



MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting

6:00 PM - Monday, October 2, 2023

Village of Fruitvale Council Chambers and Zoom Video Conference

Minutes of the Regular Council of the Village of Fruitvale Council held on Monday, October 2, 2023 in the Village of Fruitvale Council Chambers and Zoom Video Conference .

PRESENT: Mayor Morissette, Councillor Ellison, Councillor Mason, and Councillor Wenman

EXCUSED: Councillor Startup

STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer Lashar, Chief Financial Officer Partridge, Recording Secretary Halifax, Recording Secretary Gallamore, Public Works Foreman Startup

PUBLIC: 1 Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Morissette called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of respect, truth and reconciliation, we honour and thank the Indigenous Peoples on whose traditional and unceded lands we operate. We would also like to acknowledge the enduring presence of the Indigenous Peoples of this region.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RES-173-2023

Moved by Ellison

Seconded by Wenman

THAT the agenda be amended by moving item 12a to be dealt with after the Consent Agenda item 6a and adding 11e BV Blooming Society AND FURTHER THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

- A. Jacomien van Tonder (MTA Director) - update on current projects and activities

Jacomien van Tonder, Metal Tech Alley Director attended the Council meeting to update Council on the current projects and activities of the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation, Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society, and Metal Tech Alley.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Public Hearing held July 10, 2023

Staff was instructed to add the number of signatures on the petition, correct the street address of David White to 38 Davis Avenue and attach the written submissions to the minutes and then place the minutes on the November 6, 2023 regular meeting agenda for approval.

B. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 11, 2023

Councillor Mason asked that the minutes be amended by changing the motion in resolution RES-161-23 to read "THAT Councillor Mason be removed from creating the Accessibility Plan and the committee established and all documents be rescinded." and Section 13 to read "Councillor Mason would like an updated organizational chart that includes the new CFO and new employees. She also requested a list of all the committees established showing the council/designate appointments and portfolios."

RES-174-2023

Moved by Mason
Seconded by Wenman

THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting held September 11, 2023 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

C. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held September 13, 2023

RES-175-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Ellison

THAT the minutes from the Special Council Meeting held Wednesday, September 13, 2023 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. For Information Only

1. Building Permit Statistics to August 31, 2023

RES-176-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Mason

THAT the For Information Only items be received as presented.

CARRIED

7. STAFF REPORTS**A. T. Gallamore, Beaver Valley Youth Action Network Coordinator**

T. Gallamore spoke to her report.

B. J. Startup, Public Works Foreman - verbal report

J. Startup verbally reported on various public works items.

C. P. Lashar, Chief Administrative Officer

P. Lashar spoke to her report.

RES-177-2023

Moved by Ellison
Seconded by Mason

THAT the staff reports from T. Gallamore, J. Startup and P. Lashar be accepted as presented and appended to the minutes as available.

CARRIED

8. COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**Council Member Reports****a. Councillor C. Ellison****b. Councillor J. Mason**

Councillor Mason verbally reported on the success of the Kootenay Healthy Living Expo.

c. Councillor W. Startup**d. Councillor B. Wenman**

Councillor Wenman requested a tour of the water treatment plant be arranged.

e. Mayor/RDKB Director S. Morissette

Mayor Morissette spoke to his report.

RES-178-2023

Moved by Ellison
Seconded by Mason

THAT the Council reports be received as presented and appended to the minutes as available.

CARRIED

Committee of the Whole Recommendations

9. CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING ACTION

- A.** Email from A. Arnot - Request for speed control on Columbia Gardens Road in school and childcare zone

Mayor Morissette advised that the active transportation plan will address these concerns.

- B.** Email from Representative Advocates for Legalizing Aquamation in BC - Request for Support of Aquamation

A discussion took place on Aquamation. Council wants more information is needed before any support can be given.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Delegate CFO and Mayor to sign Land Lease Agreement with BC Housing

RES-179-2023

Moved by Wenman

Seconded by Mason

THAT the Village of Fruitvale enter into an agreement to lease the lands at 96 Deadmarsh Avenue to the Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society for a term of 60 years after an occupancy permit is issued for the lands, and with such minor amendments and such other documents as recommended by the municipal solicitor to implement the lease agreement; AND FURTHER THAT Mayor Steve Morissette and Chief Financial Officer Marcus Partridge, CPA, CGA, BComm., be authorized to execute said lease agreement on behalf of the Village of Fruitvale.

CARRIED

CAO Lashar excused herself from the meeting at 7:30 pm.

- B.** Budget Presentation

CFO Partridge presented the various draft 2024 budgets for discussion.

RES-180-2023

Moved by Mason

Seconded by Wenman

THAT a Special Council Meeting be held on October 16, 2023 at 5:45 pm to accept the draft budgets for BV Recreation, Cemetery and Water.

CARRIED

RES-181-2023

Moved by Mason
Seconded by Wenman

THAT the Village of Fruitvale eliminate the commercial garbage collection service AND FURTHER THAT the current garbage collection truck be downsized to accommodate the reduction of garbage collection.

CARRIED

RES-182-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Mason

THAT staff finalize the 2023 Solid Waste Preliminary Budget and close it off with the surplus on deficit going into general revenue AND FURTHER THAT the 2024 Solid Waste move into a one line item in the general budget.

CARRIED

C. Development Permit Application from 1925 Main Street

RES-183-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Mason

THAT a Development Permit to install a restaurant on the property located at 1925 Main Street, Lot 4, Plan NEP 20557, District Lot 1236, Kootenay Land District, PID 018-303-871 be approved subject to receipt of elevation plans, colour scheme and signage plan for all exterior building changes to ensure these changes reflect the OCP guidelines and meet the signage specifications.

CARRIED

D. Voyent Alert

RES-184-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Mason

THAT the Village of Fruitvale enroll in the Voyent Alert at quoted cost of \$2,465.00 for one year.

CARRIED

E. Beaver Valley Blooming Society

It was reported that due to ageing members, the Beaver Valley Blooming Society is possibly going to dissolve. A discussion took place on the hanging flower baskets.

RES-185-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Mason

THAT Council prefinance up to \$4,000.00 for the purchase costs of the downtown hanging flower baskets from the BV Blooming Society

CARRIED

12. BYLAWS/POLICIES**A. Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 846, 2023 - Third Reading and Reconsideration and Adoption****RES-186-2023**

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Ellison

THAT the Village of Fruitvale Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 846, 2023, a bylaw to amend the Village of Fruitvale Zoning Bylaw 846, 2013 to allow both a secondary suite within a single detached dwelling and an accessory suite in the principal dwelling on the parcel for the property located at 34 Davis Avenue (Lot 8, Plan NEP2642, District Lot 1236, Kootenay Land District, PID 015-158-195) be read a third time.

CARRIED

Councillor Mason Opposed

RES-187-2023

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Ellison

THAT the Village of Fruitvale Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 846, 2023, a bylaw to amend the Village of Fruitvale Zoning Bylaw 846, 2013 to allow both a secondary suite within a single detached dwelling and an accessory suite in the principal dwelling on the parcel for the property located at 34 Davis Avenue (Lot 8, Plan NEP2642, District Lot 1236, Kootenay Land District, PID 015-158-195) be reconsidered and finally adopted.

CARRIED

Councillor Mason opposed

B. Repealing Bylaw No. 958, 2023 - Reconsideration and Adoption**RES-188-2023**

Moved by Wenman
Seconded by Ellison

THAT the Village of Fruitvale Repeal Bylaw No. 958, 2023, to repeal the Corporation of the Village of Fruitvale Beer Garden Regulations Bylaw No. 425, 187 and all subsequent amendments thereto, be reconsidered and finally adopted.

CARRIED

C. Working Remotely Policy PER-2023-01 - Adoption of Policy

Staff was instructed to change the purpose of the policy to read "The purpose of this Policy is to provide employees within the workplace the flexibility to work remotely."

RES-189-2023

Moved by Wenman

Seconded by Mason

THAT the Working Remotely Policy PER-2023-01, being a policy to allow employees within the workplace the flexibility to work remotely, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

13. OPEN DISCUSSION (10 MINUTE LIMIT)

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

15. QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

16. IN CAMERA SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

RES-190-2023

Moved by Wenman

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:45 pm.

CARRIED

Chief Administrative Officer

Mayor



THE CORPORATION OF
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In the "HEART OF THE BEAVER VALLEY"

REPORT:

Date: October 2, 2023
To: Mayor and Councillors
From: Tammy Gallamore, Youth Coordinator
SUBJECT: **Beaver Valley Youth Action Network (BVYAN)**

The following is a summary report of the BVYAN to the end of September 2023.

September 6TH, 2023 – Beaver Valley Youth Action Network & Fruitvale Elementary discussed upcoming Leadership Journey. Dates set for October 30, 2023 – November 3, 2023. Geoff Harrison Trail Youth Network will again co-facilitate and Kate Friesen will mentor to prepare for taking over the Leadership Journey and Next Steps in 2024. Also, we will have a Grade 12 Mentor and Graduate of Beaver Valley Youth assisting as part of CAP Program.

September 13, 2023 – Basin Youth Network Coordinators Call

CYN Updates Coordinators discussed summer events and upcoming game plan. Mike Kent discussed the agenda for the upcoming BYN Coordinators Sessions Agenda in Rossland, BC on October 3-4, 2023.

September 25, 2023, – Basin Youth Network Coordinators

Zoom Call - Brittny Anderson, Nelson-Creston MLA and the Premier's Special Advisor on Youth and her team. Community youth networks to meet and liaise with Brittny Anderson, Nelson-Creston MLA and the Premier's Special Advisor on Youth. In her role Brittny is tasked with collecting the perspectives and opinions of young British Columbians and liaising with her cabinet minister colleagues to ensure these views are considered in government policy and decision making. Brittny is hoping to broaden her engagement efforts beyond the Council and chat with both youth and youth program administrators across the province to better understand youth priorities and perspectives.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Gallamore
BVYAN Coordinator



SUBJECT/TITLE

CAO Report to October 2, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the CAO Report for information.

ISSUE/PURPOSE

To provide Village of Fruitvale Council information on the operations of the Village to October 2, 2023.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Open communication and information

BACKGROUND

The CAO report provides information to Council regarding the up-to-date operations of the Village to ensure active communication between Staff and Council.

DISCUSSION

1. Bylaw officer report from Mauro:

Since last report, the Village received 7 complaints.

Two of the complaints concerned files already under investigation and another one was not enforceable. Three complaints were made under the Animal Responsibility Bylaw, of which two were for noise from barking dogs.

There are currently 11 files under investigation.

With the start of the academic year, the Bylaw Officer will resume attending the school zone on Columbia Gardens to promote compliance with the speed limits.

2. Water Works – from Jeff

- With the parks being shut down for the winter, I've taken Well # 1 offline. Well # 2 will go off line in the next week or so.
- A new UPS was installed at the Fruitvale Tank
- A new domestic water pump was installed at the Water Treatment Plant.
- New low-pressure gauges have been installed on the trains at the WTP. Two out of the four failed this month.
- We are still on Level 4 drought and still on Stage 3 restrictions. Going to Stage 2 at the beginning of October.
- Mazzochhi Park service was vectored out to see what kind of parts are needed to fix the broken valve. Parts have been ordered. This project will start once RDKB confirms when the park's water can be shut off.
- The Well Gensets have been awarded.
- Logging equipment is starting to be hauled out from behind Kelly Creek Gate.
- Kelly Creek and the reservoir have become quite dirty with the heavy rains.
- Waiting to hear back from BBA Engineering on a date for the annual dam inspection.

- The UVT monitor has been sent back to Trojan for either repairs or a new one.

3. Public Works

See separate report from Public Works foreman.

4. Corporate Services

- a. Attended signing of agreement with BV Nursery
- b. Budget meetings with CFO
- c. CAO attended UBCM with Mayor and councilors.
- d. CAO met with new Salmo CAO regarding intermunicipal agreement
- e. CAO signing documents with lawyers for affordable housing lease
- f. Meetings with BC housing
- g. Breakfast meeting with all BC CAOs
- h. Follow up meetings with Accessibility group
- i. Genset meetings for RFP with WSP
- j. RFP for sewer work
- k. Meeting with planner on development
- l. Attending West Kootenay Asset Management Quarterly meeting with CFO
- m. Meeting with commercial tenants
- n. Tax sale property complete
- o. Registration documents for affordable housing with BC housing
- p. Approval of agreement of operating terms for affordable housing

5. Former Middle School Project Master Planning.

- a. **Childcare project:** signed lease agreement with BV Nursery
- b. **Affordable Housing Lease:** BC assessment registration of building

Current Priorities

1. Agreements in place with for BV daycare with revisions for approval
2. DP approved for affordable housing

CONCLUSION

The CAO report contains information to Council since the last Regular Council Meeting.



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COUNCILOR ELLISON REPORT

Council Report for Council Meeting held on October 2, 2023

September 2023 Report

COMMITTEE/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS:

Personnel/Bargaining/HR Committee

- A Union Agreement was negotiated and ratified.

Council Spirit Events

BV May Days Liaison

- There will be a BV May Day Executive meeting held on October 16, 2023 to finalized the financial statements and current business for 2023 May Days.
- The BV May Days Executive is in the process of making a decision to Lead the Jingle Down Main Christmas celebration.

• **OTHER**

- I attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference September 17 to September 22, 2023.
 - It was a week full of interesting topics and speakers from all walks of life.
 - I particularly enjoyed the 10th Annual Resource Breakfast Series, even though it was a 7:00 engagement. There were three events hosted C3 Alliance Corporation.
 - ✚ Day 1 - The Honourable Josie Osbourn, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation was the speaker with Colleen Giroux-Schmidt, VP, Corporate Relations, Innergex as the Moderator.
 - ✚ Day 2 - The Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests was the speaker with Linda Coady, President and CEO, BC Council of Forest Industries and Lennard Joe, CEO, RPF BC First Nations Forestry Council as the Moderators.
 - ✚ Day 3 - The Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship was the speaker with Nalaine Morin, VP, Sustainability Skeena Resources as the Moderator.
 - The New Delegates Orientation was an informative session.
 - The Building Homes, Building Communities session focused on Rental Builds. This is where the Federal GST for rental housing was reiterated. Such things as the cost of construction, interest rates, the mix of housing, city wide zoning, secondary suites, along with many other facets that added to the discussion.
 - ✚ The housing industry doesn't have the capacity to build as fast as needed.
 - ✚ Identification of single family homes.
 - ✚ The development of a fair Property Tax as this impacts the economy.



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COUNCILOR ELLISON REPORT

- The Small Talk Forum was very interesting. Small Municipalities had the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Steve, Wes, Prab and I met with the Honourable Ravi Kohlon, Minister of Housing's Staff on Tuesday, September 18, 2023.
 - ✚ As a group we presented highlights the Daycare, Affordable Housing accomplishments as well as Village of Fruitvale's financial request to Minister Kohlon Staff.
 - ✚ Unfortunately, we did not receive the approval as hoped, however this provided us with some direction.
- The voting on the many resolutions took place on Wednesday and Thursday. My recommendation would be to reduce the number of resolutions presented.
- In my opinion the voting for the New Executive was handled very well.
- I attended a Walk-and-Roll Accessibility Tour which I found to be very eye opening.
 - ✚ There was information provided if help was needed on the accessibility committee, plan or feedback mechanism – Disability Alliance of BC is providing support.
- I found the closing address by Priemer Eby to be very enlightening, along with the Q&A session that was held.
- Thank you Prab, Misti, Tammy and Karen for all that you did to make this a beneficial event for me.

Respectfully submitted,
Councilor Catherine Ellison



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COUNCILLOR STARTUP REPORT

Council Report for Council Meeting held on October 3rd, 2023.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON APPOINTMENTS:

Lower Columbia Community Development Team Society (LCCDT): Did not attend, at UBCM. Below are highlights from the minutes:

1. Farmers markets continue to be a success and plans are to continue with them into the future.
2. Selkirk college is expanding services at the Trail Campus with the introduction of the Nursing program and potential student housing in 2024.

Lower Columbia Community Health Centre Network:

1. Locations for potential new health centre locations under review. The existing Beaver Valley Clinic is viewed as a viable site.
2. Proposal submitted to Ministry of Health and we await a response.

Beaver Valley Childcare Centre:

1. Mayor Morrisette, CAO Lashar, Councillor Ellison, and I attended a brief meeting with the Beaver Valley Childcare Society on Monday September 25th where the lease agreement was signed off. Preparations continue for opening in the new year.

Other:

1. Attended Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention September 17th to 23rd where I participated in several information sessions such as:
 - a. Building economic resiliency in communities
 - b. Tools, funding, and resources for local governments
 - c. Community accessibility and active transport
 - d. Emergency response and Provincial emergency legislation.
2. Reviewed information about the application to amend the zoning by-law 956 for 34 Davis Ave and support this application for the following reasons:
 - a. Having reviewed the building plans I believe this new structure will fit in and enhance the character of this neighbourhood and the Village, likely increase the value of surrounding homes, and will result in increased tax revenue for all residents of the Village.
 - b. The addition of a basement suite aligns with our Official Community Plan which encourages densification and infilling. Although in this case densification, in my mind, doesn't necessarily apply due the size of this lot and the fact that the lot also abuts on a lane. Densification is also strongly promoted by the Province. Infilling is also better for our infrastructure, we will not need to expand our underground services, at some point we'll need to upgrade the existing but given the age and size of the pipes we'll have to dig them up at some point anyhow.
 - c. The water connection already exists and will simply be upgraded to current standards. Our engineering consultant confirms that there will continue to be sufficient water flows to this branch of our water system with room to grow.



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COUNCILLOR STARTUP REPORT

- d. I do not believe traffic flow will increase significantly given the existing volume of traffic that use this corridor to access properties and residences on Coughlin Road.
- e. Additions to our housing stock is badly needed. Presently there is a severe housing shortage in our area and Provincially it has been termed as a crisis.
- f. I can find no evidence that rental properties create a greater potential for crime.
- g. The owner of this property has agreed to pay extra parcel taxes to cover the increased costs of water consumption thereby relieving any financial burden on the system and other users.
- h. Amendments to our zoning by-laws need to be weighed on the merits of each application. Previous amendments have no bearing on future applications thus the amendment before Council is not in principle precedent setting.

Respectfully submitted,
Councillor Wes Startup



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COUNCILLOR WENMAN REPORT

Council Report for Council Meeting held on Mon 02 Oct 2023

MEETINGS:

Council Meeting Mon 11 Sep 2023

- Tabled 34 Davis Ave – OCP & By-Law Variance

COMMITTEES:

RDKB

Committee – WKRHD – Nothing to Report.

RDKB Utilities Committee

- DCC Meeting Scheduled for 18 Oct at 11am
- By-Law Enforcement – Recommend two warnings then a fine
- 2016 Strategic Plan – Recommend- follow 2016 capital priorities.
- Request WSP look at Electric power from lines.

PORTFOLIOS/LIAISONS:

Public Works

- VoF- RDKB garbage composting transition-update-I am still getting questions about unused garbage bags.
- Transition plan during bear season

Finance

- 2023 Capital budget – ongoing – waiting for an update.
- At this point in time maybe guidance on the 2024 budget to VoF Staff or re-form the Finance Committee
- Wastewater budget – 8% increase in 2024? Is it required?

Selkirk Mountain Music Society

- Nothing to report.

Spirit Events

- Remembrance Day - Sat 11 Nov 2023
- Candy Cane Lane – Sat 02 Dec 2023

Downtown Businesses - Nothing to Report (October)

HR Committee – various meetings covering bargaining issues and concerns.



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COUNCILLOR WENMAN REPORT

OTHER ITEMS

- Key discussions on water with Director Grieve – specifically connections - ongoing.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 34 Davis - I will be supporting this third reading unless additional information is brought forward to change my support.
 - I recognize that there were 25, possibly more citizens that raised several issues or concerns. The request must be reviewed from both sides. The landowner who wishes the variance and the concerns raised by the surrounding residents.
 - All our RU1 properties (single family residential) allow 2 x dwelling and have done so since the By-Law 835 - 2011 OCP and the 2014 Zoning By-law 846. Accessory Suites were relaxed in By-Laws 909 and 930.
 - Clearly, our OCP approves the concept of in-filling within the context of protecting the neighbourhood character.
 - Our current Zoning by-law does not permit a secondary suite and an accessory suite on the same parcel. This is why the VoF Council has been asked to relax the By-Law.
 - Our By-Laws do allow secondary suites or accessory suites on RU1 properties.
 - My interpretation is that this is primarily based on utility upgrades, the size of the property and possibly accessibility to the accessory suites.
 - 34 Davis is quite large. It could quite possibly be sub-divided.
 - 34 Davis is accessible off Davis Ave and Halifax Lane.
 - 34 Davis will probably require utility upgrades. This will be covered by the landowner.
 - This does go beyond the normal utility requirement of a RU1 property. Therefore, the landowner should be paying two parcel taxes. It is my understanding that 34 Davis is already paying for two parcel taxes.
 - The OCP refers to infills affecting the nature of the area.
 - The landowner has provided a concept drawing of the proposed building and I am comfortable that it will not downgrade the general area of the Coughlin Road-Davis Ave community.
 - There was concern raised about water and sewer and water connections.
 - There is sufficient water flow for that area. The Village has refused other development proposals in other areas where the water flow was insufficient. The BVWS overall is healthy except for excessive water use in the summer.
 - Sewer collection is not a problem in that area.
 - Residents are concerned about an increase in population.
 - This is nominal as residential areas change in population over time. Houses



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COUNCILLOR WENMAN REPORT

- can change from 4 residents to 2 residents or vice-a-versa with every sale.
- Detrimental effect of renters
 - This to my knowledge has never been proven and with the cost of housing should be encouraged.
- Lack of secondary access on Coughlin Road and Davis Ave
 - It is a recognized problem; however, this is a problem in many areas in Fruitvale and in many Municipalities and it is not necessarily a sound argument to not approve this request.
- Preserving the Residential nature of the neighbourhood.
 - It is my understanding that the existing mobile home is being replaced by a house. This will not disturb or downgrade the neighbourhood. It may even enhance the neighbourhood.
- Clearly in-fill and secondary suites have been mentioned several times over in the residential Single-Family part of the OCP. The financial implication to the Village is minimal. The OCP clearly states in the Utilities portion of the OCP that we should minimize the length of utility extensions by encouraging in-fill, but we should also limit road disturbances.
- The OCP also refers to High-Density planning areas.
 - 34 Davis is not in a high-density planning area.
 - This is not a high-density project. This is a house with a secondary suite that is replacing a mobile home. It is recognized that it will have a larger footprint on the property, but that the property is quite large.
- SUMMARY- I will support 34 Davis Request for Variance of the OCP based on:
 - The OCP supports in-fill.
 - Overall property size would support two sub-division into two properties.
 - The landowner will cover utility upgrades.
 - The property will pay for two parcel taxes.
 - The house with the secondary suite will not downgrade the neighbourhood.
 - Water and Sewer are not a problem on Davis.

Respectfully submitted,
Councillor Bill Wenman



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MAYOR STEVE MORISSETTE REPORT

Report to Council for meeting dated October 2nd, 2023.

COMMITTEES

Personnel: No meeting to update.

South Columbia Mayors and Regional District Directors Coalition: No meeting to update.

Highway 3 Mayors Coalition:

We held our fall meeting in conjunction with UBCM on Sunday September 17th, @ 6pm
We prepped for our meeting with MOTI Rob Fleming & staff. We outlined our agreed on 5 priorities for Highway 3 as follows:

- 1-Creston Hwy 3 re-alignment which bypasses the Main Street.
- 2-Addition of a passing lane near Morrissey east of Fernie.
- 3-Addition of a north bound passing lane near the Brilliant Bluffs North of Castlegar.
- 4-Straightening of the Yahk S-curves which requires two bridges to accomplish.
- 5-Straightening the "Whipsaw curves" West of Princeton.

GENERAL UPDATE

- We held a signing ceremony at the Beaver Valley Nursery School on the evening of Sept 25th to officially sign the BV Nursery School as operators of our new Daycare.
- September 5th Marcus and I attended the KSCU re-opening of our Fruitvale branch to daily hours to better serve their customers and our residents.
- Attended UBCM from September 17th thru September 22nd. We had a meeting with the Ministry of Housing to discuss the Middle School and ideas we have around re-purposing it. While we received no commitments from the Ministry, they did talk about the viability of re-purposing the building and some options that may make it viable to repurpose for housing. We have a lot of work to do on that potential project.
- We each attended many workshops/seminars on Housing, Emergency preparedness, Decriminalization and public use, Building Economic Resiliency, Building Homes and building Community, Small Communities forum, Climate Action, Forest management, and our community, Preparing for future wildfires, and Creating climate Resilient Communities through Collaboration are just some of the formal programs I attended as well as we all attended the Resource Breakfast series at 7am three of the five mornings, the breakfast series were on Energy, Forestry, and mining with the appropriate Ministers speaking at each one.
- At UBCM there are multiple receptions each evening which are very valuable in networking with other communities and Ministries around common issues, how to be successful with different initiatives, pitfalls to avoid. I find the networking to be most beneficial, I was able to spend an hour or so with our MLA and finance Minister Katrine

Conroy and share how our projects are going and our needs going forward around the Middle School. Opportunities to have one on one conversations such as this in the past have led to us being successful with the Childcare grant and Affordable Housing support, this is invaluable work. Overall UBCM 2023 was successful for us in the connections made and lessons learned. The week is very grueling with long days of intense work but worthwhile investing in.

Regional District Director Report

BV Recreation:

East End Services:

Victim's Services located out of the Greater Trail RCMP detachment reported on their increased workload backed by the number of referred cases, they also reported a 6-7% increase in Provincial funding for their work.

East End Curbside Collection:

The upgrades to McKelvey Creek Landfill to make it a workable transfer station for the new organic waste program are substantially complete and are looking to be \$50-100K over budget on a \$3.8 million dollar budget so good work in a challenging construction climate. No more closures are required.

- If anyone wants to trade in for a bear bin the form is on-line and your trade-in will take place at the McKelvey Creek Landfill.
- The RDKB has penalties in place for non-pickup by the contractor. Manager Janine Dougall will enforce the contract with GFL, and all complaints are to be directed to the RDKB.

West Kootenay Transit Committee:

- Dr. Sarah Breen presented a study she had done "Determining the influence of Place on Public Transportation in Rural Communities". The study was done in Salmo and Ymir to determine the demand for and what improvements would be most impactful on the residents. The key findings were that people wanted improved transit with additional runs per day between Salmo and Nelson as well as the addition of Salmo - Trail runs. Residents also wanted reliable runs as often a run will be cancelled due to driver shortages leaving people stranded either in Nelson or Salmo.

The study also found that in rural areas the numbers of riders on runs does not indicate the runs' value as in urban areas. In rural areas there may be only a handful of riders but their need is great for transit as they have no other means of transportation.

- Upass is being developed for Selkirk College students, Upass is a significantly reduced-price bus pass that would be included with tuition at Selkirk College to benefit students. Findings show that Upass use often translates into life long transit use as students learn how best to use transit and carry on after they graduate.
- Local Transit operators were given information on driver training subsidies to encourage people to get the training and fill the well-paying jobs.

RDKB Board of Directors:

- Our latest Board of Directors meeting was held Sept 27th in Grand Forks.
- Several Electoral area variances that do not impact Fruitvale were voted on by electoral area Directors.
- We heard 2023 work plan updates from several services such as General Gov't, Building Inspection, Regional Solid Waste, 911 Emergency Communications, and Emergency Services.
- A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan is being worked on for all the Municipalities that don't have one including Fruitvale.
- The RDKB and RDCK are working on an MOU around the expectations and responsibilities of both parties with regard to the delivering and receiving of organics at the Salmo Regional Composting facility.
- Emergency Services were looking for guidance from the Board around their two Structure Protection Units. They no longer meet provincial standards but are still effective for our own use within the RDKB. This matters because we can no longer rent them to the Province to help out in a year like this one has been. When they are loaned out we are well compensated financially by the Province at approx. \$7000/day of use. It was decided we would spend \$60,000 to upgrade one of the units to provincial standards .

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Steve Morissette