MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 9, 2020, 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 Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young
PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:	Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Potts
STAFF PRESENT:	J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Director of Finance, C. Coates - City Clerk , P. Bruce - Fire Chief, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, J. Jensen - Head of Human Resources, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, A. James - Head of Strategic Operations, P. Bellefontaine - Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works, P. Rantucci – Head of Strategic Real Estate, K.Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, M. Fedyczkowska - Legislation & Policy Analyst, P. Angelblazer - Committee Secretary

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the following items be approved without further debate

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held March 19, 2020

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held March 19, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.4 Agreement Amendment for the CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program

Council received a report dated March 31, 2020 from the Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works seeking Council approval to amend an existing contribution agreement with the Province, BC Hydro, and FortisBC Energy Inc to provide additional funds towards the CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Program, and to allow for future amendments and renewals of the agreement.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council forward the following motion to the April 9, 2020 Council meeting to authorize:

a. the City to amend the existing contribution agreement for a term of two years until March 31, 2022 with the Province of British Columbia, the BC Hydro and Power Authority, and FortisBC Energy Inc to provide additional funds towards the CleanBC Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program, on behalf of the City; and

b. any future amendments to the agreement that are substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, provided that the form and contents are satisfactory to the City Solicitor and the Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works; and

c. the City to renew the contribution agreement for further successive periods, if required.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 COVID-19 Update (Verbal)

Council received a verbal update from the City Manager on steps that the City is taking on COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of the public and staff during the ongoing pandemic.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Housing efforts to support vulnerable populations; and,*
- *Access to green space, public parks.*

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Committee convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under*:*
Section 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations;

Section 90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee moved into a closed meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Committee opened the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Access to proper sanitation for vulnerable populations;*
- *Humanitarian and resource considerations; and,*
- *Work being undertaken by other authorities.*

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That this update be received for information.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Potts

That the motion be amended to add the following direction:

That Council directs staff to act immediately to deploy resources, facilities and personnel to meet the emergency lodging and support needs of vulnerable populations, working in partnership with other agencies, with initial priority given to:

- provision of shower facilities no later than April 10, 2020 for people currently sheltering on Pandora Avenue, through the re-opening of existing shower facilities at Our Place, Crystal Pool or the Royal Athletic Park.

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council directs staff to act immediately to deploy resources, facilities and personnel to meet the emergency lodging and support needs of vulnerable populations, <u>while meeting protocols required by Island Health</u> working in partnership with other agencies, with initial priority given to:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

- **provision of shower facilities no later than April 10, 2020 for people currently sheltering on Pandora Avenue, through the re-opening of existing shower facilities at Our Place, Crystal Pool or the Royal Athletic Park <u>or any other recommended locations</u>**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

- **provision of shower facilities no later than April 10, 2020 for people currently sheltering on Pandora Avenue, through the re-opening of existing shower facilities at Our Place, Crystal Pool or the Royal Athletic Park or any other ~~recommended~~ <u>suitable</u> locations**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment as amended:

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Dubow
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young
CARRIED (7 to 1)

On the main motion as amended:

That this update be received for information.

That Council directs staff to act immediately to deploy resources, facilities and personnel to meet the emergency lodging and support needs of vulnerable populations, while meeting protocols required by Island Health, working in partnership with other agencies, with initial priority given to:

- provision of shower facilities no later than April 10, 2020 for people currently sheltering on Pandora Avenue, through the re-opening of existing shower facilities at Our Place, Crystal Pool or the Royal Athletic Park or any other suitable locations

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Dubow
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young
CARRIED (7 to 1)

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the motion be forwarded to the April 9, 2020 Council Meeting.

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Dubow
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young
CARRIED (7 to 1)

F.2 2020 Financial Plan - Potential Adjustments

Council received a report dated April 5, 2020 from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer providing Council with information and seeking direction on potential amendments to the 2020 Financial Plan and extensions to due dates to address financial impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Bicycle Master Plan work plan impacts due to potential re-allocations;*
- *Possibilities for further budget meetings as a result of the pandemic;*
- *Changes to currently budgeted tax increases;*
- *Safety considerations with delays to infrastructure spending;*
- *Models for budget shortfall projections;*
- *Revised due dates and penalties for property taxes; and,*
- *Work re-allocation in the event of capital and other deferrals.*

Committee recessed at 11:17 a.m., and reconvened at 11:24 a.m.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under

Section 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee moved into a closed meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Committee opened the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Committee recessed at 12:02 p.m., and reconvened at 12:26 p.m.

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Mayor Helps

1. That Council direct staff to:

    a. Defer the capital projects listed in the table on page 7 of this report

    b. Reallocate $11.64 million in unrestricted property tax funding from the deferred capital projects to offset actual and potential revenue shortfalls in the operating budget

    c. Create a larger operating budget contingency using the funding allocated to the delayed initiatives

    d. Extend the payment due date for utility bills to 90 days from 45 days and bring forward bylaw amendments to authorize that change

    e. Extend the payment due date for property taxes to August 1, 2020 to align with the date the City is required to pay the property taxes levied on behalf of the Capital Regional District, the Capital Regional Hospital District, BC Assessment, and the Municipal Finance Authority; and bring forward amendments to the Alternative Tax Scheme Bylaw to align with the August due date

2. That the Mayor on behalf of Council advocate to the Province of BC to:

    a. Increase amounts for Homeowner Grants, and create a new category of grant applicable to persons who have lost income due to the pandemic

    b. Reinstate the financial hardship Deferment Program and extend the program to commercial properties

    c. Amend legislation to align payment due dates for taxes collected on behalf of other agencies with municipal Alternative Tax Scheme Bylaws

Amendment:
Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

g. That Council review and consider amendments to the 2020 budget in July 2020 with specific attention to the tables on pages 7 and 9 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:
Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

h. Reduce the transfer from property taxes to the Building and Infrastructure reserves by $4.68 million to reduce the property tax increase to zero per cent for 2020.

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Alto

h. Reduce the transfer from property taxes ~~to the Building and Infrastructure reserves~~ by $4.68 million to be proportionally allocated between the Heavy Equipment, City Equipment and Building and Infrastructure reserves to reduce the property tax increase to zero per cent for 2020

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Councillor Potts
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

h. Amendment to the amendment
Reduce the transfer from property taxes by ~~$4.68~~ $1.2 million to be proportionally allocated between the Heavy Equipment, City Equipment and Building and Infrastructure reserves to reduce the property tax increase to the 2019 rate of inflation ~~zero per cent~~ for 2020

FOR (3): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Potts
OPPOSED (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young
DEFEATED (3 to 5)

On the amendment as amended:

h. Reduce the transfer from property taxes by $4.68 million to be proportionally allocated between the Heavy Equipment, City Equipment and Building and Infrastructure reserves to reduce the property tax increase to zero per cent for 2020

FOR (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young
OPPOSED (3): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Potts
CARRIED (5 to 3)

Amendment:
Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Young

i. Amend the Alternate Tax Scheme Bylaw and adjust the penalties to 2 per cent per month for August, September, October, November and December for 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:
Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

j. Report back on the financial and human resource impacts of deferring by one year those subsequent phases of the bicycle master plan that are not currently underway.

FOR (3): Councillor Alto, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young
OPPOSED (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Dubow

DEFEATED (3 to 5)

Amendment:
Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Alto

j. That Council lunches are removed from the 2020 budget.

FOR (2): Councillor Alto, and Councillor Thornton-Joe
OPPOSED (6): Mayor Helps, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young

DEFEATED (2 to 6)

On the main motion as amended:

1. That Council direct staff to:

    a. Defer the capital projects listed in the table on page 7 of this report

    b. Delay the initiatives listed in the table on page 9 of this report

    c. Reallocate $11.64 million in unrestricted property tax funding from the deferred capital projects to offset actual and potential revenue shortfalls in the operating budget

    d. Create a larger operating budget contingency using the funding allocated to the delayed initiatives

    e. Extend the payment due date for utility bills to 90 days from 45 days and bring forward bylaw amendments to authorize that change

    f. Extend the payment due date for property taxes to August 1, 2020 to align with the date the City is required to pay the property taxes levied on behalf of the Capital Regional District, the Capital Regional Hospital District, BC Assessment, and the Municipal Finance Authority; and bring

forward amendments to the Alternative Tax Scheme Bylaw to align with the August due date

g. That Council review and consider amendments to the 2020 budget in July 2020 with specific attention to the tables on pages 7 and 9 of this report.

h. Reduce the transfer from property taxes by $4.68 million to be proportionally allocated between the Heavy Equipment, City Equipment and Building and Infrastructure reserves to reduce the property tax increase to zero per cent for 2020

i. Amend the Alternate Tax Scheme Bylaw and adjust the penalties to 2 per cent per month for August, September, October, November and December for 2020.

2. That the Mayor on behalf of Council advocate to the Province of BC to:

1. Increase amounts for Homeowner Grants, and create a new category of grant applicable to persons who have lost income due to the pandemic

2. Reinstate the financial hardship Deferment Program and extend the program to commercial properties

3. Amend legislation to align payment due dates for taxes collected on behalf of other agencies with municipal Alternative Tax Scheme Bylaws

FOR (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young
OPPOSED (3): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Potts

CARRIED (5 to 3)

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the motion be forwarded to the April 9, 2020 Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.3 Short Term Rental (STR) Business Licence Appeal Process Policy

Council received a report dated March 20th, 2020 from the City Clerk seeking Council direction to implement a policy that sets out a process for appealing short-term rental business licence decisions.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Young

That Council approve the Short-Term Rental Business Licence Appeal Process Policy

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.5 Potential Adjustments to Parking Fees due to COVID-19 Impacts

Council received a report dated April 6, 2020 from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer providing information, analysis, and recommendations for the alleviation of financial burdens associated with City parking as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Possibility for further reconsideration.*

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council direct staff, for the month of April 2020 to:

1. Reduce rates in all parkades as follows:
    a. Daily rate - $1 per hour to a maximum of $5, with the 1st hour free
    b. Monthly rate - $85
2. Reduce on-street metered rates to $1 per hour
3. Reduce parking lot rates to $1 per hour with a $5 daily maximum
4. Suspend enforcement of time-limited zones, except for 30 minute zones

Amendment:
Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council direct staff, ~~for the month of April 2020~~ **for the duration of the provincial public health emergency** to:

Amendment to the amendment:
Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council direct staff, for the month of April 2020 **for the duration of the provincial <u>state of</u> ~~public health~~ emergency**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff, for duration of the provincial state of emergency:

1. Reduce rates in all parkades as follows:

1. Daily rate - $1 per hour to a maximum of $5, with the 1st hour free
2. Monthly rate - $85

2. Reduce on-street metered rates to $1 per hour
3. Reduce parking lot rates to $1 per hour with a $5 daily maximum
4. Suspend enforcement of time-limited zones, except for 30 minute zones

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the motion be forwarded to the April 9, 2020 Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Council Member Motion - DVBA 2020 Levy

Council received a report dated April 9, 2020 from Mayor Helps, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Loveday directing staff to remit the Downtown Victoria Business Association levy in July 2020 as per the regular schedule.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

1. That staff be directed to remit the DVBA levy in July 2020 as per the regular schedule.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.2 Council Member Motion - Action for Humanitarian Relief for People who are Homeless

Council received a report dated April 8, 2020 from Councillor Isitt requesting Council approval for a resolution directing the City to deploy resources and facilities to provide the option of emergency lodging and supports for all street-involved people in the City, and to request Ministerial approval to declare a State of Local Emergency for the purpose of procuring facilities, personnel, and emergency lodging for street-involved people.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Reconsideration at a later date.*

I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR