



MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 4, 2024

7:04 p.m.

Council Chambers, Langley City Hall
20399 Douglas Crescent

Mayor Pachal
Councillor Albrecht
Councillor James
Councillor Mack
Councillor Solyom
Councillor Wallace
Councillor White

Staff Present: F. Cheung, Chief Administrative Officer (via video conference)
G. Flack, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
K. Hilton, Director of Recreation, Culture and Community Services
C. Johannsen, Director of Development Services
S. Kennedy, Fire Chief
K. Kenney, Corporate Officer
D. Leite, Director of Corporate Services
D. Pollock, Director of Engineering, Parks and Environment

1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Pachal began by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is on the traditional unceded territory of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui and Semiahmoo First Nations.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 4, 2024 regular agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. CONSENT AGENDA

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following item(s) be approved:

a. Adoption of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 26, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

2. Special (Pre-Closed) Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the minutes of the special (pre-closed) meeting held on February 26, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

See Consent Agenda

5. DELEGATIONS

a. Working for Peace in the Middle East

Toshio Rahman, Saeed Naguib, Shymaa Hashem

Mr. Rahman spoke regarding the following:

- he is representing over two hundred Langley constituents of all ages and diverse ethnicities, faiths, and walks of life, who have one thing in common: they want the war between Israel and Palestine to stop and for there to be peace now and forever in the region;
- as of today, 1,200 Israelis have been killed and 30,000 Palestinians have been killed, 70% of whom are women and children;
- 200 Israeli hostages were taken by Hamas who should be returned; and over 8,000 Palestinians have been taken illegally by Israel who should also be returned;
- children are starving to death in Gaza;
- basic infrastructure is destroyed;
- settlements which are illegal under International law are being built in the West Bank, and violence is taking place there as well;
- the future is bleak for Palestinians;

- we all want peace in this region; but unfortunately, though Canada has called for a ceasefire, it has been, and continues to be complicit in what is happening:
 - we provide arms to Israel, \$23 million per year on average
 - from October to December 2023, \$26 million of our tax money went to Israeli arms;
 - these arms are used to kill tens of thousands of children and women, injure triple that amount and bomb houses and refugee camps;
 - though the government will tell you these are non-lethal weapons, this equipment is clearly being used in conjunction with other pieces of technology to be lethal, as last week's UN report has said;
 - we have stopped funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which is the lifeline to aid for over two million refugees in the area; this was done because there were accusations made by the Israeli government that their employees were associated with Hamas;
 - these accusations have never been substantiated and as of last week, the EU has resumed their funding to UNRWA and added sixty million Euros more;
 - we have opposed the International Court of Justice's ruling that Israel is plausibly committing genocide, thereby providing cover for Israel at the international level, though the vast majority of countries of the world have supported the decision because when they joined the ICJ, they said they would follow the international law;
 - we have capped the number of Palestinian refugees coming into Canada to a thousand and made the process extremely difficult, for example, asking for a work history from the time an applicant was sixteen years old which we did not do for Ukrainian refugees, whose quota was six hundred thousand, and visas were processed at a much quicker speed;
- these are facts, he is not making them up, and can be found publicly;
- it is very obvious Canada has taken a side;
- our group here in Langley has worked for five months to pressure our elected officials at all levels to end Canada's complicity in genocide, apartheid, and occupation; and we have worked within our community to raise awareness of what is happening;
- we feel we have been successful to some regard but there is still a lot of work to do;
- we want Canada's hands to be clean because the truth is our country is more involved than we should be;

- he is here today to ask the City of Langley to pass a motion calling for a permanent ceasefire and an end to Canada's complicity in genocide, apartheid, and occupation of Palestine;
- whether or not you agree with what he has said, he believes the City of Langley has a very important role in what is happening:
 - Firstly, there are Jewish people, Muslims, Christians, Palestinians, Arabs, and Israelis who live right here in our city, who have been facing islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of discrimination;
 - the City has a duty to create a safe and inclusive space for all its citizens;
 - acknowledging what is happening and actively working for peace through the call for a permanent ceasefire and an end to Canada's complicity shows that your thinking about your citizens and their experiences are being acknowledged; it shows they are not alone in their own home;
 - secondly, through the motion we propose, the City has the ability to stand up with one strong voice against injustice;
 - if you think you are the kind of person who would have stood up and fought against the genocide of Indigenous people here on this Salish Coast, now is your chance to prove it;
 - if you think you are the kind of person who would have stood up against the horrors of the residential school programs here in Canada, now is your chance to prove it;
 - this City Council could join the dozens of other Councils across this nation that have passed relevant motions;
 - the City Council could use their relationship with MLAs and MPs to facilitate meetings with the activists to help put pressure on our government to end its sponsorship of this genocide;
 - the City could be a leader in bringing about an end to what is happening;
 - if this City Council isn't interested in taking action against the genocide, being committed in our name, that's fine, but if that is the case, please don't tell me or anyone else that you believe in human rights for all, or that all people are equal or you're an anti-racist or that you're a feminist;
 - this genocide and our response to it is the litmus test for the character for each and every one of us;
 - we'll be putting forth a notice of motion calling for the City of Langley to write to the Prime Minister demanding a permanent ceasefire and an end to Canada's complicity in both the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and the occupation of Palestine as a whole;
 - we understand that already Councillors Wallace, Mack, and Albrecht have signed a letter from BC government leaders to

the Canadian government calling for a ceasefire, and we thank you;

- we hope the support can be continued here in Langley from all councillors by our motion;
- we know if our City can pass this motion it will show, not only our community, but our country and the world, that we truly believe in a world of peace for all, and maybe, just maybe, our actions here in Langley will end the horrors that are happening in Palestine.

6. **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**

a. Langley Senior Resources Society

Loretta Solomon, Board President
Kate Ludlam, Executive Director

Ms. Ludlum, spoke regarding the following:

- advised of the services the society provides including:
 - Recreational, educational and social programming for seniors in Langley;
 - Adult day program for older adults who have physical and cognitive impairments, which is the largest adult day program in Fraser Health;
- has the largest independently owned and free-standing seniors centre in the province;
- on January 15th of this year the seniors centre suffered a catastrophic flood that affected almost every area of the society's operations and displaced many seniors who have come to rely on their organization for support and connection;
- two days after the flooding event, she attended a Chamber of Commerce event and spoke with both Mayor Pachal and the Township of Langley's Mayor regarding whether each municipality could provide some kind of relief funding as the Society was facing a \$50,000 insurance deductible; indicating to them that:
 - this year has been one of change and evolution for their society as they prepare to build capacity for the growing number of seniors that are coming to the society for assistance, support, and engagement;
 - All this work is now at risk of being compromised by the flood;
- thanked the City for the grant which has provided some financial relief so they don't have to worry about that big financial burden and further thanked the City on behalf of all the seniors in Langley;
- the society is very proud that it didn't have to cancel one program during that time, although they were closed for eight days, several community partners helped them to continue their various programs.

In response to a question from a Council member, Ms. Ludlum advised that:

- the restoration work is well underway, removal of walls and flooring have happened and today the insulation in the snooker room has been complete, which was the main area where the flooding occurred; they can now proceed to putting up new lighting, flooring, and drywall, following which they can set up the snooker tables again for members, which provides an important opportunity for social engagement, particularly for men;
- there is still some flooring that needs to be replaced; some of the funds raised through their community appeal will be used to update the piping, as well as installing higher toilets for the seniors and upgrading flooring in other areas of the centre not affected by the flood in order to create a consistent look throughout the centre;
- currently she cannot provide a timeline for completion of all the work; however, the centre is open and no programs have been cancelled; although they are being held in different spaces.

Mayor and Council presented members of the Board of the Langley Senior Resources Society with a cheque in amount of \$34,000.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- a. Upcoming Regular Meetings
March 18, 2024
April 8, 2024
- b. Council Advisory Bodies Update

8. BYLAWS

- a. Bylaw 3266 - 2024-2028 Financial Plan Bylaw
Final reading of a bylaw to adopt the Financial Plan 2024 - 2028.
It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the bylaw cited as "Financial Plan 2024 – 2028 Bylaw, 2024, No. 3266" be read a final time.
CARRIED
Opposed: Councillor Mack

b. Bylaw 3270 - Development Application Procedures Bylaw

First, second and third reading of a bylaw to establish procedures to amend the Official Community Plan, Zoning Bylaw or a Land Use Contract and to issue a permit under Part 14 of the Local Government Act.

Carl Johannsen, Director of Development Services introduced the purpose of the Bylaw, advising that:

- the main purpose of the new bylaw is to align the procedures City staff use for processing amendments to rezoning bylaws with recent changes to provincial legislation, noting that in November of last year, the provincial government amended the Local Government Act to prohibit public hearings for rezonings involving residential applications; accordingly the City is aligning its development procedures with that;
- the bylaw is also being updated to remove notice requirements for development permits, as the Local Government Act does not require notice or public input on form and character permits on properties that are already zoned for that use and density;
- the bylaw will also provide for earlier notice of development applications by putting up signage on subject properties that either have rezonings or amendments to the Official Community Plan or development permits or development variances permits, in order to let the public know earlier that there is a change being proposed for the property and to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions, get clarification, and provide input early on in the development application process; accordingly the signage will include contact information for the developer and staff;
- the signage will also include information as to when Council will be considering the application.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the bylaw cited as "Development Application Procedures Bylaw, 2024, No. 3270" be read a first, second and third time.

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED, in response to questions from Council members, Mr. Johannsen advised that:

- the Local Government Act requires notice to be given when Council is considering first reading of a rezoning with residential floor space;
- public hearings are no longer permitted for rezonings involving residential applications; however, members of the public may contact staff and the developer to ask questions, get clarification, and submit written comments earlier in the development application process, all of which which may help influence the design of the development;

- a new portal will be available on the City's website to provide information on active development applications and contact information for any questions the public may have;
- the proposed bylaw has been reviewed by the City's solicitor and was developed through review of other municipalities' development application procedures bylaws, and review of opinions, papers, and webinars of other legal experts on the new legislation.

THE QUESTION WAS CALLED and the motion was

CARRIED

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. 2024 Community Grants

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT City Council award community grants totalling \$153,938.62 to the following organizations:

(SEE NEXT PAGE)

Bard in the Valley	\$ 15,000.00
BGC – Boys & Girls Club of Langley	\$ 4,000.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Langley	\$ 2,500.00
Care for Women Foundation	\$ 3,000.00
Douglas Park Pickleball	\$ 5,000.00
Downtown Langley Business Association - Arts Alive Festival	\$ 12,500.00
Encompass – Best Babies	\$ 3,000.00
Langley Animal Protection Society (LAPS)	\$ 5,000.00
Langley Community Farmers Market	\$ 3,000.00
Langley Community Services Society – Global Fest	\$ 5,000.00
Langley 4H District Council	\$ 150.00
Langley Flippers Swim Club	\$ 2,000.00
Langley Fundamental Middle & Secondary Dry Grad	\$ 500.00
Langley Hospice Society	\$ 1,250.00
Langley Lawn Bowling Club	\$ 1,760.00
Langley Literacy Association	\$ 2,500.00
Langley Meals on Wheels Services Society	\$ 4,513.62
Langley Rotary Clubs – RibFest Langley	\$ 5,000.00
Langley Scholarship Committee	\$ 4,950.00
Langley Senior Resources Society	\$ 34,000.00
Langley Senior Secondary School Dry Grad	\$ 500.00
Pitch-In Canada	\$ 425.00
PLEA – Children on the Street	\$ 1,000.00

RE Mountain Secondary School Dry Grad	\$ 500.00
Ron Cares Society – Community Care Kit Program	\$ 1,750.00
Rotary Club of Langley	\$ 2,100.00
Run for Sobriety Association	\$ 1,500.00
Silver Diamond Country Dancers	\$ 1,000.00
Southgate Church Easter Event	\$ 1,000.00
St. Joseph's Church – Soup Kitchen	\$ 1,000.00
Terry Fox Run	\$ 1,300.00
Salvation Army Gateway of Hope	\$ 5,000.00
Vancouver Area Youth Arts – Formerly KPU Music Fest	\$ 3,000.00
Volunteer Cancer Drivers	\$ 1,000.00
Waceyia Metis Society	\$ 10,240.00
Youth Parliament	\$ 1,000.00
Zajac Ranch Society	\$ 7,000.00
	\$ 153,938.62

BEFORE THE QUESTION WAS CALLED, in response to questions from Council members, Mr. Leite advised that:

- the list of organizations awarded community grants and the amounts is posted to the City's website for information;
- grants are funded through casino proceeds; in accordance with the City's Casino Proceeds Policy, \$168,000 is allocated annually towards grants which represents 3% of casino proceeds received;
- Since the City started receiving casino proceeds in 2006, the City has contributed \$2,282,199 in grants to community not for profits and community organizations.

10. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Motions/Notices of Motion

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:30 pm.

CARRIED

Signed:

MAYOR

Certified Correct:

CORPORATE OFFICER