

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015, 1:30 P.M.**

**1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 1:30 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; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; K. Hamilton – Director of Citizen Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; T. Zworski – City Solicitor; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Community Development; A. Meyer – Assistant Director of Development Services; B. Dellebuur – Acting Assistant Director of Transportation & Parking Services; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**2.1 Approval of the Agenda**

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Agenda of the April 9, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

**3. DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN & DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mayor Helps outlined the items on the agenda for today's discussion and which will continue on Monday, April 13 if required. She requested an explanation from the Director of Finance regarding the use of surplus to reduce taxes. The Director of Finance provided details with respect to using 2014 budget surplus as a one-time funding source.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council approve hosting the 2015 Union of British Columbia Conference for \$155,000.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council approve concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance of \$37,000 for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that Committee recommends that Council approve the renewal of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw for 2015 (\$265,000) and 2016 (335,000).

Committee discussed the motion:

- Expediting local area plans is more of a priority.
- Issues in the zoning bylaw that would be addressed, such as Schedule C, garden suites, etc.; aligning it with Council's Strategic Priorities.
- The issues that arise at Public Hearings that a revision of the zoning bylaw would address.
- Concerns that a "piecemeal" approach to revising the zoning bylaw will continue.

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

That Council approve the renewal of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw for 2015 (\$265,000) ~~and 2016 (335,000).~~

Committee discussed the amendment:

- Earmarking funds for the zoning bylaw through the strategic initiatives reserve.
- Information regarding what could be accomplished with \$250,000.

**Amendment to the Amendment:**

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

That Council approve the renewal of the Zoning Regulation Bylaw for 2015 (\$265,000) **and that \$250,000 from surplus be transferred to Council's Strategic Objectives Fund to be allocated for the work on the Zoning Bylaw update, subject to Council's approval.**

Committee discussed the amendment to the amendment:

- The importance of providing surety around urban villages and arterials.
- Funding the local area plans but also undertaking the zoning review to allow the two processes to proceed in tandem.
- How the new strategic initiatives would fit into the zoning review;
  - A consultant would undertake this work for a new zoning regulation bylaw that would consider directions outlined in the OCP.

On the amendment to the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

On the main motion as amended:

DEFEATED 15/GPC

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

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council approve upgrades to the Parks Master Plan (\$250,000)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe that Committee recommends that Council approve \$150,000 for the proposals for Begbie Green.

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

That Council approve ~~\$150,000~~ **\$100,000** for the proposals for Begbie Green.

Committee discussed the amendment in terms of the high interest of the community for this park and allocating up to \$150,000 to its improvement.

On the amendment:

DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

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

That Council approve **up to** \$150,000 for the proposals for Begbie Green.

Committee discussed the amendment in terms of the process being informed by a public engagement strategy to achieve objectives within budget.

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Helps advised that this decision completes the staff recommendations for one-time funding and Committee can now consider the surplus.

Committee discussed reducing the proposed property tax increase with Mayor Helps advising that a property tax reduction should not be out of surplus.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$750,000 of surplus into the Victoria Housing Reserve.

Committee discussed the motion:

- The importance of supporting housing solutions in the City.
- The partnerships required to create housing units.
- Concerns that the City is taking too large a role in social spending.
- These funds are better spent in support of businesses by reducing property taxes.

CARRIED 15/GPC

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 Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council approve a one-time allocation of \$750,000 to be provided in a new program that will be a one-time benefit to renters.

Committee discussed the motion:

- This proposal would help the many renters in Victoria and noting how renters engage in local government.
- Concerns that rent subsidies are the jurisdiction of the province.
- The relation between a rise in property taxes and the landlord raising the rent.

DEFEATED 15/GPC

For: Councillors Alto and Loveday

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

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council approve \$45,000 for storage of homeless persons' belongings.

Committee discussed the motion:

- The location of a storage spot subject to determining the availability of a location.
- Once a location is found, this would be a pilot project.
- The operating costs would be borne by non-profit agencies.

**Amendment:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Alto, that the motion be amended:

That Council approve \$45,000 for storage of homeless persons' belongings, **to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund.**

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

*Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 3:21 p.m. and returned at 3:22 p.m.*

Committee discussed the main motion as amended:

- This is a bandaid solution and the preference is to have ongoing funding for shelter space.
- Concerns on how such a facility would be operated.
- The issue of stolen shopping carts and this contributing to camping in parks.

*Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 3:27 p.m. and returned at 3:29 p.m.*

- The problems caused by shopping carts being left on City streets; the need for a place for homeless people to store their belongings.

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED 15/GPC

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

Against: Councillor Young

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$200,000 from surplus to expedite local area plans.

Staff advised this will deliver village planning to large urban villages but not small villages.

Committee discussed the motion:

- The impact the lack of local area planning has on development applications.
- The methodology that will be used to develop local area plans.

*Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting at 3:40 p.m. Councillor Loveday assumed the Chair.*

*Mayor Helps returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair at 3:41 p.m.*

- The suggestion that funding for local area plans should be on-going.
- The terms “villages” as outlined in the OCP and in terms of what Council is trying to achieve.

*Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 3:44 p.m. and returned at 3:46 p.m.*

- Incorporating the objectives in the OCP with earlier local area plans suggested as one approach.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$250,000 to the Accessibility Capital Fund to reside in the Building and Infrastructure Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$250,000 for Emergency Management.

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

That Council allocate \$250,000 for Emergency Management **to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund.**

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

Staff advised that a report will be coming to Council on the Victoria Emergency Management Agency.

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

Committee discussed allocating surplus to reduce property taxes and the amount that would be allocated to surplus.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$500,000 to the Building & Infrastructure Reserve.

Committee discussed the amount allocated to this fund yearly and other proposals for the surplus that may come forward.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Isitt that the motion be postponed pending further proposals from Council members related to the surplus have been considered.

Motion to postpone failed due to no seconder.

On the main motion:  
CARRIED 15/GPC

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

**Against:** Councillors Isitt, Loveday and Lucas.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$1,800 for the Victoria Community Association Network.

A Committee member advised that ongoing funding would better support the community associations.

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

That Council allocate \$1,800 for the Victoria Community Association Network **from new assessed revenue to provide ongoing funding.**

Motion failed due to no seconder.

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

That Council allocate ~~\$1,100~~ \$1,800 for the Victoria Community Association Network.

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

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

Committee discussed the proposed capital budget for public washrooms.

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$125,000 for the upgrade of Centennial Square Washrooms.

Committee discussed:

- These funds would be better allocated to address the shortage of toilets across the City.
- The many events held and high usage of the Centennial Square facility.

CARRIED 15/GPC

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

**Against:** Councillors Young.

*Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 4:16 p.m. due to a pecuniary conflict of interest as he is on the Island Corridor Foundation Board.*

**Action:** It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$4,000 to study rail crossings (Island Transformations).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

*Councillor Isitt returned to the meeting at 4:17 p.m.*

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Alto, that Committee recommends that Council allocate \$125,000 for split rail fencing and maintenance on Dallas Road.

Committee discussed the motion:

- This is in response to concerns expressed by residents to delineate the walking area from the dog off leash area.
- Postponing this work until the update on the Dallas Road waterfront park has been completed.
- Details on the proposed design of the fence;
  - The design was an order of magnitude estimate that would enclose the off leash area.
  - Concerns about enclosing such a large area.

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

That Council allocate \$125,000 for split rail fencing and maintenance on Dallas Road, **subject to staff reporting on the magnitude of the project.**

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

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

That Council allocate **up to** \$125,000 for split rail fencing and maintenance on Dallas Road, **to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund and** subject to staff reporting on the magnitude of the project.

On the amendment:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

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

That Council allocate up to **\$50,000** ~~\$125,000~~ for split rail fencing and maintenance on Dallas Road, to reside in the Strategic Objectives Fund and subject to staff reporting on the magnitude of the project.

Committee discussed the amendment:

- The proposed fenced area and the pros and cons of constraining its size.
- The importance of public input to inform this project.
- The importance of supporting the safety and well-being of all users.

On the amendment:  
DEFEATED 15/GPC

For: Councillors Isitt, Loveday and Young.

Against: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Lucas, Madoff and Thornton-Joe.

Main motion as amended:  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

**Action:** It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of April 9, 2015, be adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC

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Mayor Helps, Chair