bits of metal too. Agricultural wastes too.

TS asked about re-using high grade plastic, pelletized and sold.

JK break it down to atoms, stabilize it. We are building Star Trek first generation replicators.

TS contract with California. Could the fuel be used locally?

JK yes, to generate electricity, go to Burnaby refinery.

Al Beddows asked where can we learn about you

JK www.ebqnr.ca

AB how do you make the heat?

JK Burning our wastes. The same gas we use to power a generator on site powers our plant.

JB you said 72,000 tons of greenhouse gas offset annually. Our Sooke footprint is 55,000 tons per year. Environmental footprint downstream of products sold?

JK we're making fuel from garbage.

JB not gasification? JK says not.

MT says JK & team coming to visit Sooke in March.

McInnis says we'll make clear forms for council of what Sooke needs to learn & what JK's team wants from us.

McMath asked about timelines for this as JK's first project.

JK figures starting in May or June.

TS entire waste stream?

JK says they'll take nearly all, use about 90% of landfill waste. Metals recovered, about 10% can't be used cuz glass/etc.

7.2. Quarterly Update from Fire Chief

- Presentation by Chief Ted Ruiter

TR has been here two months as chief. Staff made a budget.

Dispatch transition from Langford to Saanich, good transition, 95% success, small cost savings. Hired 5 new recruits, joint recruitment with Otter Point, training from January to June. Master Fire Plan first department meeting, another planned with Mitchell in a month, then a presentation to Council.

Renovations for Fire Administration Area: site drawings, permits, should start end of February.

Met with McInnis about wages. Been dealing with natural emergencies, atmospheric rivers, Tonga eruption, snapshot of things to come.

Hiring a new full-time position.

Canada Day fireworks? We have an expert renewing his licence, then weather-dependent scheduling.
37 incidents responded to since January 1.

JB asked about backyard burning bylaw

TR says it's a complicated bylaw, needs simplifying. Responded to 3 or 4 calls in 2 months.

JB directions resulting from Master Fire Plan?

TR a road to the future, money well spent.

MT says opioid crisis impacting Fire Dept

TR says staff has training to fight that battle, our hope is to foster relationship with BC Ambulance, want to have effective responses ie covid patient

McMath asks if Fire Department has a tiered plan if fire staff catches covid

TR says nothing specific, following best practises.

8. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

McInnis update tonight for the wastewater infrastructure expansion program. Deadline for a grant program has been extended to Feb 16, still getting application done. Need consent from property owners affected.

Surveyed 200 property owners in Kaltasin (92 responded) and 400 in Whiffin Spit (261 responded). Should have a report in March/April.

Looking for grant funding for both parts of wastewater program expansion.

Virtual & in-person consultation will be set up with property owners.

Bylaw for each service area must determine taxation for each service area.

TS residents are worried about paying now for future development, dcc fundable.

McInnes says those who benefit will pay for their service. A grant needed.

McInnis says our application is good quality.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

10. CONSENT AGENDA

THAT Item No. 10.1., be adopted by general consent.

10.1. Correspondence

- THAT the correspondence from January 1 through January 19, 2022

Ms Manning was allowed to ask a question,

Has no question after hearing McInnis speak on wastewater expansion.

Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of the District of Sooke - January 24, 2022

11. BYLAWS

11.1. Bylaw No. 829 - Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Proposed Boundary Adjustment for 7052

Maple Park Terrace Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Proposed Boundary Adjustment for 7052 Maple

Park Terrace - Pdf

THAT Council receive the Petition for Local Service Area for the property located at 7052 Maple Park Terrace (legally described as Lot 5, Section 21, Sooke District, Plan VIP70196); AND THAT Council give first, second and third reading to Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Amendment Bylaw No. 829 (147-41), 2021.

21 – 26

MT called question. All in favour, passed.

11.2. Bylaw No. 830 - Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Proposed Boundary Adjustment for 7059 Maple Park Terrace

Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Proposed Boundary Adjustment for 7059 Maple Park Terrace - Pdf

THAT Council receive the Petition for Local Area Service for the property located at 7059 Maple Park Terrace (legally described as Lot 10, Section 21, Sooke District, Plan VIP70196);

AND THAT Council give first, second and third reading to Sooke Core Sewer Specified Area Amendment Bylaw No. 830 (147-42), 2021.

27 – 32

MT called the question, all in favour, motion passed.

11.3. Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 837

Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 837 - Pdf

1) THAT Council give First and Second Reading to "Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 837 (728-04), 2022".

2) THAT Council give Third Reading to "Council Procedure Amendment Bylaw No. 837 (728-04), 2022".

A bylaw to permit Council and committee meetings to have all-virtual meeting,

Ms Mushata: electronic participation: staff has to send a lot of email prep and can't assist public during, IT support for council during hybrid and virtual meetings has not been budgeted for.

MT moved council give 1² & 3^{reading} called question, all in favour.

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

13.1. Rodenticide Use In BC - Correspondence from Sara Dubois

- Requested for discussion by Councillor Bateman

Correspondence from Sara Dubois-Rodenticide Use

THAT Council receive the correspondence regarding the Reduction of Rodenticide Use in BC, for information.

JB says: Letter from SPCA. 23 municipalities have banned rodenticides. We voted to support North Vancouver's ban on rodenticides, to make it province-wide. Staff of DOS is using traps, not poison. July 2021 ministry of environment put an 18 month ban on use of rodenticides. Mayor's on a task force.

MT is on local government working group on rodent management. Can bring concerns to MT and she'll bring to working group. Province wants to focus on prevention, work with pest control providers,

notes challenges like Surrey's ALR lands. Need follow-up on box/trap maintenance. SPCA and First Nations taking a particular interest. Rodents nesting in electric cars, chewing through corn-based insulation on wires.

MT called question, all in favour, motion passed.

14. COUNCIL VERBAL REPORTS

EL, McMath, nothing to report, TS nothing. JB meeting with coalition about establishing a residential treatment centre for addictions, will be at council meeting Jan31st. Annual meeting for family court. AB had another go-round on the OCP, can see light at end of tunnel. Writing an 18-page pre-amble. MT thanked all, her schedule is busy, will hand out awards next week to local business community. Job's Daughters (Masonic group) hosting a pageant in Sooke in March. Island Health has an immunization clinic at Seaparc.

Mayor made a new year's resolution to choose optimism.

Motion to adjourn, all in favour, passed.

15. ADJOURNMENT