COUNCIL PRESENT:  
Mayor Maja Tait  
Councillor Jeff Bateman  
Councillor Al Beddows  
Councillor Ebony Logins  
Councillor Megan McMath  
Councillor Brenda Parkinson  
Councillor Tony St-Pierre

STAFF PRESENT:  
Don Schaffer, Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Carolyn Mushata, Director of Corporate Services  
Raechel Gray, Acting Director of Finance  
Ivy Campbell, Head of Planning  
Nicholas Deibler, Planner I (left at 8:10 p.m.)  
Jennifer Royer-Collard, Corporate Services Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER  
Mayor Tait called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC  
2019-151  
MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Al Beddows:  
THAT this meeting be closed to the public under section 90(1)(a), (c), (e) and (i) of the Community Charter as it pertains to personal information, labour relations, land and solicitor-client privilege.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

3. CALL TO ORDER - OPEN PORTION  
Mayor Tait called the open portion of the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, announcing that technical difficulties will impede the live broadcast of the meeting, but a recording should be available once the issue is resolved and recording can begin.

Mayor Tait made a brief update on the upcoming Strategic Planning workshops, the status of a revised memorial bench policy, an update on the CAO search and recognized the continued efforts of staff.

Councillor Parkinson provided a statement regarding her continued participation on Council as she continues to address a health issue.
4. **NEW BUSINESS/SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

   Supplemental Information was received with the approval of the agenda.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   **2019-152**

   **MOVED by Councillor Al Beddows, seconded by Councillor Tony St-Pierre:**

   THAT the agenda for the April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council, be adopted as amended:

   - Addition of Supplemental Information for Item No. 10.1 *PH-1 Bylaw No. 730, Zoning Amendment Bylaw (600-69), 2019 – Retail Cannabis Stores.*
   - Move Item No. 10.1. *PH-1 Bylaw No. 730, Zoning Amendment Bylaw (600-69), 2019 – Retail Cannabis Stores* to follow the Adoption of Minutes.
   - Addition of New Business to follow CAO and Council Updates as Item No. 15.1. *Rotary Auction Dinner.*
   - *Addition of a Notice of Motion from Councillor Parkinson, to follow New Business.*

   **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

   **In Favour:** Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

6. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

   **2019-153**

   **MOVED by Councillor Jeff Bateman, seconded by Councillor Ebony Logins:**

   THAT the minutes of the March 25, 2019 Regular meeting of Council, be adopted as circulated.

   **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

   **In Favour:** Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

10. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED BYLAWS**

10.1. **Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 730 (600-69), 2019 - Retail Cannabis Stores**

    The Planner I presented an overview of the proposed amendment to the *Sooke Zoning Bylaw* to add "Cannabis Retail Stores" as a permitted use in the General Commercial (C2) and Recreation (C4) zones, which is restricted to four properties in the District.

    Mayor Tait read a written statement advising that any person who believes their interest in property affected by the proposed bylaw would be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard and have their written submission presented at the Public Hearing.
Mayor Tait called the Public Hearing to order at 7:20 p.m.

Public Submissions:
- **David Bloom**, 1991 Kaltasin Road, expressed his concerns regarding ventilation and residual odors affecting neighboring businesses.
- **Dave Bertoia**, 5448 Sooke Road, raised his concerns with the property at 5449 Sooke Road, noting the area as a high accident zone along with poor logistics for entry and exit at this location. Mr. Bertoia enjoys the current businesses and hopes they will remain.
- **Larry Galbraith**, 5462 Sooke Road, spoke in opposition of including the property at 5449 Sooke Road due to the high accident zone at the location entrance.
- **Michelle Savory**, 2038 Townsend Road, spoke in opposition of cannabis retail and inquired about the lift of the moratorium on Cannabis stores in the community.
  - Mayor Tait stated that Council was unaware at the time of implementation that they were outside of their authority in implementing that moratorium which has led to the current public hearing for rezoning to allow for retail cannabis stores on certain commercial properties of the community.
- **Brenda Jorgensen**, 2322 Galena Road, spoke in support of 6309, 6686 and 6691 Sooke Road as they are currently servicing the community with a product in a slow growth industry. Ms. Jorgensen suggested progressive ventures in tourism and Cannabis consumption spaces could benefit the community.
- **Scot Taylor**, owner of 5449 Sooke Road, stated that the restaurant and recreational components will remain open and that cannabis retail will be an addition to current operations. Mr. Taylor noted that his accredited college would provide an economic advantage providing programs, education and teaching opportunities, providing a different avenue for retail cannabis.
- **Gail Hall**, 2517 Sooke River Road, expressed her opposition to cannabis retail.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Council Discussion:
- Confirmation that federally approved licenses will allow for sales and that the Province conduct site visits.
- The traffic concerns are addressed at each business location by the Ministry of Transportation.
- Any additions or new construction would result in a referral back to Council in the form of a Development Permit.
- There is an opportunity for the District to be an industry leader in cannabis.
• Traffic concerns at 5449 Sooke Road are not isolated to the business, it is the area itself.
• Take advantage of the demand for professionals in the industry to support jobs and local business.
• Councillor Logins was opposed to the rezoning due to concerns specifically associated 5449 Sooke Road.

2019-154
MOVED by Councillor Brenda Parkinson, seconded by Councillor Al Beddows: THAT Council give Third reading the bylaw cited as Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 730 (600-69), 2019.
CARRIED.

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre
Opposed: Councillor Ebony Logins

Nicolas Diebler left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

7. DELEGATIONS
7.1. North Sooke Community Association- Eric Boucher

Eric Boucher and Maurine Simms presented the concerns of residents in the north area of Sooke regarding the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) project plans to realign Highway 14. They noted the lack of consultation with the public and private property owners in not disclosing the entire plan. Rather the area affecting each owner was provided along with a value for land and water servicing. Mr. Boucher and Ms. Simms requested Council engage with the local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and MOTI to receive a full plan of the project to share with the community.

Council Update:
• There was an initial open house that discussed the need but did not provide a full outline or plan.
• The circumstances around private land acquisitions are confidential and negotiations are directly with the land owners. The District of Sooke is not at the table because it is not district infrastructure.
• Disappointed of being kept in the dark regarding these major highway planning improvements.
• Consideration of supporting the extension of CRD piped water for residents impacted by well removals. Assurances need to be in place to guarantee water quality.
2019-155
MOVED by Councillor Brenda Parkinson, seconded by Councillor Tony St-Pierre:
THAT Council direct staff to set up a meeting between the Mayor and MLA John Horgan regarding the proposed highway realignment in North Sooke. As well as a follow up letter addressing the concerns raised at the meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
8.1. Declaration of a Climate Emergency
- Resolution from March 25, 2019 Regular Council meeting

Capital Regional District (CRD) letter on Climate Emergency Declaration requesting local governments within the CRD declare a climate emergency and collaboratively achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Council Discussion:
- This initiative would support assessment and planning of priorities and provide options to improve reduction of our carbon footprint.
- Lack of statement or specific call to action from the CRD to push forward; there was a desire to have tangible objectives or direction to support.
- Desire to assume a leadership role to become carbon neutral.
- The consideration of climate impacts will be a priority in the Strategic Planning process.
- Request to reactivate a District’s Climate Change Action Committee.

2019-156
MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Jeff Bateman:
THAT Council declare a climate emergency in the District of Sooke.
CARRIED.

2019-157
MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Megan McMath:
Amendment to Main Motion 2019-56
THAT Council amend the main motion by inserting the following, after the word Sooke:
- District of Sooke aspire to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- The climate be a priority to Strategic Planning.
- Reactivate the Climate Change Action Committee.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre
The **Main Motion 2019-156**, as amendment, was then **PUT and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**In Favour:** Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Megan McMath, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

9. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD**

Council heard from the following members of the public:


- **Ann Clement**, Sooke resident, spoke in support of Item No. 8.1. *Declaration of a Climate Emergency* encouraging Council to engage the community and work towards a common goal to make a positive change.

- **Diane Bernard**, Sooke resident, spoke to Item No. 8.1. *Declaration of a Climate Emergency* and reinstatement of the climate change committee set achievable benchmarks and involve the entire community, both businesses and residents.

- **Eric Boucher**, Sooke resident, spoke to Item No. 8.1. *Declaration of a Climate Emergency* encouraging public transportation and less drive-thru models.

- **Michael Hodgkin**, Sooke resident, expressed his concerns regarding Item No. 7.1. *North Sooke Community Association Delegation* informing Council of a neighbor who is having their house and land expropriated, concern that the proposed design will decrease safety on the highway and that proven wells are being removed with limited guarantee of water supply to those affected.

- **Christiana St-Pierre**, Sooke resident, spoke in support of Item No. 8.1. *Declaration of a Climate Emergency* suggesting Council take action with it’s community towards the same goal to foster and protect the future of Sooke.

- **Sinclair Philip**, Sooke resident, spoke to Item No. 8.1. *Declaration of a Climate Emergency* suggesting that this is the time to promote residents to shop local and educate that participation on a small scale can make a difference.
11. **BYLAWS**

11.1. **Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 714 (600-62), 2018 - 1923 Maple Ave**

A bylaw to amend zoning on a portion of the property located at 1923 Maple Avenue from Medium Density Multi Family (RM2) to Small Lot Residential (R3), with a site specific text amendment to the Small Lot Residential zone.

2019-158
MOVED by Councillor Ebony Logins, seconded by Councillor Tony St-Pierre:
THAT Council adopt the bylaw cited as Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 714 (600-62), 2018.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

11.1. **Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 731, 2019**

A bylaw to adopt the financial plan to cover the fiscal period from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023.

2019-159
MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Al Beddows:
THAT Council adopt the bylaw cited as Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No 731, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

12. **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

12.1. **RCMP Monthly Report**

Information provided from the Sooke RCMP Detachment on calls responded to in the month of February.

2019-160
MOVED by Councillor Ebony Logins, seconded by Councillor Megan McMath:
THAT Council receive the RCMP monthly report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre
13. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received March 21 - April 3, 2019

Item B - Rural Internet
- Advocacy for enhanced fiber optic networks pushed out to all areas.

Item C - Legion
- Council attendance at the VE Day/Battle of the Atlantic Parade.

Item D - CREST
- Request for Gordie Logan of CREST to attend an upcoming Council meeting and provide an update.

Item M - Web Portal
- More awareness of the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce, as well as requesting supporting for the creation of a web portal to assist local charities in receiving donations online.

2019-161
MOVED by Councillor Megan McMath, seconded by Councillor Tony St-Pierre:
THAT the correspondence received for March 21 - April 3, 2019, be received and filed accordingly for the record.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

2019-162
MOVED by Councillor Jeff Bateman, seconded by Councillor Megan McMath:
THAT Council direct staff to invite Gordie Logan, chair of CREST, to present and provide an update at an upcoming Council meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

2019-163
MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Megan McMath:
THAT Council direct staff to write a letter of support to the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce for their web portal initiative.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre
14. **COUNCIL VERBAL REPORTS**

**Councillor Logins**
- Attendance at the State of Salmon event hosted at EMCS.

**Mayor Tait**
- Meetings held with 3 elementary school principals regarding the trail network connections and mapping needs in the community.
- The District has been nominated for its United Way participation and will be recognized at their awards ceremony this year.
- Meeting with the Nature Trail Society.
- Upcoming attendance at Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC); council is car-pooling to the conference.

**Councillor St-Pierre**
- Attendance at the Clean BC meetings.
- Attendance at the Sooke Region Historical Society retreat.

**Councillor Bateman**
- Attendance at the Wild Arc open house.
- Attendance at the Capital Regional District (CRD) Parks & Environment meeting and sworn in as the short-term alternate.
- Meeting with Sooke’s Age Friendly Committee to plan next steps in an attempt to secure local driving rests for seniors.
- Community theater fundraiser upcoming.

**Councillor McMath**
- Attendance at the Sooke Region Tourism Association (SRTA) AGM, noting that the Sooke Region Chamber of Commerce is collaborating with SRTA to move the hotel tax initiative forward.

15. **NEW BUSINESS**

15.1. **Rotary Auction Dinner**

Council attendance at the 2019 Rotary Auction Dinner on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

**Council Discussion:**
- Tickets can not be gifted and need to be purchased.
- Additional tickets for spouses would have to be purchased separately by attendee.
- Councillor Beddows was opposed to paying for tickets for more than one representative of Council.

**2019-164**

**MOVED by Councillor Tony St-Pierre, seconded by Councillor Jeff Bateman:**
THAT Council direct staff to purchase tickets for Mayor Tait, Councillor Bateman, Councillor Parkinson and Councillor St-Pierre to attend the 2019 Rotary Auction Dinner, with funding to come from Council Contingency.
CARRIED.

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

Opposed: Councillor Al Beddows

2019-165

MOVED by Councillor Megan McMath, seconded by Councillor Jeff Bateman:
THAT Council direct staff to bring forward the travel policy for review and discussion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

16. ADJOURNMENT

2019-165

MOVED by Councillor Jeff Bateman, seconded by Councillor Megan McMath:
THAT the April 8, 2019 Regular Council meeting be adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In Favour: Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Jeff Bateman, Councillor Al Beddows, Councillor Ebony Logins, Councillor Megan McMath, Councillor Brenda Parkinson, and Councillor Tony St-Pierre

Certified Correct:

______________________________
Maja Tait
Mayor

______________________________
Carolyn Mushata
Corporate Officer