



MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Ladysmith Seniors Centre

630 2nd Avenue

Council Members Present:

Mayor Deena Beeston
Councillor Ray Gourlay
Councillor Amanda Jacobson
Councillor Tricia McKay

Councillor Duck Paterson (*via Zoom*)
Councillor Marsh Stevens
Councillor Jeff Virtanen

Staff Present:

Allison McCarrick
Erin Anderson
Jake Belobaba
Sue Bouma

Nick Pescod
Julie Tierney
Hayley Young

1. CALL TO ORDER OF INAUGURAL MEETING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acting Mayor Tricia McKay called the Inaugural Meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

The Corporate Officer administered the Oath of Office to the Mayor and congratulated her on her Council position.

Mayor Beeston assumed the Chair.

3. MAYOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Mayor Beeston presented her inaugural address:

In a world where communities are the cornerstone of societal progress, the chance to serve and contribute to their growth is a profound honour and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve my community.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who placed their trust in me; to the friends, family and community members who encouraged and

supported me. Your belief in my capabilities has been the driving force behind my decision to serve. I am committed to working diligently every day to justify the faith you have placed in me. The journey to this point has been marked by the unwavering support of many individuals; your words of encouragement, advice and assistance have been invaluable. It is said it takes a village to raise a child, I believe it also takes a village to nurture a leader. I am fortunate to be part of a community that embodies this spirit of collective growth and support.

As the 23rd mayor in Ladysmith's history, I look forward to working closely with the Council and staff. Our collective efforts will be pivotal in addressing the needs and aspirations of our community. By fostering a collaborative environment, we can leverage our diverse skills and perspectives to create solutions that are not only effective but also inclusive. The Council and staff play a crucial role in the governance and administration of our community; their expertise, dedication and commitment to service are commendable. I am eager to learn from their experiences and work alongside them to achieve our shared goals. Together we will strive for excellence in every aspect of our service.

A thriving community is one where every member feels valued and heard. I invite you, the community members, to stay engaged and share your ideas. Your input is vital in shaping the future of our community. Whether through town hall meetings, surveys, or informal conversations, your voice matters. I am committed to maintaining open lines of communication and ensuring that your contributions are acknowledged and acted upon. The opportunity to serve my community is a privilege I do not take lightly. I am committed to working tirelessly to meet our community's needs and build a future that reflects our shared values and aspirations. Thank you once again to everyone who supported me on this journey; together we will achieve great things.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

CS 2025-066

That Council approve the agenda for this Inaugural Meeting of Council for March 18, 2025 as amended to include the following changes:

- Revisions to the first recommendation of Item 8.1 related to "Official Community Plan Bylaw 2022, No. 2200, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2205", as well as the associated bylaw.
- The addition of New Business Item 11.1, "Reporting on Items Removed or Deferred Prior to Publication of the Agenda"

Motion Carried

5. APPOINTMENTS

5.1 Cowichan Valley Regional District Director

CS 2025-067

That Council appoint Mayor Beeston as the Town of Ladysmith Director on the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board for the 2025 term.

Motion Carried

5.2 Signing Authorities 2025-2026

CS 2025-068

That Council appoint the following members of Council for payment signing authority at Ladysmith & District Credit Union and Municipal Finance Authority:

- Mayor Deena Beeston
- Councillor Ray Gourlay
- Councillor Tricia McKay
- Councillor Duck Paterson

Motion Carried

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Vanessa Daether, Executive Director, Cowichan Green Community

Vanessa Daether, incoming Executive Director of Cowichan Green Community, provided a video presentation that summarized the society's many programs and the organization's accomplishments over the past year. Ms. Daether thanked outgoing ED Judy Stafford as well as the staff and volunteers of the Cowichan Green Community for their hard work and support.

Council expressed their sincere gratitude for the dedication and efforts of the Cowichan Green Community team, acknowledging the significant impact of their work on the community.

7. MINUTES

7.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 4, 2025

CS 2025-069

That Council approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 4, 2025.

Motion Carried

8. COMMITTEE MINUTES

8.1 Committee of the Whole - March 11, 2025

CS 2025-070

That Council receive the recommendation from the March 11, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting regarding short-term rental regulation and direct staff to bring "Official Community Plan Bylaw 2022, No. 2200, Amendment Bylaw 2025, No. 2205" to a future meeting of Council for first and second readings.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Stevens.

CS 2025-071

That Council direct staff to prepare a bylaw to amend "Dog Licencing, Control and Pound Bylaw 1996, No. 1155", to ensure its compliance with the "British Columbia Guide Dog and Service Dog Act" [SBC 2015].

Motion Carried

CS 2025-072

That Council direct staff to send a letter to the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Branch 29 in Ladysmith, recognizing their outstanding contributions to marine safety and emergency response, and congratulating them on receiving the Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award.

Motion Carried

CS 2025-073

That Council direct staff to investigate potential hazards in buildings brought forward to the Committee by Councillor Paterson and return to Council with recommendations for next steps.

Motion Carried

9. REPORTS

9.1 Official Results of the 2025 Town of Ladysmith By-Election for the Office of Mayor

CS 2025-074

That Council receive the report from the Chief Election Officer dated March 18, 2025, regarding the Official Results of the 2025 Town of Ladysmith By-Election for the Office of Mayor held March 1, 2025.

Motion Carried

10. BYLAWS

10.1 Bylaw Status Sheet

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Reporting on Items Removed or Deferred Prior to Publication of the Agenda

CS 2025-075

That Council direct staff to provide a briefing to Council, as part of the weekly activity update, on any items that are deferred, amended, or removed prior to the agenda's publication.

Motion Defeated

OPPOSED: All members of Council.

CS 2025-076

That Council direct staff to prepare and present a report at a future meeting of Council outlining the operational considerations of providing a briefing to Council as part of the weekly activity update, on agenda items that are deferred, amended or removed prior to publication.

Motion Carried

OPPOSED: Councillor Gourlay.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

A member of the public congratulated the mayor on her new role on Council and inquired about the nature of the activity updates.

Another member of the public also congratulated the mayor and requested that members of Council and staff speak clearly into the microphones.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

CS 2025-077

That this Inaugural Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Motion Carried

CERTIFIED CORRECT



Mayor (D. Beeston)



Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)