

JANUARY 13, 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETING MINUTES

5:15 PM Meeting at Ladysmith City Hall Council Chambers. Members present: Marty Reynolds, Jim West,

Others present: Atty-Allen Kenyon, Councilman - Bill Morgan, Train Master-Marty Carlson, Asst. DPW-Doug Parker, DPW – Kurt Gorseger, Admin- Alan Christianson, LPD Chief Kevin Julien.

Call to Order:

Chair Marty Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Approve May 17, 2021 Minutes:

Motion by Jim West to approve the Community Development Minutes of May 17, 2021, Second by Marty Reynolds. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion of real or perceived Railroad Problems

Mr. Reynolds opened the session by introducing train master Marty Carlson. Chair Reynolds noted issues trains are for the community. Horns, stoppage, crew changes and ongoing safety concerns are real problems. Chief Julien noted Ladysmith Police had documented train stoppage for a period of time and had a zoom call with CN (Canadian National) officials. Chief remarked that things were better after the meeting but have now returned to lengthy crossing blockage and traffic delays. Chief Julien remarked that CN also documents all crossing blockage and knows exactly how long each crossing is blocked. Marty Carlson said that blockage tickets issued to CN are immediately noticed by CN administration. Chief Julien noted that the railroad is under federal jurisdiction not local or state. There is a 10-minute parking rule for trains outside city limits, how this rule is interpreted?? Ladysmith Police will look at the statutes concerning the railroad and possibly work with the sheriff's department to issue tickets for crossing blockage.

Chairman Reynolds noted that train horns are required for crossing safety (unless a quiet zone is in place) but also noted the intrusive nature of the horns to everyone as well as extreme decibel level. Attorney Allen Kenyon referred to ongoing "Quiet Zone" requirements, The city has a median on Lake Ave but needs to have another median along the north / south Canadian National railroad within the city limits to meet minimum quiet zone requirements. Discussion of another median included the crossing @ Hwy 27 and Tanker Rd, Miner Ave, Fritz Ave, College Ave and Doughty Road.

Additional comments:

Railroads provide essential interstate commerce.

Canadian National is responsible to stockholders not City of Ladysmith.

The City and CN need to get along and work problems out.

Safety concerns were raised as the train routinely blocks intersections, EMS, fire and police are unable to respond or unable to respond in a timely manner. Medical emergencies are time critical; patients need immediate medical intervention. Mr. Carlson said he believes most of the train stoppage is for air testing. The city is a convenient and level place for train engineers to

park, walk the train length testing air connections / brakes. RR convenience = City of Ladysmith inconvenience.

In conclusion, Chief Julien will look into accident reports at crossings. Chief Julien will work with County Sheriff's Department, and Circuit Court on possible blockage tickets. Chief Julien will reach out to CN administration to arrange a meeting. Mr. Reynolds will contact League Attorneys on railroad crossing stoppage and blockage.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned,

Motion to adjourn by Jim West, Second by Marty Reynolds. Motion carried by voice vote at 6:18 PM.

Minutes by Doug Parker 01/19/22