

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015, 8:00 A.M.**

1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 8:02 A.M.

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

Absent for a Portion of the Meeting: Councillor Thornton-Joe.

Staff Present: J. Johnson – City Manager; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; K. Hamilton – Director of Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Development; C. Mycroft – Assistant to City Manager; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Helps requested that Committee consider item # 2 – Proposed Adjustments to the draft 2015 – 2019 Financial Plan prior to Item # 1 – Summary of Public Input on the draft Strategic Plan and draft Financial Plan.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that the Agenda of the April 13, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC375

3. Proposed Adjustments to the Draft 2015 – 2019 Financial Plan

Committee continued its discussion from the April 9, 2015 meeting on the draft 2015 - 2019 Financial Plan.

The Director of Finance advised Committee that there is \$149,432 remaining in the 2014 Surplus.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Councillor allocate \$149,432 of remaining Surplus to the Strategic Objectives Fund.

Councillor Isitt advised Committee of a funding gap for the Victoria Community Association Network. The Director of Finance advised that grants are paid out after July 1 except Community and Senior Centre grants which receive one-third of their funding in March.

Councillor Thornton-Joe joined the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that the motion be amended:

That Council allocate \$148,532 of remaining Surplus to the Strategic Objectives Fund **and that \$900 go to support Victoria Community Association Network.**

On the amendment:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC376

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC377

Committee considered new assessed revenue (non-market change revenue) for ongoing expenses:

Action: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Young, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$1.5 million to reduce the property tax increase.

Committee discussed the motion:

- The need to allocate funds for services to meet the growing population.
- The lack of affordability in Victoria is a concern expressed by many residents and small business owners.
- The suggestion other budget proposals be considered first to get a sense of the order of magnitude.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee amend the motion:

That Council allocate **\$1,000,000** ~~\$1.5 million~~ to reduce the property tax increase.

On the amendment:
CARRIED 15/GPC378

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

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

That Council allocate **\$500,000** ~~\$1,000,000~~ to reduce the property tax increase.

On the amendment:
DEFEATED 15/GPC379

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

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED 15/GPC380

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

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$41,000 in ongoing funding to the Downtown Community Centre.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Concerns regarding the governance of community centres and how funds are spent.
- The services that this agency provides; receiving a report and evaluation on services provided.
- The inflationary increases proposed for other centres and how that would impact the downtown community centre.

CARRIED 15/GPC381

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

Action: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$36,000 to the community garden volunteer coordination grant program.

Committee discussed the motion:

- This will enhance food production and support community gardens which can fail when relying solely on volunteers.
- These funds are better spent on materials for community garden use.
- The pros and cons of funding a staff person to organize the work of community gardens.
- The “great neighbourhood” initiative and how staff is working on developing a closer relationship with neighbourhoods.

Amendment: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that the motion be amended:

That Council allocate \$36,000 to the community garden volunteer coordination grant program **to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund until Terms of Reference are developed.**

On the amendment:

CARRIED 15/GPC382

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

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED 15/GPC383

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

Against: Councillors Lucas and Young

Action: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$300,000 to the Interdisciplinary Team to be reviewed annually.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Concerns the team will conflict with other departments and is not a good use of resources.
 - This team will work with departments to follow Council's policy direction in the strategic plan.
 - The team will be reviewed annually.
- Details on how these positions will be resourced.

Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting at 9:27 a.m. Councillor Loveday assumed the Chair.

Mayor Helps returned to the meeting at 9:29 a.m. and assumed the Chair.

- This team will provide the structure and discipline to bring forward Council's initiatives.

CARRIED 15/GPC384

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

Against: Councillor Young

Action: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$110,000 to 11 Community Centres.

Councillor Thornton-Joe left the meeting at 9:32 a.m. and returned at 9:34 a.m.

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

That Council allocate \$110,000 to 11 Community Centres **with inflationary increases starting in 2016.**

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC385

Committee discussed the main motion:

- The disparity between neighbourhood associations and addressing the issues through a review of the neighbourhood association model.
- The important work neighbourhood associations provide to the community with little funding.

- Delivering community services effectively and needing to address disparities prior to granting additional funding.
- Providing Council with a report on the services provided by neighbourhood associations prior to allocating funds next year.

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED 15/GPC386

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

Against: Councillor Young

Committee discussed the issue of garbage collection in public areas and increased pick-up during the tourist season.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Young, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$55,000 to increase the solid waste garbage collection and waste separation in the downtown core.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Another solution would be to direct funds towards a reduction of packaging and waste.
- Receiving a report from Public Works with feedback on the separation of waste and the aesthetics of this service;
 - Staff is undertaking a review of waste collection practices.

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

That Council allocate \$55,000 to increase the solid waste garbage collection and waste separation in the downtown core, **to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund.**

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC387

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC388

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$15,000 for health and dental benefits for Council members.

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

That Council allocate \$15,000 for health and dental benefits for Council members **effective December 2018.**

Committee discussed the amendment:

- Concerns that Council is impacted by cost of living increases; noting public support for Council benefits.

- This is an appropriate benefit but for a future Council.

On the amendment:
CARRIED 15/GPC389

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

Against: Councillors Isitt and Loveday

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC390

Committee recessed at 10:15 a.m.

Committee reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$10,000 for village centre beautification (banners, etc.)

Committee discussed the motion:

- Staff's capacity for banner installation; the requirement to install poles now that hydro poles can't be used.
- How this assists villages in creating a sense of space.
- Concerns regarding the cost and addressing this in a more fulsome manner.
- Receiving a report back from Public Works before reviewing the budget on this item for next year.

CARRIED 15/GPC391

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

Against: Councillors Lucas and Young

Committee discussed with staff traffic calming proposals for neighbourhoods and the cost for traffic calming options.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$100,000 to the budget for traffic calming.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Concerns regarding a possible conflict between the neighbourhood vision for traffic calming and the expertise of the City's traffic section.
- Councillor liaisons working with community associations on their traffic plan.

CARRIED 15/GPC392

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

Against: Councillors Coleman, Lucas and Young

Action: It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$80,000 to sidewalk maintenance upgrades.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$80,000 for an Urban Food Coordinator.

Committee discussed with staff the salary for such a position.

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

That Council allocate **\$70,000** ~~\$80,000~~ for an Urban Food Coordinator.

Committee discussed the amendment:

- How such a staff person would be resourced within the organization.
- Concerns that this is a Parks operational issue and resources could be reallocated.
- The importance of food security systems within the strategic plan which this position would support.

On the amendment:
DEFEATED 15/GPC394

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

On the main motion as amended:
DEFEATED 15/GPC395

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

Action: It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$100,000 balance of the new revenue into the Strategic Objectives Fund.

Committee discussed the motion:

- Concerns that these funds are better used reducing the tax increase.
- Options for these funds, such as youth engagement and a real estate function in the organization.

CARRIED 15/GPC396

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

Committee discussed options for allocating funds from the City's Gas Tax Reserve.

- Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate the following expenditures from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
- a. \$7,250,000 to the Bicycle Master Plan Implementation to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.
 - b. \$500,000 should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in the report dated March 29, 2015.

Councillor Alto requested that the motion be divided.

- Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate the following expenditures from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
- a. \$7,250,000 to the Bicycle Master Plan Implementation to ensure sufficient bike lane protection for all ages and abilities and the City is not successful in its grant application under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund.

Committee discussed the motion:

- The importance of creating a safe transportation network.
- What is not spent remains in the reserve.
- Moving forward with lessons learned informing future years of this project.

Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 11:17 a.m. and returned at 11:18 a.m.

- Proposals for which routes to start with and informing the project with public consultation.

Councillor Thornton-Joe withdrew from the meeting at 11:22 p.m.

- The types of projects the funding can be used for.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC397

- Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate the following expenditures from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:
- b. \$500,000 should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in the report dated March 29, 2015.

Councillor Thornton-Joe returned to the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Staff provided details on the streets where they anticipate this work being done in 2016 and the planning exercise that will inform the projects in future years.

Committee discussed:

- Using these funds for other projects, such as the David Foster Harbour Pathway.

- How this project will be resourced;
 - Staff will look at the Interdisciplinary Team or a consultant for this type of expertise.

Amendment: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee amend the motion:

That Council allocate the following expenditures from the City's Gas Tax Reserve:

- b. **Up to \$500,000** should Council wish to expedite these projects as outlined in the report dated March 29, 2015.

On the amendment:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC398

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC399

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council fund the Downtown Community Centre with \$50,000 for 2015 with inflationary increases starting in 2016.

CARRIED 15/GPC400

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

Against: Councillor Young

6. ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of April 13, 2015, be adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC401

Mayor Helps, Chair