

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.**

**Committee Members Present:** Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors Alto, Coleman, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young.

**Absent for a Portion of the Meeting:** Councillors Isitt and Loveday.

**Staff Present:** J. Johnson – City Manager; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; C. Mycroft – Executive Assistant to the City Manager; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary.

**Staff Present for a Portion of the Meeting:** J. Jenkyns – Deputy City Manager; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; B. Dellebuur – Acting Assistant Director of Transportation & Parking Services; J. Huggett – Project Director of the Johnson Street Replacement Project; K. Hamilton – Director of Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Planning; T. Soulliere – Director of Parks & Recreation; J. Tinney – Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development; J. O'Connor – Manager of Financial Planning; L. Westinghouse – Manager of Accounting.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Agenda of the July 16, 2015, Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that the agenda of the July 16, 2015 meeting be amended to include the following agenda items on the consent agenda.

Item # 1 – Minutes from the Regular Meeting held July 2, 2015

Item # 4 – Update on the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development & Prosperity

Item # 6 Property Use Agreement with Department of National Defence for USAR Training

Item # 7 – Protection of Biological Diversity of Walbran Valley  
Item # 10 –Request to Transport Canada re: Victoria Inner Harbour  
Airport

*Councillors Isitt and Loveday joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.*

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC640

On the main motion as amended:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC641

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that the following items be approved without further debate:

#### **3.1 Minutes from the Regular Meeting held July 2, 2015**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held July 2, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC642

#### **3.2 Update on the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity**

Committee received a report dated July 14, 2015 from Mayor Helps that advised Committee that the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity is currently working on their draft recommendations that will be released to the public for input on September 9, 2015.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that the Update on the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC643

#### **3.3 Property Use Agreement with Department of National Defence for USAR Training**

Committee received a report dated June 17, 2015 from the Fire Department regarding the extension of a property use agreement with the Department of National Defence for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training facilities at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council authorize the Mayor and the

Corporate Administrator to execute the agreement, generally in accordance with *Appendix A – Agreement for Temporary Use of Federal Real Property* with the Minister of National Defence for the use of the CFB Esquimalt Urban Search and Rescue facilities by staff and volunteers of the City of Victoria.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC644

### **3.4 Protection of Biological Diversity of Walbran Valley**

Committee received a motion from Councillors Isitt and Loveday that proposed writing a letter to the province stating support for protecting the Old Growth Forests of Walbran Valley.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council approve the following motion:

Be It Resolved that Council request the Mayor write a letter to the Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations stating support for protecting the Old Growth Forests of Walbran Valley.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC645

### **3.5 Request to Transport Canada – Victoria Inner Harbour Airport**

Committee received a motion from Councillors Isitt, Loveday and Lucas that proposed requesting that Transport Canada send appropriate staff to a Governance and Priorities Committee meeting to make a presentation regarding the Victoria Inner Harbour Airport.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council approve the following motion:

Be it resolved that Council requests Transport Canada send appropriate staff to a Governance and Priorities Committee meeting to make a presentation and answer questions about current and future operations and regulation of the Victoria Inner Harbour Airport (YWH).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC646

## **4. DECISION REQUESTS**

### **4.1 Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project Update**

Committee received a report dated July 9, 2015 from the Project Director that provided an update on the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project, including a revised project schedule to reflect delays in the delivery of the structural steel. The Project Director provided a presentation that further outlined the details of this project to date.

Committee discussed:

- Design and cost details regarding the fendering, seabed land and multi-use trail.
- The expectation and rationale for costs increasing as the project moves forward.
- The mediation process which will begin in December and the two year limit on filing claims.
- The quality assurance program for the steel fabrication and for the painting of the bridge.

**Action:**

It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Approve an increase to the project budget of \$2.554 million with funding from the Building and Infrastructure Reserve.
2. Direct staff to transfer to the Building and Infrastructure Reserve any costs recovered from other parties.
3. Direct staff to bring forward an amended Financial Plan Bylaw to the July 23, 2015 Council meeting.
4. Direct staff to update Council on public realm options at the August 20, 2015 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Mechanisms for financial control, noting that Council will approve each additional budget request.
- Background information on how the project progressed to this point.
- How a “lessons learned” report will inform future projects.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC647

Committee recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Committee reconvened at 10:26 a.m.

#### **4.2 Recommendations from the Mayor’s Task Force on Housing Affordability**

Committee received a report dated July 6, 2015 from the Mayor’s Task Force on Housing Affordability that provided a suite of recommendations to remove obstacles and increase capacity for affordable housing in Victoria.

Committee discussed the process for staff analysing and Committee discussing these recommendations. Staff will report back in September on how to accommodate the Housing Affordability Actions and the Strategic Plan.

Committee discussed the Task Force proposals:

- Property maintenance standards and the City advocating for provincial regulatory changes; advocating for issues outside the City’s jurisdiction.

- Streamlining the CALUC process and the input that was received from the community associations.
- The minimum unit size for units inside and outside the downtown core.
- More information on the recommendations regarding DCC reductions and donated private land to come in September.
- Noting the organizations, such as AirBnb and VRBO, that are not paying taxes and are impacting the number of available long-term, rental units.
- The density proposals and how that relates to community plans.
- Concerns related to delegating approval for development permits and heritage alteration applications.
- The importance of having public input for garden suite proposals in order for the projects to succeed; increasing the allowable size of garden suites.

*Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and returned at 10:49 a.m.*

- Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council:
1. Receive the suite of recommendations in Appendix A of the report dated July 6, 2015, in its entirety;
  2. Direct staff to consider the actions contained therein to form the basis of a comprehensive Municipal Housing Strategy with an aim to supporting implementation during the timeline laid out; and
  3. That staff report back to Council with a draft Municipal Housing Strategy in September 2015.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee amend the motion as follows:

- That Council:
1. Receive the suite of recommendations in Appendix A of the report dated July 6, 2015, in its entirety;
  2. Direct staff to consider the actions contained therein to form the basis of a comprehensive Municipal Housing Strategy with an aim to supporting implementation during the timeline laid out;
  3. That staff report back to Council with a draft Municipal Housing Strategy in September 2015; and
  4. **Amend page two of the report dated July 6, 2015, by removing the chart and replace it with the City of Victoria Housing Spectrum Chart.**

A Committee member expressed concerns that this is a report of the Task Force and it is their document to change.

On the amendment:  
CARRIED 15/GPC648

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young

Against: Councillor Coleman

Committee discussed the amended motion:

- Concerns that some recommendations propose too broad a relaxation of land use regulations.
- Concerns that this diverts funds from other projects and could also impact how developers do business.
- The need for “out of the box” ideas, such as encouraging wood framed construction.
- The need for the Federal Government to provide an affordable housing strategy.
- Noting the many facilities the City owns and the need to capitalize on these resources.

On the main motion as amended:  
CARRIED 15/GPC649

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas,  
Madoff and Thornton-Joe  
Against: Councillor Young

Committee recessed at 11:56 a.m.

Committee reconvened at 12:01 p.m.

#### **4.3 Status Update – Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services for Sheltering in City Parks**

Committee received a report dated July 15, 2015 from Legislative & Regulatory Services with an update on the Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services. The Action Plan contains a number of strategies and initiatives designed to address the housing needs of homeless people and to improve the City’s service response to the impacts of sheltering activities in City parks.

Committee discussed:

- Timelines in terms of setting up a designated sheltering site in a park and collaborating with a service partner.
- The process for public engagement with respect to tenting and micro-housing initiatives.
  - Presenting a complete model to the public for managing a shelter site.
- The option of using Topaz Park for a sheltering site; noting improvements for that park that were under consideration.
- The micro-housing model and the City’s role versus the service provider’s role in terms of rezoning applications, etc.
- Operational initiatives to help those sheltering in parks, such as extending the hours public washrooms are open.
- People that will continue sheltering in parks and other issues that will arise requiring bylaw and police resources; a suite of solutions required to address this issue.

- Noting that the sheltering site pilot project will have the support required to connect people to services.
- The status of the storage project and having the right partner to ensure it is a success.

**Action:**

It was moved by Mayor Helps seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council:

1. Receive the July 15, 2015 *Status Report - Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services for Sheltering in City Parks*; and
2. Approve the following *Action Plan* recommendations:
  - a. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(a) – Increase Emergency Shelter Spaces
    - i. Adjust the City’s advocacy focus as follows:
      - Request the Province of British Columbia and BC Housing to provide more funding for rent supplements in the City of Victoria to secure permanent housing for people currently housed in emergency shelters or transitional/supportive housing.
  - b. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(b) – Clarifying Roles in Micro-Housing
    - i. The City’s role in the development of a micro-housing village is to:
      - Advise on land use, building construction and fire safety regulations;
      - Advise on municipal servicing requirements and community standards;
      - Process any required applications for land use, building construction or site preparation approvals;
      - Consider any applications for financial support in relation to the development or implementation of the village; and
      - Consider entering into agreements to enable the operation of the village.
    - ii. Micro-Housing Victoria’s Role in developing a micro-housing village is to:
      - Build a community of interest and organizational capacity to support the village project;
      - Develop site plans, housing unit plans and site servicing plans;
      - Develop operational rules and procedures for the village;
      - Identify and acquire a site for the micro-housing village;
      - Apply for land use, building construction or site servicing approvals;
      - Engage in community consultation to support the project, including required CALUC consultations respecting any land use applications;
      - Acquire the necessary funding to support the development and operation of the village; and
      - Operate the village in accordance with Micro-Housing Victoria’s rules and procedures, and any agreements with the City or other parties.
  - c. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(c) – A Designated Sheltering Site in a Park

- i. The City's approach to establish a designated sheltering area in a park is to:
  - Seek a service partner who will manage the operation of the site;
  - Develop a service model and budget with the service partner;
  - Confirm the site location and seek public input on the proposed service model and location;
  - Seek final approval of the service model budget from Council.
- d. Operational Initiative 1 - Storage Project for Homeless Persons' Belongings
  - i. The City's approach to establishing a storage facility is to:
    - Continue to work cooperatively with interested service partners to establish the facility in September 2015; and
    - Initiate a proposal call if there is no substantive progress achieved by September 2015.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Moving forward to address the need for sheltering space and the pros and cons of using Topaz Park.
- Concerns about the micro-housing proposal in terms of the regulations and services required, such as fire safety and power.
- Concerns regarding the cost and neighbourhood impact the Topaz Park proposal will have.

*Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting at 12:58 p.m. Councillor Thornton-Joe assumed the Chair.*

*Mayor Helps returned to the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and assumed the Chair.*

- Addressing the sheltering issue in the short-term as a first step towards housing.

*Councillor Young withdrew from the meeting at 1:19 p.m. and returned at 1:21 p.m.*

- Measuring the impact of these initiatives to see how much is saved in terms of the current cost of addressing the issues associated with people sheltering in parks.

CARRIED 15/GPC650

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff and Thornton-Joe  
Against: Councillor Young

*Committee recessed at 1:30 p.m.*

*Committee reconvened at 2:00 p.m.*



## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Opening Government Street to Pedestrians – Pilot Project

Committee received a motion dated July 15, 2015, from Councillors Loveday, Lucas and Thornton-Joe that proposed opening a section of Government Street to pedestrians only, for a one-day pilot project.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Lucas, that Committee recommends that Council approve the following motion:

1. Be it resolved that the City of Victoria work in collaboration with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, downtown residents, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and other interested stakeholders to convene a “LoveGov” series of pedestrian only Sundays on Government Street including Saturday October 10, one Saturday or Sunday in November, one Saturday or Sunday in January, and culminating in a “LoveGov” wrap up event on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.
2. Direct staff, working in partnership with the DVBA, Government Street merchants and other stakeholders, to develop a mechanism to evaluate the success of this pilot project.

Committee discussed:

- This will be an opportunity to test this proposal and the Downtown Residents Association will be providing input on the project.
- The day proposed for October and how that impacts the Thanksgiving weekend.

**Amendment** It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee amend the motion:

That Council approve the following motion:

1. Be it resolved that the City of Victoria work in collaboration with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, downtown residents, **Downtown Residents Association**, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and other interested stakeholders to convene a “LoveGov” series of pedestrian only Sundays on Government Street including **one Saturday or Sunday in October 4<sup>th</sup>**, one Saturday or Sunday in November, one Saturday or Sunday in January, and culminating in a “LoveGov” wrap up event on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.
2. Direct staff, working in partnership with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, Downtown Residents Association, Government Street merchants and other stakeholders, to develop a mechanism to evaluate the success of this pilot project.

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC651

Committee discussed the following:

- How this will help to promote Victoria as a tourism destination 12 months of the year.
- The many opportunities to enhance the street experience through a road closure, as highlighted through a Councillor's PowerPoint Presentation.
- The current success of Government Street and building on those qualities; less successful streets would be better candidates for improvement.

**Amendment**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee amend the motion:

That Council approve the following motion:

1. Be it resolved that the City of Victoria work in collaboration with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, downtown residents, Downtown Residents Association, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and other interested stakeholders to convene a "LoveGov" series of pedestrian only Sundays on Government Street including one Saturday or Sunday in October, one Saturday or Sunday in November, one Saturday or Sunday in January, **and that the partners consider a Saturday or Sunday closure in December**, and culminating in a "LoveGov" wrap up event on Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.
2. Direct staff, working in partnership with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, Downtown Residents Association, Government Street merchants and other stakeholders, to develop a mechanism to evaluate the success of this pilot project.

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC652

Main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC653

## **5.2 Socially Responsible Investments and Pension Funds**

Committee received a motion from Mayor Helps, Councillors Loveday and Isitt that proposed socially responsible investing by requesting amendments to provincial legislation that governs how municipalities can invest.

**Action:**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council:

1. Requests that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Finance, requesting that the provincial government introduce amendments to the Municipal Finance Authority Act to provide local governments with the autonomy to pursue socially responsible investments and climate action in financial decision-making;
2. Request a report from each of the Municipal Pension Plan and the Municipal Finance Authority detailing the percentage and dollar amount of investments currently held in fossil fuel-related companies or investment

- products, and options for divesting those assets over the next five, ten and fifteen years;
3. Requests that the Mayor write to the Board of Directors of the Municipal Finance Authority and the BC Investment Management Corporation requesting that these organizations divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in renewable sources of energy, employment and income, in order to give effect to the climate action objectives of the Province of British Columbia and local governments including the City of Victoria.

As per the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan attached as Appendix A, that Council

1. Refer this item to the next Strategic Plan Quarterly Update on August 20, 2015 and at that time request a report from staff on the implications of adding this Action Item to the strategic plan:

Report on the current distribution of the City of Victoria's investment portfolio and pension funds, and consistency with objective 5 of the Investment Policy (Socially Responsible Investing), and in particular, to report on the percentage and dollar amount of investments currently held in fossil fuel-related companies, and provide advice on options for increasing Socially Responsible Investing.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Concerns on how ethical investment is defined and the difficulty in avoiding this type of investment; carbon tax has a more realistic impact.
- This is a first step towards ethical investment and could also make financial sense.

CARRIED 15/GPC654

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff and Thornton-Joe

Against: Councillor Young

### 5.3 Councillors Overview of Current Issues

Committee received a motion from Councillors Alto, Loveday and Thornton-Joe that proposed regular information sharing among Councillors on a quarterly basis.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council approve that each Councillor provide a brief, overview of current issues (or any matter that might be of interest to Council) arising from each Councillor's liaison neighbourhood and/or City appointments, on a quarterly basis at GPC starting October 2015.

Committee discussed the process for receiving these updates and whether there should be a time limit and written report to provide structure to the process.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee amend the motion:

That Council approve that each Councillor provide a brief, **less than 10 minute** overview of current issues (or any matter that might be of interest to Council) arising from each Councillor's liaison neighbourhood and/or City appointments, on a quarterly basis at GPC starting October 2015.

Mayor Helps requested that Committee test this initiative before imposing any guidelines.

On the amendment:  
DEFEATED 15/GPC655

For: Councillors Isitt and Young  
Against: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff and Thornton-Joe

On the main motion:  
CARRIED 15/GPC656

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas and Thornton-Joe  
Against: Councillors Madoff and Young

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Lucas, that the Governance & Priorities Committee convene a Closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 12(6) of the *Council Bylaw* for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Sections 12(3) and/or (4) of the Council Bylaw, namely:

- Section 12(3)(c) Labour Relations or employee relations
- Section 12(3)(e) The acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure might reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC657

## 6. CLOSED MEETING AT 2:58 P.M.

**Committee Members Present:** Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young

**Staff Present:** J. Johnson – City Manager; J. Jenkyns – Deputy City Manager; S. Olak – Assistant Director of Human Resources; C. Mycroft – Executive Assistant to the City Manager.

**Guest:** J. Case – Consultant.

## **7. ADOPTION OF CLOSED MINUTES**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the minutes from the regular Closed Meeting held July 2, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC658

## **8. CLOSED MEETING**

### **8.1 Employee Relations – Quarterly Update**

Committee received an update from the City Manager on Employee Relations.

### **8.2 Employee Relations – Exempt Compensation Report**

Committee received a report dated July 10, 2015 from the Deputy City Manager regarding a review of exempt staff compensation.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Lucas, that the Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of July 16, 2015, be adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC659

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Mayor Helps, Chair