

Editor's Note: The Agenda and attachments for this meeting were not made available to Councillors Piamonte and Sedergreen and the Anmore Alternative News, nor was it posted outside of the Village Hall by the Friday preceding the meeting on Tuesday as has generally been the practice in the past. The two Councillors received the material just prior to the Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Anderson explained that the Agenda was posted on the Village website and on the bulletin board inside the Village Hall. She also said that sending the material to members of Council was not necessary. This has always been merely a courtesy.

#### Report on the Regular Council Meeting of August 09, 2011

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00. In addition to all Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer Howard Carley, and Manager of Public Works Tim Harris, there were approximately 40 people in attendance.

Under Additions and Deletions to the Agenda, Councillor Sedergreen wanted to know why some correspondence on important issues was not included in the Agenda package. Mayor Anderson indicated that some of these had to do with organizations lobbying for support prior to the Union of BC Municipalities meeting in the Fall.

Councillor Sedergreen was concerned about one letter in particular about a Wildfire Prevention Grant with a deadline of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July. He asked the Mayor if the staff had made an application for this grant. She indicated that she didn't know but that the Village had already received this grant in 2007 to do an assessment of the need for a wildfire action plan. Councillor Sedergreen indicated that the Emergency Preparedness Committee has been reviewing that 5 year-old report and are trying to advise Council on the priorities for action. Putting the plan into place requires some money. Mayor Anderson said that she would ask staff.

Councillor Sedergreen then asked if there had been a change in policy because he had not received the Agenda and attachments prior to the meeting. Mayor Anderson explained that the Agenda was posted on the Village website and on the bulletin board inside the Village Hall. She also said that sending the material to members of Council was not necessary in the new Procedures By-law. This has always been merely a courtesy in the past.

The Agenda was approved with three delegations. The first delegation was Susan Butterson of Uplands Drive. She is concerned about construction noise infractions on Uplands Drive in the Isaak Development. In particular she mentioned a by-law infraction of heavy equipment being moved up to the development at 6:15 in the morning last Friday. She indicated that, through repeated e-mails to the Mayor and delegations to Council, she and her husband David have been asking for proper by-law enforcement for five years. She said

that the lack of attention by the Village to the issue of noise control, especially on weekends and in the early morning hours, is simply not fair to residents.

Councillor Kerri Isaak, who lives in Uplands and whose father-in-law is a developer there, said that there have been no complaints by other residents, only the Buttertons. Ms Butterton requested that the staff be properly trained to enforce the by-laws. Tim Harris, Manager of Public Works, indicated that few of the perpetrators are repeat offenders so they don't know the rules.

Mayor Anderson questioned Mrs. Butterton's analysis of the situation and stated that getting an employee strictly for by-law enforcement was considered but rejected because of insufficient money. Councillor Sedergreen challenged Mayor Anderson for impugning the credibility of a resident. He said that the size of the truck should not be the issue. It is the amount of noise it makes.

Council Piamonte said that there are many more issues relative to by-law enforcement, such as parking infractions, especially around developments. He asked if it might not be possible to temporarily take away the business licenses of the offenders. The CAO indicated that not all contractors or sub-contractors are licensed. Councillor Piamonte thought that with some creative solutions, by-law enforcement might actually be able to generate revenues for the Village. As a result of Ms. Butterton's plea, the noise by-law will be on the Council Agenda in the near future.

The next delegation was Birch Wynde resident Tracy Green. She spoke about Bear Awareness. Her presentation was particularly current because of the recent encounter on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> between a resident of Countryside Village, some dogs, and a mother bear. The mother bear was shot and her three cubs were removed to a private 'Critter Awareness Centre' for rehabilitation.

Aided by one of the Conservation Officers involved in the incident, Ms Green talked about the Bear Awareness and Bear Smart Programs. She requested that Council allot \$1350 for a Bear Awareness Co-ordinator responsible for public education and training. Mayor Anderson indicated that Bear Proof containers will be required in the Village by spring 2012. She also said that some of these bins are already available for purchase at the Village Hall. Mayor Anderson said that while the grant money for this year has been exhausted, there was the option of immediate funding from the contingency fund.

Councillor Sedergreen indicated that because of bear migration, any strategy should be developed in cooperation with other communities. Mayor Stewart of Coquitlam is considering a plan to have a large garbage fine levied every time a bear is shot eating garbage.

The third delegation was from the Coquitlam RCMP, accompanied by Conservation Officers. They began with a discussion of the recent bear

encounter at Buntzen Lake. Councillor Piamonte, in his capacity as an officer with the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, was one of the first in Countryside following the incident. As widely reported in the press, the man in the encounter fell and hit his head on a rock. While the RCMP and Conservation Officers dealt with the mother bear, the SVFD alerted residents to stay inside and attended to the man's minor injuries.

A number of residents had questions about the bear encounter. The Conservation Officer said that the shooting of the mother bear was currently under investigation. He advised residents to clean up low hanging fruit and to secure their garbage. If a bear appears to be threatening human safety, pets or livestock; or destroying property, you should call police, or the Conservation Officer at: 1.877.952.7277.

RCMP Constable Kelly gave a recent overview of rural policing in Anmore since the last update by Constable Kent in June. There have been 64 calls to Anmore. As well, the RCMP has been focussed on liquor law enforcement at Buntzen Lake. In response to Councillor Isaak's question about BC Hydro funding, he indicated that it is "quite sufficient". Councillor Sedergreen inquired about traffic violations and in particular mentioned vehicles going through the stop sign at Thomson and East Road. The constable said that traffic patrols will be stepped up as school starts again.

The Minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting and the Special Council Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> were passed. Councillor Sedergreen noted there were some discrepancies in the verbatim transcript of the Minutes but said that they were not of major consequence.

Under Correspondence, since neither Councillor Piamonte nor Councillor Sedergreen were sent the RCM Agenda and attachments prior to the meeting, Councillor Piamonte asked, if there was no timing problem, to have the discussion of the 10 page LMTAC discussion paper about 'Voting in Local Government Elections and Referenda by Residents Living on Indian Reserves' deferred until the September 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting so they would be able to read it

Next was the discussion of a motion by Mayor Anderson to censure Councillor Piamonte. The motion is "Be it resolved that Municipal Council of the Village of Anmore hereby censures Councillor Piamonte for his conduct towards members of Council as described in the transcript of the July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Council Meeting that forms part of this motion."

Councillor Isaak said that she motioned this and Councillor McEwen seconded it. Discussion started with a prepared statement on the Motion by Councillor Sedergreen, MD, based on the audio tape of the July 20<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting. He asked that his statement be included in the Minutes in its entirety.

Mayor Anderson said that Minutes are normally skeletal and that this would require a Council vote. She, and Councillors Isaak and McEwen voted against this motion. The Statement in its entirety follows:

**Statement on the Motion to Censure Cllr Piamonte  
August 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

The motion before council to censure Cllr Piamonte is disturbing for a number of reasons, which I wish to outline:

1. The motion contains statements of generality which do not go to any specific point or circumstance, which makes it impossible for the councillor to provide a response. To this extent it is unfair and denies Cllr Piamonte his right to natural justice.
2. The motion alludes to "*a meeting dated July 20<sup>th</sup> 2011* [during which he is alleged to have made] *coarse and offensive statements about and to members of council as described in the transcript...* Although I disagree that the transcript is a strictly accurate record of the meeting, it is sufficiently close to the record that I have also made from the audio recording. What is missing from the transcript provided by the Village is the raised voice of the Mayor, which, as well as her general demeanour and tone, I personally found to be offensive. It is my opinion that Mayor Anderson contributed materially to the unpleasantness of the situation. Residents will be able to make their own opinions by listening to the audio of the meeting which is to be posted on the Anmore Alternative News web site.
3. After carefully reviewing the audio and the transcript, I am at a loss as to understand how the Mayor or any councillor can vote in favour of this motion. Cllr Piamonte uses the word "bullying" to describe the conduct of the Mayor, when she shouted him down. In my opinion this is an apt description of her conduct; and if anyone should be censured for this it should be Mayor Anderson. Cllr Piamonte refers to the Mayor's loud laughter, which is clearly audible, as "cackle". Even though I would not have chosen to use this word at a meeting, I want it placed on record that I found Mayor Anderson's loud laughter undignified and improper for the circumstances of the meeting. To refer to the word "cackle" as "coarse" is an astonishing use of hyperbole.
4. It is my opinion that Mayor Anderson will be in a Conflict of Interest if she chooses to vote on this motion. Even if I am wrong (in terms of correct parliamentary procedure) in that opinion, it is also my opinion that for the Mayor to vote is self serving and therefore amounts to an abuse of her authority.

In conclusion, this will be my only comment on the motion before council on this date. I will of course be voting against the motion. I request that this written statement become a part of the official minutes of the council meeting.

Cllr Sedergreen.

In discussion from the floor, resident Andrew Robertson wanted it noted in the Minutes that this motion of censure was a waste of Council time and money. He said that Councillor Piamonte had been continuously abused over a number of meetings and that the motion of censure was totally ill founded.

Councillor Sedergreen raised a point of order when Anmore resident Denny Arsene started asking questions about Councillor Piamonte's behaviour after a meeting. Dr. Sedergreen said that the motion on the table pertained to the appended verbatim report. Mr. Arsene alluded to a police report. Councillor Isaak called Councillor Piamonte's words shameful and confirmed that she had called the police on him.

Anmore resident Robert Schofield cited the incidence where a resident swore at two councillors at a council meeting. Mayor Anderson chose to ignore this action. When Mr Schofield raised the question of her action, Mayor Anderson did not respond and again ignored Mr Schofield's request for an explanation. Mr Schofield made the point that the Mayor was and continues to be selective with her accusations.

Anmore resident Elaine Willis apologized for being the cause of the precipitating event. She said that she had listened to the audio tape and that Councillor Piamonte was simply trying to do due diligence relative to the fourth reading of the Elections Procedures By-law. She said that she had done the research about what similar-sized communities are doing about voting machines that Councillor Piamonte was trying to bring to Council. She thanked Councillor for trying to do his job. Ms Willis further asked what exactly censure meant. Mayor Anderson indicated that it is a simple reprimand.

Anmore resident Donna Webber was the next to speak. She was the sole person in attendance at the July 20<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting for which Councillor Piamonte was being censured. She said that based on what she saw she did not support the motion to censure.

Anmore resident Mel Mercier accused Mayor Anderson of on-going behaviour to shut down Councillors. He said that this was a political action and that the joke outside is that Mayor Anderson and Councillors Isaak and McEwen are joined at the hip. Mayor Anderson said that his comments were not helpful.

Anmore resident Glenn Graham praised Councillor Piamonte for always being there for residents when they need him. He invoked the Charter of Rights and freedom of speech. He said that he too listened to the audio tape of the meeting. He said that both Councillor Piamonte and Mayor Anderson were equally loud and aggressive. Mayor Anderson told Mr. Graham that he was out-of-line.

Anmore resident Camille Tribe asked Mayor Anderson if she is using Robert's Rules of Order. She said that it was incorrect to call the vote when Council discussion and a point of order are still on the table. She also indicated that a 3-2 vote does not constitute the 2/3 majority to pass the motion. Ms Tribe said that she had frequently witnessed Councillor McEwen bullying Council members and using unseemly language.

Former Mayor Weinberg's wife Linda said that she wasn't intending to speak but she had decided that it was very important to censure Councillor Piamonte for unseemly language in Council Chambers.

Anmore resident, Frieda Robertson responded that she understood that Councillor Piamonte had upon reflection written an e-mail to all members of Council early in the morning on the day following the Special Council Meeting. He had apologized for using unseemly language.

Anmore resident Andrew Robertson wanted to speak again, as per Robert's Rules when all speakers had finished. Mayor Anderson indicated that she wanted to end the discussion because it was getting out of hand. Mayor Anderson indicated that she had the prerogative to call off discussion which she was doing.

The mayor then asked for any further comments from Council. Councillor Sedergreen proposed a motion to defer this vote until cooler heads could prevail. This was defeated by Councillors Isaak, McEwen, and Mayor Anderson. The question was called with Mayor Anderson and Councillors McEwen and Isaak supporting the motion to censure Councillor Piamonte.

Next on the Agenda, Council dealt with a letter dated August 2<sup>nd</sup> from Benjamin Cobaschi and Steve Hawboldt, neighbours on East Road. They wish to erect a sound barrier fence adjacent to their properties. After some discussion, Council decided to refer this item to the Public Works Committee of Council. The Co-Chairs of this Committee, Councillors Piamonte and Sedergreen offered to convene the Committee earlier than originally planned so the fence could be built when the weather is good.

Under Mayor's Report, Ms Anderson said that the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy was passed on July 29<sup>th</sup>. She also indicated that the Mayors are discussing options to finance Translink development.

Councillor Isaak reported on a meeting she attended with Arts Connect. She indicated that there will be a mail drop about the Terry Fox Run. She also recognized the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anmore Youth Group.

There was no Administrator's Report. Councillor Sedergreen wanted to know why Council had not been notified in a timely manner about another legal action against the Village, this time about water in Crystal Creek. Mayor Anderson indicated that the CAO had been away on family business. Mr. Carley said "No comment."

In Public Question period, Dr. Lynn Burton informed Council that Anmore resident Elaine Willis was honoured by Arts Connect at the Pecha Kutcha Night in Coquitlam.

The Meeting was then adjourned and Council retreated to an in-camera meeting.