



**REGULAR MEETING OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting

<https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/council/watch-council-meetings>

PRESENT: Mayor J. Crompton
Councillor A. De Jong
Councillor R. Forsyth
Councillor J. Ford
Councillor J. Grills
Councillor D. Jackson
Councillor C. Jewett

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen
General Manager of Corporate and Community Services, T. Battiston
General Manager of Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey
Interim General Manager of Resort Experience, T. Metcalf
Director of Planning, M. Kirkegaard
Director of Finance, C. Price
Manager of Communications, M. Comeau
Municipal Clerk, A. Banman
Planner, S. Johnson
Legislative and Insurance Coordinator, L. Wyn-Griffiths
Council Coordinator, N. Cooper

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. Crompton recognized that the Meeting is being held on the traditional territories of the Lil'wat Nation and the Squamish Nation.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor J. Grills

That Council adopt the Regular Council Meeting Agenda of April 21, 2020.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By Councillor A. De Jong

Seconded By Councillor C. Jewett

That Council adopt the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2020.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Emergency Operations Centre COVID-19 Update

A presentation regarding the Emergency Operations Centre COVID-19 update was given by Chief Administrative Officer Virginia Cullen, Director of Finance Carlee Price, General Manager of Infrastructure Services James Hallisey, and Interim General Manager of Resort Experience Toni Metcalf.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Questions were submitted in advance of the Meeting by email.

Sharmain Spires, re: Re-Opening of Municipal Services

Ms. Spires asked if FireSmart services, the Municipal Library and the Meadow Park Skating Rink could be reopened in a limited capacity.

Mayor J. Crompton responded that this is the direction the RMOW hopes to take moving forward, but there is not a rush to get there. He noted that there is work being done to find ways to re-open safely. Mayor J. Crompton added that Whistler takes direction from Vancouver Coastal Health. He added that the FireSmart program may be able to start sooner rather than later.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

New Chief Administrative Officer

Mayor J. Crompton welcomed Virginia (Ginny) Cullen as RMOW's new Chief Administrative Officer, and noted that her first official day as CAO was April 20, 2020. He noted that Ginny has been embedded into the RMOW's operations and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on a volunteer basis for the past four weeks, and has now assumed all the responsibilities of the CAO role, including EOC Director. Mayor J. Crompton noted that Ginny Cullen comes to the RMOW from her previous role as Chief Operating Officer at BGC Engineering where she led operations and strategic planning. Mayor J. Crompton added that Mike Furey will support the transition which includes providing support for business continuity, municipal fiscal review and provincial engagement on tourism recovery, and noted that Mike Furey will also be focused on finalization of the RMOW's Official Community Plan and completion of related Agreements with Squamish First Nation and Lil'wat First Nation. He added that Whistler is fortunate to have Mike continue with the RMOW until June and benefit from his last nine years with the RMOW during these challenging times.

Easter Weekend

Mayor J. Crompton thanked all the people who decided to honour the request to not visit Whistler over the holiday weekend. He noted that it was the quietest Whistler Easter Weekend in a very long time.

Whistler Podcast

Mayor J. Crompton noted that the latest Whistler Podcast is a conversation with our RCMP Officer in Charge Kara Triance regarding policing during a pandemic, and the next episode features Greg McDonnell a Whistler clinical counsellor. They will be focusing on how to deal with the isolation of this pandemic in a healthy way.

Bear Activity

Mayor J. Crompton noted that the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has received reports of black bears in the Nicklaus North and Whistler Cay neighbourhoods. Bears have been entering backyards and patios to gain access to barbecues and other attractants. He asked the community to be extra vigilant at this time and ensure all attractants are secured:

- Always burn barbecues clean and remove all grease and food scraps after every use.
- Remove all bird feeders.
- Ensure that garbage, recycling, compost and all pet foods are properly stored in a secure building (not on the patio, porch or car).

He advised people to report any bears in residential areas by phoning the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277. Early reporting allows the COS to intervene before a bear becomes habituated and allows them to shepherd the bear back into the wild.

Valley Trail Guidelines

Mayor J. Crompton advised that new guidelines for the Valley Trail were released to help allow for physical distancing. These include:

- No groups.
- When passing users going the same direction: wait until there is at least 2m of space to pass.
- When passing users going in the opposite direction: move to the far right of the trail, walk single file.
- Leash dog(s).
- Avoid the Valley Trail during busy periods.

He noted that signage has been added along the Valley Trail to further share these guidelines, and thanked all those who have been respectful of the municipal park closures, especially during the long weekend and warmer weather. For the latest COVID-19 information from the RMOW [whistler.ca/covid19](https://www.whistler.ca/covid19).

Alta Vista Services Upgrade Project

Mayor J. Crompton noted that Council has awarded the contract for the first phase of the Alta Vista Services Upgrade Project to upgrade critical water and sewer infrastructure in the Alta Vista neighbourhood. The Alta Vista services upgrade will take place in three phases, with the first phase occurring between mid-May and November 2020. Phase 1 of the Alta Vista Services Upgrade Project includes replacing water, sewer and storm water infrastructure. The water and sewer pipes in Alta Vista are some of the oldest utility pipes in Whistler. The other phases will take place in 2021 and 2022. This marks the first capital project the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) has advanced since the COVID-19 crisis began. The Province of British Columbia has approved construction of essential services as long as safe work procedures are followed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All RMOW contractors must abide by these procedures. Given the global economic uncertainty, which will affect tourism levels, and the risks to municipal revenue sources, the RMOW is currently working through a process to review its financial situation. This will take into consideration a review of its spending levels while balancing the need to maintain critical infrastructure. Consideration will also be given to investments that may support Whistler's local economy and recovery efforts, so Whistler

is in a strong position to welcome visitors back when the time is right. Details on the Alta Vista Services Upgrade Project are available at whistler.ca/AltaVistaupgrades.

Court of Appeal of British Columbia Case Dismissed

Mayor J. Crompton noted that on April 7, 2020, the Court of Appeal of British Columbia dismissed the appeal of a case against the RMOW concerning the municipality's tourist accommodation regulations. The Phase 2 covenant and bylaws requiring the strata units to be placed in a rental pool operated by a single licensed rental pool manager were challenged and upheld. The Court of Appeal decided that the RMOW does have the statutory authority to enact the zoning amendment bylaw. The Court of Appeal concluded that the covenant did not exceed the RMOW's statutory authority, and it is not vague or uncertain by requiring the use of a rental pool arrangement. The decision upholds the municipality's regulation of the approximately 4,000 Phase 2 hotel accommodation units in Whistler, which is the core bed base of visitor accommodations for the resort, and is one of Whistler's competitive advantages. Mayor J. Crompton noted that this is an incredibly important decision for Whistler as it confirms the legality and efficacy of some of our most important tourism management tools.

Residential Yard Waste Disposal

Mayor J. Crompton noted that free residential yard waste disposal is now available at the Function Junction Waste Depot. The depot is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Commercial waste and trailers are not permitted at the Function Junction Depot. Residential loads larger than a pickup bed full must be dropped off at the Callaghan Transfer Station. Yard waste drop off is not available at the Nester's Waste Depot. More information can be found online at whistler.ca/YardWaste.

2020 Property Taxes

Mayor J. Crompton noted that Council sympathizes that some residents and businesses may have significant concerns about paying their 2020 property taxes. He advised that for homeowners, the Province of British Columbia has a property tax deferral program that some residents may qualify for (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/defer-taxes>). The RMOW will share any updates related to property tax payments online at whistler.ca.

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Earth Day – April 22, 2020

Mayor J. Crompton noted that April 22, 2020 is Earth Day. Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement and this year is the 50th anniversary. He noted that a healthy natural environment in Whistler is critical to our ability to deliver world class tourism, recreation and a high quality of life. Mayor J. Crompton hoped Earth Day motivates people to get involved in climate action, highway clean-ups, zero waste, ecosystem rehabilitation or biodiversity protection and advocacy. Mayor J. Crompton also noted that AWARE is holding an online meeting.

Condolences

Mayor J. Crompton shared his deepest sympathies and condolences with the residents of Nova Scotia over the senseless killings in Portapique. Whistlerites and Canadians across the Country join Nova Scotia mourning the loss of these lives. As a community served by the RCMP Mayor J. Crompton especially acknowledged the loss of Constable Heidi Stevenson. He added that Whistler is grateful for the people who put their lives at risk every day to keep us safe here in Whistler and across Canada.

Councillor C. Jewett

Councillor C. Jewett noted that outreach services are available at mywcsc.org including help with applying for government grants, mental health needs and the food bank. She also noted the great work that Arts Whistler is doing and encouraged the community to go to the Arts Whistler website.

Councillor A. De Jong

Councillor A. De Jong noted that this April has been the driest month since the mid-seventies, and reminded everyone to be vigilant with keeping their properties FireSmart.

Councillor J. Grills

Councillor J. Grills offered his condolences to the people of Nova Scotia, and requested that the RMOW flies a Nova Scotia flag on one of the municipal flag poles.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

7.1 DP1688 - 7226 Fitzsimmons Road North - Whistler Community Church

Moved By Councillor D. Jackson

Seconded By Councillor A. De Jong

That Council approve the issuance of Development Permit DP1688 for the proposed new community church at 7226 Fitzsimmons Road North, as illustrated on the architectural drawings A0.00, A0.02, A1.00, A2.01, A3.00, A4.00, A4.01, A9.00-9.03, SK01-02, dated March 8, 2020, prepared by Air Studio Architecture attached as Appendix "C" to Report No. 20-038 and landscape plan L1 prepared by Tom Barratt dated October 24, 2019 attached as Appendix "D" to Administrative Report No. 20-038; and

That Council direct staff to advise the applicant that, prior to issuance of the development permit, the following terms and conditions must be completed to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Resort Experience:

1. Provision of a letter of credit, or other approved security, in the amount of 135 per cent of the costs of the hard and soft landscape works as security for the construction and maintenance of these works; and

That Council authorize the amendment of the existing development covenant BT350435 to remove provisions related to the subdivision of the subject church site, which no longer apply, and to reflect the proposed development as illustrated in the referenced development permit drawings; and further

That Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the necessary legal documents for this application.

CARRIED

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Notification of Community Enrichment Program Funding

Mayor J. Crompton announced the following funding for the Community Enrichment Program:

Howe Sound Women's Centre Society	\$20,000
Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society	\$7,000
Sea to Sky Community Services Society	\$12,000
Whistler Community Foundation	\$4,000
Whistler Community Services Society	\$31,045
Whistler Multicultural Society	\$5,121
Zero Ceiling Society of Canada	\$13,000

Mayor J. Crompton noted that given the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant impacts to our community, Council reviewed this year's applications with the scrutiny around the very different community needs we have in 2020 compared to an average year. As well many organizations who applied for the grant are simply not operating their programs at this time. The program will be reviewed again later in the year.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Light Up Request - Europe Day in Canada File No. 3009.1

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor R. Forsyth

That correspondence from Brice de Schietera requesting that the Fitzsimmons Bridge be lit blue and yellow on May 9, 2020 in support of Europe Day in Canada be received and the bridge lit.

CARRIED

9.2 RZ1152 Whistler Mountain Ski Club Cabin File No. RZ1152

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor R. Forsyth

That correspondence from Paul Hothersall, regarding RZ1152 Whistler Mountain Ski Club Cabin be received and referred to staff.

CARRIED

9.3 5G Safety Concerns File No. 3009

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor J. Ford

That correspondence from Wolfgang Lindemann, regarding 5G safety concerns be received and referred to staff.

CARRIED

9.4 RMOW Staffing During the COVID-19 Crisis File No. 3009

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor R. Forsyth

That correspondence from Peter Reynolds, regarding RMOW staffing during the COVID-19 crisis be received and referred to staff.

CARRIED

9.5 Housing Job Match File No. 3009

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor D. Jackson

That correspondence from Rhonda L. Millikin, regarding a housing job match program be received and referred to staff.

CARRIED

9.6 Lighting at Lost Lake File No. 3009

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor D. Jackson

That correspondence from Rhonda L. Millikin, regarding lighting at Lost Lake be received and referred to staff.

CARRIED

10. TERMINATION

Moved By Councillor C. Jewett

Seconded By Councillor J. Ford

That the Regular Council Meeting of April 21, 2020 be terminated at 7 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor, J. Crompton

Municipal Clerk, A. Banman