

Subject: FW: Notice of Motion Councillor Crist;

Date: Wed, 17 Oct 2001 20:42:26 -0700

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>

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Hello Everyone. I thought you might be interested in this motion which I have just sent in, particularly if you happened to watch the last Council meeting.

> *Notice of Motion:*

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> *Consideration of making "Correspondence and any business arising therefrom" part of District Agenda's.*

> *Report Councillor Crist:*

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> *That Council clarify its present policy pertaining to correspondence addressed to Council and any business arising therefrom and*

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> *a) reaffirm the right of any member of Council to submit reports i.e.*

> *motions dealing with such items and have them placed on a Council Agenda in the form of a motion and/or*

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> *b) follow the policy of other municipalities where such correspondence and any business arising therefrom is routinely and exclusively submitted by staff and listed as an agenda item including "strategic" issues.*

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> *c) establish a policy based on a combination of both a) and b)*

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> *Rationale:*

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> *Correspondence received by Council for information or in the form of a request for Council action from various sources at one time was dealt with routinely as part of a Council agenda item under "Correspondence and any business arising therefrom". This procedure is in place in many municipalities in the GVRD. In most of those municipalities staff provide a brief comment which may include a recommendation for further action by either staff or Council.*

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> *In the District of North Vancouver this process was abandoned by a previous Council with the understanding that rather than staff dealing with such a matters, requests for potential Council action if any, would by and large be left in the hands of individual members of Council if they deemed it warranted. This would be done in the form of a motion i.e. report submitted to the clerk to be placed on a Council agenda.*

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> *In the District this latter practice has been in existence for many years now and has resulted in members of Council submitting motions i.e. reports to varying degrees.*

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> *The number of such motions has varied from very few if any in the case of one Councillor to many by another.*

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> *This method has worked reasonably well until recently when several members of District Council have increasingly questioned the motive of Councillor Crist for bringing such motions forward. While some of the disparaging comments are undoubtedly based on civic party politics and political ill will, it begs an important question nonetheless.*

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> *In addressing this issue Council has several options*

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> *1) to continue with the present policy and leave the decision for*

> *further requested or implied action resulting from correspondence, such as*

- > *the recent IWA request on the softwood lumber issue for example, in the*
- > *hands of individual members of Council. Opting for this scenario would*
- > *require members of Council to refrain from questioning the motive or*
- > *making disparaging remarks against the author of such motions as is*
- > *frequently the case, or alternatively*
- >
- > *2) turn the responsibility for bringing such items forward entirely in*
- > *the hands of staff, and/or*
- >
- > *3) deal with "correspondence and any business arising therefrom" by*
- > *routinely listing it as an agenda item along with a short recommendation*
- > *for further action by either staff or Council. This would increase the*
- > *staff load but on the plus side it would reduce opportunities for abusing*
- > *the author of such motions with comments such as "it is taking up*
- > *unnecessary space and time" and similar un-businesslike and politically*
- > *biased statements. It would also reduce although not entirely eliminate*
- > *the opportunity to manipulate the agenda for politically reasons. This*
- > *scenario could, at the same time be expanded to still allow a member of*
- > *Council with an opportunity to submit motions in an attempt to provide*
- > *political leadership in line with his/her responsibilities as an elected*
- > *official including promises made during election time and to keep abreast*
- > *of issues should this not be done by Council as a whole or by staff as*
- > *the case may be.*
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- > *Given the present hostile political reality on District Council, putting*
- > *"correspondence and any business arising therefrom" and make it part of a*
- > *the agenda while still allowing a member of Council to submit motions for*
- > *Council's consideration as outlined in c) above may be the best all round*
- > *way of dealing with this matter while, at the same time, posing the least*
- > *risk that important issues are overlooked or ignored.*
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