Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

Council Present: Deputy Mayor E. Fast; Councillors S. Gibson, M. Gill, G. Peary, J. Redekop, P. Ross, and C. Wiebe

Staff Present: Director of Administration and Corporate Planning - T. Strong; Acting Director of Engineering - J. Gordon; and Committee Secretary - E. Storrier

Staff Present for a Portion of the Meeting: City Manager - G. Guthrie; Director, Development Services - G. Acheson; Manager, Development Approvals - G. Boyle; Manager, Transportation and Drainage - A. Kastelein; Economic Development Manager - J. Teichroeb; and Assistant Property Manager - B. Flitton

Media Present: Abbotsford News, Shaw Communications Inc.

Public Present: 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Fast called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

.1 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - September 9, 2002

Some Councillors believed that the intent of Resolution No. E268-2002 concerning the Development Variance Permit for the Salvation Army, was to refer the matter back to the committee to find an alternate location, rather than deny the application. Others believed denial of the application was correct, in order to allow the Salvation Army to move ahead. It was agreed to reconsider the item at the next Executive Committee meeting, when full Council is present.

Moved by Councillor Gill, seconded by Councillor Redekop, that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of Council held September 9, 2002, be adopted, with a notation that Resolution E268-2002 be reconsidered at the September 30, 2002, Executive Committee meeting.

E273-2002 CARRIED.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

3. BUSINESS OUT OF MINUTES

.1 By-law No. 1168-2002, "Noise Regulation By-law, Amendment By-law No. 1" - Reconsideration (3900-01)

Mayor Ferguson, at the September 9, 2002, Executive Committee meeting, served notice of motion, under Section 219 of the Local Government Act, to reconsider By-law No. 1168-2002, "Noise Regulation By-law, Amendment By-law No. 1". In Report No. ADM53-2002 dated September 10, 2002, the Director of Administration and Corporate Planning, provided additional information, and advised that the City could continue to regulate the use of audible bird scare devices in its Noise By-law. The cost of administering and enforcing the guidelines would be borne solely by the City, however, necessitating hiring additional staff to reduce response time to by-law complaints.

G. Archibald, 35575 Hallert Road, urged Council to ban the use of propane cannons altogether, because her family life and home business were suffering from the noise of the cannons. Her family had previously owned a blueberry farm, and she believed other methods of bird control, such as netting, were as effective as the cannons.

C. Groves, 30523 Burgess Avenue, spoke to her submission dated September 16, 2002, and requested a total ban on noise scare devices. She believed propane cannons should not be included in provincial farm legislation, and that the Ministry of Agriculture guidelines were inadequate. She suggested Section 7 of the proposed bylaw be amended, rather than deleted, to include a later start time, larger limits on acreage per cannon, change of frequency to 15 minutes, obtaining consent of neighbours, and eliminating noise devices within one mile of schools, libraries, hospitals and care homes.

R. Clapham, 324 Lefeuvre Road, spoke to his submission dated September 16, 2002, and the attached decision of the Farm Practices Board dated September 25, 1997. His letter outlined noise pollution caused by the number of cannon detonations per hour, extrapolated to number of detonations per season; encouraged monitoring decibel levels; and the need to revise the Ministry of Agriculture guidelines to bring an end to the friction between farmers and non-farmers on this issue. He suggested a partnership with the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV) to conduct a full impartial study of the issue of propane cannons, for consideration in the fall of 2003. The UCFV had recently applied for a Provincial grant to conduct the study.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford
held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

Councillors believed the guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Farm Practices Board were insufficient to properly regulate the use of audible bird scare devices, and forcing the City to enforce the guidelines through its bylaw was another case of downloading costs from the Province. Through information gathered from the proposed study by UCFV, and discussions with the industry and the Ministry, the eventual elimination of propane cannons may be possible. With regard to the balance of the amendments to the Noise Bylaw, it was agreed that staff would resubmit the bylaw after receiving comments from Council.

Moved by Councillor Peary, seconded by Councillor Redekop, that Report No. ADM 53-2002 dated September 10, 2002, be received from the Director of Administration and Corporate Planning; and Bylaw No. 1168-2002, "Noise Regulation By-law, Amendment By-law No. 1", be referred back to staff to consult with the City Solicitor and work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, residents and the industry, to develop a strategy to ultimately eliminate the use of propane cannons.

E274-2002 CARRIED.

.2 Riverside Street and Harris Road Intersection (5460-04/1)

Report No. ENG59-2002 dated September 12, 2002, from the Manager, Transportation and Drainage, discussed the concerns of area residents regarding the installation of a signal at Riverside Street and Harris Road intersection, and the potential for the signal to generate increased traffic through Matsqui Village.

One Councillor questioned how much time was saved by travelling to Mission via Riverside Street versus the Harris Road intersection, and suggested a traffic circle as a traffic calming device on Riverside Street. Staff did not know the exact time saved and would work with the residents and the Traffic and Safety Committee to consider traffic calming devices.

Moved by Councillor Wiebe, seconded by Councillor Redekop, that Report No. ENG 59-2002 dated September 12, 2002, be received from the Manager, Transportation and Drainage, discussing options for the Riverside Street and Harris Road intersection.

E275-2002 CARRIED.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

4. DELEGATIONS

   .1 S. Martens, Mennonite Central Committee, Van City Credit Union Grant Finalist

S. Martens, on behalf of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), outlined the joint project submitted by MCC BC Employment Development and Pacific Parklands Foundation to Van City Credit Union for its one million dollar grant. The MCC is one of three grant finalists out of 147 applications, for its proposal to transform a former commercial gravel pit in Aldergrove Lake Regional Park into a wildlife sanctuary and recreational open space. With a total cost of approximately $5 million, the project would provide work experience and skills enhancement for unemployed and underemployed people over a period of five years.

Council unanimously supported the project and encouraged Van City members to cast their affirmative vote prior to the October 15, 2002, deadline.

   .2 M. Bowling, Proposed Power Line to Service Sumas Energy 2 Power Plant

The delegation of M. Bowling, discussing the affects of the electro magnetic fields from the proposed power line required to serve the Sumas Energy 2 power plant, was withdrawn at the delegate's request.

5. REPORTS

5.1 ADMINISTRATION

   .1 Proposed Community Charter (0135-20)

Report No. ADM52-2002 dated September 10, 2002, from the Director of Administration and Corporate Planning, provided further information on the proposed Community Charter. Several sections of the proposed legislation need clarification and/or amendments, including local government authority, powers and autonomy, legislated liability protection, and permissive tax exemption for Class 4 and Class 5 industries. These and other issues will be debated at the 99th Annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference in Whistler, September 23 to 27, 2002.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

Moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Gill, that Report No. ADM 52-2002 dated September 10, 2002, be received from the Director of Administration and Corporate Planning, providing information on the proposed Community Charter; and a copy of the report, with attachments, be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce.

E276-2002 CARRIED.

5.2 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

.1 Vanderpol’s Eggs Ltd. (Jake Kobes), 3911 Mt. Lehman Road, Agricultural Land Reserve application (3040-20/A02-004)

Report No. DEV160-2002 dated September 10, 2002, from the Senior Planner, recommended support for the Vanderpol’s Eggs Ltd. (Jake Kobes) Agricultural Land Reserve application to permit a non-farm use, including warehouse and nut processing, at 3911 Mt. Lehman Road. The current zoning, General Industrial Zone (I2), permits the industrial use proposed, which will use product from the existing egg processing operation.

Moved by Councillor Wiebe, seconded by Councillor Gibson, that Report No. DEV160-2002 dated September 10, 2002, be received from the Senior Planner; and: (1) the application by Vanderpol’s Eggs Ltd. (Jake Kobes) for property located at 3911 Mt. Lehman Road, be forwarded to the Agricultural Land Commission, with support; and (2) the Mayor and Director of Administration and Corporate Planning be authorized to execute all documents related to this matter.

D. Krahn, Krahn Engineering Ltd., on behalf of Vanderpol's Eggs Ltd., advised that the application is in three phases: expansion to the existing building for egg breaking, boiling and cooking; a new building for the production and warehousing of nuts; and future expansion of the Phase 2 building. The intent is to relocate the Brookside Foods Ltd., nut processing operation from Townline Road to the subject property, as the business expands.

The motion was then put and

E277-2002 CARRIED.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

.2 K. and S. Chahal, 32076 Astoria Crescent, Discharge of LUC No. 177; Accessory Secondary Suite (3360-20/R02-022)

Moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Redekop, that Report No. DEV 143-2002 dated September 10, 2002, be received from the Assistant Planner; and (1) staff prepare and present a bylaw discharging Land Use Contract No. 177 for the K. and S. Chahal property, located at 32076 Astoria Crescent, to permit the residential building on the lot to contain an accessory secondary suite; and (2) the Mayor and Director of Administration and Corporate Planning be authorized to execute all documents related to this matter.

E278-2002 CARRIED.

.3 North Central Municipal Association, Proposed Union of British Columbia Municipalities’ resolution regarding the export of BC Hydro power (5280-01)

At the July 19, 2002, Regular meeting of Council, staff was asked to seek clarification regarding the intent of resolution seven, proposed by the North Central Municipal Association regarding BC government energy policy issues. Report No. DEV162-2002 dated August 29, 2002, from the Assistant Planner, explained that the intent of the proposed resolution is to require BC Hydro to give independent power generators access to export markets and to upgrade the transmission system in order to facilitate additional exports. While the City of Abbotsford can support the first half of the resolution, which would require BC Hydro to export only excess energy not required by BC customers, the second half could be seen, by some, as an endorsement for new power lines through the Fraser Valley.

Moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Gill, that Report No. DEV162-2002 dated August 29, 2002, be received from the Assistant Planner, excluding staff’s suggested wording on page 2; and the North Central Municipal Association be notified of the City of Abbotsford’s concerns regarding a proposed Union of British Columbia Municipalities’ resolution regarding the export of BC Hydro power.

E279-2002 CARRIED.
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of the City of Abbotsford
held September 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

.4 Development Services Building Report, August 2002

The Director of Development Services presented the Development Services Building Report for August, 2002. Questions from Councillors included the feasibility of reducing length of time for issuance of single family dwelling building permits; and examining time for building permit issuance in neighbouring jurisdictions. Staff advised that a report was forthcoming on initiatives being taken to increase productivity in the department, using existing resources.

Moved by Councillor Wiebe, seconded by Councillor Gill,
that Development Services Building Report, dated August 2002, be received.

E280-2002 CARRIED.

5.3 ENGINEERING

.1 Improvements to Engineering Department Project Planning and Communication (1470-01)

In Report No. ENG 58-2002 dated September 11, 2002, the Acting Director of Engineering, reviewed improvements to project planning and communication, including enhanced contact with residents; reassignment of resources on critical projects; publication of an annual construction plan; review of traffic safety by the Safer City and Traffic and Safety Committees; public meetings; and development of a review panel for resolution of residents' disputes.

Moved by Councillor Wiebe, seconded by Councillor Peary, that Report No. ENG 58-2002 dated September 11, 2002, be received from the Acting Director of Engineering, discussing improvements to project planning and communication.

Suggestions were made by Councillors to include an estimated time for completion of a project and to coordinate with other agencies, e.g., School District No. 34.

The motion was then put and

E281-2002 CARRIED.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**

.1 **International Joint Commission Health Professionals Task Force**

Councillor Ross announced the International Joint Commission's Health Professionals Task Force invitation for public comment on human health issues related to transboundary environmental concerns, at its meeting on Friday, September 20, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Delta Vancouver Suites, 550 West Hastings Street, or e-mail concerns to www.houstonj@ottawa.ijc.org.

.2 **Motion to Close**

Moved by Councillor Gibson, seconded by Councillor Wiebe, that the September 16, 2002, Executive Committee meeting be closed to the public to consider matters related to Section 242.2 (1) (e), (h), and (i) of the *Local Government Act* (3:53 p.m.)

CARRIED.

Certified Correct:

*Mayor*

*Director of Administration and Corporate Planning*