

Subject: [Fwd: Next Mayor of DNV]

Date: Sun, 17 Mar 2002 16:49:58 -0800

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Next Mayor of DNV

Date: Sun, 17 Mar 2002 15:09:20 -0800

From: Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>

To: Bill Denault <billdenault@shaw.ca>

CC: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Hi Bill,

I agree that if Councillors are not willing to second a motion, then they should not speak to it. The system which was in place for the previous council allowed Councillors to explain why they were not in favour of a motion before it had even been decided that it was going to be voted on by having it seconded.

However, that does not mean that the Councillor presenting the motion should not be able to speak in favour of it.

In fact that is why the 'Old Machine' had the system put into place. They were not willing to allow the normal information to the People process.

Whereas, the democratic process would allow the mover to explain the reasons for the motion, they also wanted to have those against it speak even if they were not going to second it and vote on it.

The reason that they did not want it seconded is that if it is not seconded it does not appear on the record. Whereas, if it is seconded it does appear on the record, and shows the mover seconder and who votes for and against.

To overcome all of that, they now have in place that the mover is restricted from even presenting an explanation for the motion.

To further control the process, staff reports are used to determine what Councillors are allowed to say. Although the democratic intention is for elected representatives to speak their minds on issues, Staff Reports are used as justification to denying this Right.

It is important to make efficient use of time. That should not be done by destroying the Right of the Public to have their voice heard through elected Councillors.

Pat

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bill Denault" <billdenault@shaw.ca>

To: "Pat Munroe" <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>

Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2002 1:31 PM

Subject: Re: Next Mayor of DNV

> *Hi Pat,*

>

> *Good to hear from you again! I will attempt to address your questions as*

> *best as I can.*

>

> *Firstly, Council had a debate about the need for a motion requiring a*

> *seconder. Staff prepared a report which revealed that we were the*

> *exception*

> *to the rule. By that I mean most, if not all of the other Lower Mainland*

> *Municipality's Rules of Order required discussion on a motion once it had*

> *been duly moved and seconded. We (Council) then had a professional*

> *Parliamentarian provide a workshop on proper rules of conduct. The result*

> *was that the Mayor then proclaimed the change in speaking procedures and*

> *the*

> *rest is history. Public opinion resulting in this change has been*

> *overwhelming in favour.*

> *One of the reasons we adopted these changes was due to at least one*

> *Councillor who would, in my opinion, abuse the right to speak with a lot*

> *of*

> *personal nonsense. I agree with you that the Chair of these meetings*

> *should*

> *be able to prevent these obstructive behaviours.....however the current*

> *Mayor cannot! This activity alone was one of the root causes for the*

> *"dysfunctional" reputation Council has had to endure for a number of*

> *years.*

> *Staff and Council watchers suggest this enigma became apparent after Mayor*

> *Baker's term of office. We have not removed the root causes for this*

> *reputation yet! I hope the results of the next election will.*

>

> *You may wonder why some motions are not being seconded. I can give you my*

> *opinion which is that most of the presented reports are blatant*

> *regurgitations of former failed motions (some were thinly disguised). I*

> *look*

> *at these resurrections and try to determine if there is any new or valid*

> *reason why Council show review the topic.... if there is no valid reason I*

> *will not second a previously failed motion.*

>

> *Another stunt one Councillor is well known for is to "scoop" a pending*

> *staff*

> *report on an issue. In other words this Councillor becomes aware of an*

> *upcoming staff report and attempts to take the credit for the topic by*

> *introducing his own a week ahead of the staff report...he will then demand*

> *that a staff report be developed. Once again, if I am aware of a pending*

> *staff report on an issue I will not second the motion. I will wait until*

> *the*

> *staff report is on the Agenda and then if the same Councillor wants to*

> *move*

> *the motion I have no problem being the seconder.*

>

> *As for the CCA you are probably right in that it has been in existence for a*

> *considerable period of time. The current group NET is in fact involved in*

> *that process. As a current member of Council I am not permitted to attend*

> *their meetings so my understanding is somewhat sketchy... I think that NET*

> *is composed of at least 30-40 District residents from Deep Cove, Lynn*

> *Valley, Norgate, Seymour, Capilano, etc. This group is attempting to*

> *develop*

> *a society. Membership in this society will be open to all residents,*

> *however*

> *I'm still not sure if this will ultimately include current members of*

> *Municipal Gov't. The terms of reference, I understand, will be to review*

> *the*

> *current and future needs of the District, make recommendations to District*

> *residents, possibly through ad space in the local newspapers and recommend*

> *who they think are appropriate candidate for the positions of Councillors*

> *and Mayor.*

>

> *Cllr. MacKay-Dunn was trying to develop a North shore version of the*

> *Vancouver NPAI'm not sure where that is at this time. Practically*

> *everyone I speak to is not in favour of such a machine (which would*

> *include*

> *a specific slate; NET on the other hand may recommend any number of*

> *individuals for Council or the office of Mayor.*

>

> *On a personal note I have been approached by a group to take Bell on. I*

> *would rather clean up Council instead. I think that Cllrs. Muri and Crist*

> *should be replaced. And I will place my efforts towards these two*

> *objectives. As for Mayor, I don't think that Mackay-Dunn has sufficient*

> *experience nor do I believe that he will stay as Mayor....he has the*

> *reputation for running or showing interest in both Federal and Provincial*

> *levels...in other words he looks too much the opportunist. Bell on the*

> *other*

> *hand has demonstrated, in my opinion, that the Mayor's office is simply*

> *there for his self-aggrandizement. Deering-Robb told me during the '99*

> *election campaign to "never trust that man". Each day I appreciate more*

> *her*

> *kind words of wisdom.*

>

> *Pat as you well know, residents in this District are not stupid, they will*

> *undoubtly take a keen interest in our past 3 year performance (this will*

> *also include such notable events as when Cllr.Muri and Mayor Bell were*

> *instructed by Council to pay back monies they owed the District within 60*

> *days or the amount(s) would be removed from their pay checks, the reasons*

> *for the permenant sanctions that were placed on Cllr. Crist, Mayor Bell's*

> *visits to China, etc.). I'm sure you must be saying to yourself that*

> *retirement is not so bad after all!*

>

> *For future considerations we will have the new Community Charter (white*

> *paper to be released at the LMMA in three weeks), the 2010 Olympic*

> *bid.,deteriorating rec.comm buildings, and major roadway improvements at the*
> *Dollarton and the north end bridgehead at the Second Narrows, continued*
> *Provincial Gov't downloading and a desperate interest in 3Ps, to mention a*
> *few.*

> *Good to chat with you. Best wishes,*

> *Bill*

> -----Original Message-----

> *From: Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>*

> *To: Bill Denault <billdenault@shaw.ca>*

> *Date: Sunday, February 24, 2002 9:07 PM*

> *Subject: Re: Next Mayor of DNV*

> *>Hi Bill,*

> *>I would suppose that any of the many Councillors who consider running for*
> *>the Mayor position, will also have to consider if they will have the*
> *backing*
> *>of the machine (now called the CCA) which has been effective in electing*
> *>Baker, Dykemann, & Bell. The same machine was probably successful even*
> *>before that.*

> *>I understand that the present council system, put into effect under the*
> *>present CCA, focuses on restricting the Freedom of Speech of Councillors*
> *at*
> *>the Regular Meetings. This has been done by a change to procedures which*
> *>requires a seconder to any motion before it can be considered for*
> *>discussion. Apparently this is done by saying that they do not want*
> *things*
> *>said that they do not agree with, and that they do not want to have*
> *>discussed.*

> *>This certainly opposes the purpose of Freedom of Speech which is to*
> *protect*
> *>the People from having information withheld from them. It's a matter of*
> *>Rights and Freedoms. The Freedom is Speech, the Right is 'To Hear'. The*
> *only*
> *>time which such restriction is supported is when the group in power feels*
> *>that after an election, Democratic procedures are on hold at least until*
> *the*
> *>next election campaign. And we all know what kind of a regime that is.*
> *>*
> *>However, somehow the media has supported the restriction to the Freedom*

of

> > *Speech by having in the past criticized the discussions as having been
> > responsible for the length of meetings.*

> >

> > *The reality is that the chairperson's running of a meeting has more to do
> > with the effective use of time than does the restriction on the
> > contributions of the elected Councillors.*

> >

> > *I hear continually that, overall, this Council is little more than a
> > mouthpiece for the Old Machine now being known as the CCA.*

> >

> > *What is your view on it?*

> >

> > *Regards,*

> >

> > *Pat.*

> >

> >

> > ----- Original Message -----

> > *From: Bill Denault <billdenault@shaw.ca>*

> > *To: Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>*

> > *Sent: Friday, February 22, 2002 10:59 AM*

> > *Subject: Re: Next Mayor of DNV*

> >

> >

> >> *Hi Pat,*

> >>

> >> *As luck would have it, I was talking to "Hutch" just this morning. The
> > short*

> >> *answer is No - he will not be running for Council but wants to help me
> >> again. I have received some pressure from people you would know at*

> >> *Highlands*

> >> *to take Bell on. I had no idea how unpopular he was. In other words I
am*

> >> *surprised that so many residents have a negative opinion of him when we
> > have*

> >> *such a small voter participation/per capita in the Municipal election
> >> results.*

> >>

> >> *In response to your inquiries about my other Council portfolios I have
> >> served on the Police Liaison (2 yrs) just left there this year and*

moved

> >> *over to the REC. Comm. I am the District rep. @ Silver Harbour (which
> > makes*

> >> *me the official pancake flipper on Mother's Day), I am the Second*

> >> *Vice-Chair*

> >> *at the GVRD Labour Relations (2nd year in a row) and first year on the
> > GVRD*

> >> *Solid Waste Cttee. I also serve as alternate to D. Bell at the GVRD*

Board

> > *of*

> >> *Directors and LMTAC.*

> >>

> >> *My own business is keeping me very busy as well.*

> >>

> >> *We are into the ugly budget debates at present. Being an election year,*

> >you

> >> *no doubt can imagine some of the theatrics!*

> >>

> >> *Ohthere goes the phone ...I'll keep you apprised of events as*

they

> >> *unfold. If you have any advice as to how to remove Bell I would*

certainly

> >be

> >> *interested.*

> >>

> >>

> >> *Bill*

> >>

> >> -----Original Message-----

> >> *From: Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>*

> >> *To: Bill Denault <billdenault@shaw.ca>*

> >> *Date: Thursday, February 21, 2002 1:49 PM*

> >> *Subject: Re: Next Mayor of DNV*

> >>

> >>

> >> >*Hi Bill,*

> >> >

> >> >*Nice to hear from you.*

> >> >

> >> >*I was very saddened following our return from Mexico to hear of Len's*

> >> *death.*

> >> >*He was a real contributor to the community and was a model for others.*

> >> >*Unfortunately, not many have his level of intellect and foundation of*

> >> >*purpose.*

> >> >

> >> >*In response to your comments, I would be very surprised if Don decided*

> >> *not*

> >> >*to run for re-election. I am sure also that he will not be surprised*

> >> *that*

> >> >*one or more councillors would test the waters for his job. He is very*

> >> >*experienced in civic politics and certainly knows the importance of*

> >> >*presenting himself to the public in his role as mayor.*

> >> >

> >> >*How are you enjoying being a councillor? Have you had a chance to*

serve

> >on

> >> >*any interesting committees? How is Tom Hutchison? Is he considering*

> >> *running?*

> >> >

> >> >*Regards,*

> >> >

> >> >*Pat.*

> >> >

> > >

> > >----- *Original Message* -----

> > >*From: Bill Denault <billdenault@shaw.ca>*

> > >*To: Pat Munroe <pat.munroe@shaw.ca>*

> > >*Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2002 2:53 PM*

> > >*Subject: Next Mayor of DNV*

> > >

> > >

> > >> *Hi Pat,*

> > >>

> > >> *Long time no see! I think that I have come to the same conclusion as*

> > *you*

> > >> *have about D. Bell. I don't know as yet who all the mayoralty*

> > *candidates*

> > >> *will be. I expect it will be a very interesting campaign. McKay-Dunn*

> > *has*

> > >> *proclaimed his candidacy about 8 months ago...and he still maintains*

> > *his*

> > >> *intentions. Mayor Bell, in my opinion, is thoroughly spooked and is*

> > >> *resorting to all kinds of stunts....not the least of every possible*

> > *photo*

> > >> *op! We are clearly into silly season. I hope everything is going*

well

> > *for*

> > >> *you. Drop me a line if you get a chance.*

> > >>

> > >>

> > >> *Bill Denault*

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