



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 25, 2019, 9:00 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People

PRESENT: Mayor Helps in the Chair, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Potts, Councillor Collins

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Coates - City Clerk, P. Bruce - Fire Chief, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Director of Finance, F. Work - Director of Engineering & Public Works, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, A. Meyer - Assistant Director of Development Services, L. Westinghouse - Manager of Accounting, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, K. Sidhu - Committee Secretary

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the agenda be approved.

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the Agenda of the April 25, 2019, Committee of the Whole meeting be amended as follows:

Consent Agenda:

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held April 11, 2019

G.2 CleanBC Grant Application for HVAC Replacement Project at Oaklands Community Centre

I.1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference - Housing Affordability Motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Main Motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

That the following items be approved without further debate:

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held April 11, 2019

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the minutes from the meeting held April 11, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G.2 CleanBC Grant Application for HVAC Replacement Project at Oaklands Community Centre

Committee received a report dated April 17, 2019 from the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities requesting Council's endorsement to submit a grant application for the CleanBC Communities Fund.

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

THAT Council approve the City's application for a CleanBC grant for the HVAC Replacement Project at Oaklands Community Centre and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute a contribution agreement should the grant application be successful.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.1 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference - Housing Affordability Motion

Committee received a Council member motion dated April 16, 2019 from Mayor Helps seeking a consultation with FCM staff to ensure a stronger federal-municipal partnership on the issue of housing affordability across the country.

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council forward the following motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration as an emergency resolution at the 2019 annual conference.

Prioritizing Housing Affordability

WHEREAS the National Housing Strategy prioritizes housing solutions for low- and moderate income households, per FCM's recommendations;

WHEREAS renters and homeowners at a range of income levels and in cities and communities of all sizes are increasingly unlikely to be able to access or maintain a home that is affordable to them and meets their needs;

WHEREAS, on average, owning a home is more expensive now than at any time in the last 30 years;

WHEREAS average rent increases are outstripping inflation in many housing markets;

WHEREAS housing affordability pressures are exacerbated by record-high household debt-to income levels in a rising interest-rate environment;

WHEREAS the stability of national and local housing markets has a direct linkage to national and local economic outcomes;

WHEREAS housing affordability is correlated to positive health and socioeconomic outcomes;

WHEREAS the federal government has influence over the affordability of housing, both rented and owned, through the regulation of mortgages and mortgage insurance, taxation levers and its spending power;

WHEREAS the federal government's 2019 budget underscored that housing affordability is a federal concern, and that it has an important role to play in addressing it through the announcement of the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive and enhancements to both the Rental Construction Financing Initiative and Home Buyer's Plan;

RESOLVED that the federal government assess and publically report on the impact of budget 2019 measures designed to improve housing affordability for renters and owners; and

RESOLVED that the federal government work with municipalities through FCM to determine the most effective federal role in improving housing affordability for renters and owners at the local level.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Presentation

D.1 Presentation- Royal McPherson Theatre Society

Council received a presentation from Lorne DeLarge, President of the Royal McPherson Society and Lloyd Fitzsimonds, Executive Director of the Royal McPherson Society providing information on the Royal Theatre.

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council receive the report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1 2018 Financial Statements

Committee received a report dated April 9, 2019 from the Chief Financial Officer, the Manager of Accounting and B. Cox, Auditor, BDO, providing Council with an overview of the City's 2018 audited Financial Statements and requesting Council's acceptance of the Financial Statements as required by Section 167 of the Community Charter.

Moved By Councillor Young

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council approve the 2018 Financial Statements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 10:45 a.m. and returned at 10:51 a.m.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.2 Carbon Pricing on Corporate Air Travel

Committee received a Council member motion dated April 16, 2019 from Mayor Helps and Councillor Collins encouraging the adoption of principles laid out in report as the basis for a Carbon Pricing for Air Travel Interim Policy.

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Collins

That Council:

1. Adopt the principles laid out in this report as the basis for a Carbon Pricing for Air Travel Interim Policy including:
 - a. The rate of \$150 per tonne set as the price on carbon for air travel.

- b. The carbon price to be funded from the travel budget set for mayor, council and staff in the annual budget.
 - c. The carbon price calculator to be determined by the finance department based on current best practices.
 - d. Council and staff include the price of carbon in requests for travel approval.
 - e. The monies generated from the price on carbon to be deposited into the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund.
 - f. The price on carbon be reviewed as part of the CEEMS program development, and on an annual basis as part of the City's annual update on the Climate Action Program.
2. Direct staff to put the principles in #1 into the City's policy template (see attached) as the Carbon Pricing on Corporate Air Travel – Interim Policy.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

that staff report back with a mechanism for accounting for non-air travel forms of transportation.

Defeated due to no seconder

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Collins

add g: staff be directed to include the cost of carbon to the annual expense report.

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

include "as an additional line"

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council:

1. Adopt the principles laid out in this report as the basis for a Carbon Pricing for Air Travel Interim Policy including:
 - a. The rate of \$150 per tonne set as the price on carbon for air travel.
 - b. The carbon price to be funded from the travel budget set for mayor, council and staff in the annual budget.
 - c. The carbon price calculator to be determined by the finance department based on current best practices.
 - d. Council and staff include the price of carbon in requests for travel approval.
 - e. The monies generated from the price on carbon to be deposited into the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund.
 - f. The price on carbon be reviewed as part of the CEEMS program development, and on an annual basis as part of the City's annual update on the Climate Action Program.
 - g. Staff be directed to include the cost of carbon, as an additional line, in the annual expense report.
2. Direct staff to put the principles in #1 into the City's policy template (see attached) as the Carbon Pricing on Corporate Air Travel – Interim Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion arising

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That staff report back with potential amendments to the business travel policy to allow for carbon pricing to be considered as a factor in determining the most economical mode for transportation

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.3 Future Governance Options for Victoria's Historic Community Theatres

Council received a Council member Motion from Councillor Alto providing information and findings for a previous Council request for additional municipal support for the McPherson Theatre.

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council receive for information the report entitled *Future Governance Options for Victoria's Historic Community Theatres*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.4 City of Montreal - Motion for International Accountability Against the Government of Myanmar

Committee received a Council member motion requesting that Victoria Council pass a motion calling for action to invoke the Genocide Convention against the Government of Myanmar.

Moved By Councillor Dubow

Seconded By Mayor Helps

MOTION TO CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR FOR ITS CRIMES OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE ROHINGYA AND OTHER MINORITIES

WHEREAS the Parliament of Canada unanimously adopted M.P. Andrew Leslie's motion on September 20, 2018 recognizing that the crimes committed by Myanmar against the Rohingya constitute genocide;

AND WHEREAS the "cleansing operation" by Myanmar's military caused the exodus of over 725,000 people to flee to Bangladesh creating the world's largest refugee camp and one of the world's worst humanitarian crises;

AND WHEREAS the genocide is on-going with Myanmar continuing its persecution of the remaining Rohingya in Rakhine State,

AND WHEREAS the Government of Myanmar is defiant in its blatant disregard of international norms and standards, imprisoning journalists, denying access to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, and burning down villages of other ethnic groups such as the Kachin, Karen, Shan, and Chin minorities;

AND WHEREAS following the end of World War II and the Holocaust, both Canada as well as Myanmar signed and ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the 'Genocide Convention');

AND WHEREAS Canadian human rights think tanks such as the Montreal Institute of Genocide Studies at Concordia University, the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa have called for Canada to invoke the Genocide Convention;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council urge the Government of Canada without further delay to invoke the Genocide Convention and specifically to engage with like-minded States to pursue the matter before the International Court of Justice in order to hold Myanmar to its obligations and to seek provisional measures and ultimately reparations for the Rohingya people;

THAT City Council urge Canada to exert pressure on Myanmar to release the jailed Reuters journalists, and to allow for unobstructed access to Rakhine State by independent monitors in order to investigate the international crimes committed and to afford protection to remaining Rohingya;

THAT City Council urge the Government of Canada to continue to assist the Government of Bangladesh through multilateral aid in addressing the humanitarian needs of the Rohingya refugees, with particular focus on the needs of women and children, including education.

THAT the City Clerk provide a copy of this motion to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice of the Government of Canada

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Thornton-Joe withdrew from the meeting at 11:59 a.m. due to a pecuniary conflict of interest with the following item, as her husband is employed with BC Transit.

I.5 Climate Action through a Major Expansion of Public Transit Ridership

Committee received a Council Member motion dated April 23, 2019 from Councillor Isitt and Councillor Dubow urging the City of Victoria to call on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit to make changes in favour of Climate Action.

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council endorses the following resolution and directs staff to forward copies to members of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and to the Mayors and Councils of local governments in the Capital Region by April 26, 2019, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Climate Action through a Major Expansion of Public Transit Ridership

WHEREAS local governments in the Capital Region have declared a climate emergency, pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 to avoid the worst consequences of global warming;

AND WHEREAS emissions from transportation generate the majority of community-based emissions within the region, meaning that switching from private vehicles to public transit has the potential to make a very large impact in achieving carbon neutrality;

AND WHEREAS forward-looking jurisdictions around the world from Kingston, Ontario to Luxembourg and Estonia are eliminating user-fee barriers to public transit ridership, with public transit services paid through the tax system rather

than at the fare box.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria calls on the Victoria Regional Transit Commission and BC Transit to:

1. Embrace determined climate leadership through a major expansion of public transit ridership in the Capital Region, focused on the phasing out of user fees and a substantial improvement in service levels and fleet electrification.
2. Begin implementing this climate-action policy with a pilot programme in the 2020 budget eliminating user fees for people 18 years of age and younger, replacing revenues currently generated through fares with adjustments to provincial transfers and the property tax requisition.
3. Develop an implementation plan for a pilot programme to eliminate user fees for all riders within the Capital Region as a form of climate action, including enhanced service levels, enhanced transit priority including an extensive network of bus lanes, and fleet expansion to meet increased demand, in conjunction with fleet electrification.

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Collins, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday and Councillor Potts

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (7 to 1)

J. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR