



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 16, 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 (joined at 9:05 a.m.), Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young

ABSENT: Councillor Dubow

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Loveday, 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, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, AK Ferguson - Committee Secretary, P. Bellefontaine – Acting Director, Engineering & Public Works

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the agenda me approved.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the agenda be amended as follows:

That I.2 - Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Referral for Municipal Acceptance be added to the consent agenda.

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the following items be approved without further debate:

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held March 26, 2020

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the Minutes from the meeting held March 26, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.2 Regional Growth Strategy Amendment Referral for Municipal Acceptance

Committee received a report dated April 2, 2020 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding the Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2019” (Bylaw No. 4328).

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council:

1. Accept the Regional Growth Strategy amendment, as set out in the Capital Regional District’s Bylaw No. 4328 “Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 1, 2019” (Bylaw No. 4328) as per section 436 of the Local Government Act.
2. Direct staff to provide the Capital Regional District Board with a letter confirming the City of Victoria’s acceptance of the Capital Regional District Bylaw No. 4328.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.4 Proclamation: Apraxia Awareness Day

Committee received a report dated April 9, 2020 from the City Clerk regarding the Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamation.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the *Apraxia Awareness Day* Proclamation be forwarded to the April 23, 2020 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.5 Proclamation: Global Love Day

Committee received a report dated April 14, 2020 from the City Clerk regarding the Global Love Day Proclamation.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the *Global Love Day* Proclamation be forwarded to the April 23, 2020 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. CLOSED MEETING

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council convene a closed Committee of the Whole meeting that excludes the public under Section 90 of the *Community Charter* for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Sections 90(1) and/or (2) of the *Community Charter*, namely:

Section 90(1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

- *Section 90(1)(f) law enforcement, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The public Committee meeting recessed at 9:04 a.m. and returned at 9:37 a.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1 Council Member Motion: On Demand Delivery / Dispatch of Goods and Services on a Non-Profit Basis

Councillor Isitt withdrew his motion.

I. STAFF REPORTS

Mayor Helps withdrew from the meeting and Councillor Isitt assumed the Chair at 9:46 a.m.

I.1 COVID-19 Update (Verbal)

Committee received a verbal report from the City Manager regarding the City's COVID-19 response. She advised that this would be her last COVID-19 Update unless Committee requires another update or some new information is available.

Committee discussed:

- *How tenting in parks is being managed by the City.*
- *Whether restrictions on roadways and parking stalls are being implemented in various neighbourhoods.*
- *Committee has requested that the COVID -19 updates from the City Manager continue.*

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Young

That the report from the City Manager be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I.3 Temporary Council Process COVID-19 - Review and Report Back

Committee received a report dated April 8, 2020 from the City Clerk regarding temporary meeting process changes, including telephone participation for request to address Council participants.

Committee discussed:

- *Whether more information would be available from the Ministry in May.*
- *How other Municipalities are approaching the holding of public hearing.*
- *When the Province might relax restrictions on local governments.*

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council:

1. Authorize telephone participation for request to address Council participants.
2. Direct staff to report back on the suspension of Public Hearings upon receipt of further information from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
3. Direct staff to amend the Council and Committee of the Whole schedule to continue with the suspension of evening meetings until May 30, 2020, or earlier should circumstances warrant.

Mayor Helps returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair at 10:13 a.m.

Mayor Helps advised that she would be willing to waive the requirement for public hearings for affordable housing and rental housing projects, as they are priority projects during the housing crisis.

Committee discussed:

- *Whether the budget discussions last week require public comment.*

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council:

1. Authorize telephone participation for request to address Council participants.

2. Direct staff to report back on the suspension of Public Hearings upon receipt of further information from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
3. Direct staff to amend the Council and Committee of the Whole schedule to continue with the suspension of evening meetings until May 30, 2020, or earlier should circumstances warrant.
4. **Direct staff to report back with a verbal update by May 14, 2020, with an anticipated timeline for restoring ordinary opportunities for public participation.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

K. NEW BUSINESS

K.1 Council Member Motion - Requisitioning Transient Accommodation to Provide Indoor Sheltering Options during COVID-19

Council received a report dated April 14, 2020 from Mayor Helps, Councillor Loveday and Councillor Potts seeking Council support for advocacy measures, and if needed, a request to the Province to declare a state of local emergency in order to requisition hotel and motel rooms for all unhoused people in the Capital Region.

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

1. That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General, and the Ministers of Housing, Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, copying Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, requesting that the Provincial government utilize its emergency powers under the Emergency Program Act to requisition hotel and motel rooms for all unhoused people in the Capital Region.
2. Further, that if the Provincial government is unwilling to take this action, the City of Victoria requests the authority to declare a local state of emergency to use emergency powers to requisition hotel and motel rooms for people who are unsheltered in the city and that the City work with BC Housing and Island Health to provide those units to people who are asymptomatic but at risk of contracting COVID-19 because they cannot currently follow health orders.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Mayor Helps

1. That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General, and the Ministers of Housing, Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, copying Members of the

Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, requesting that the Provincial government utilize its emergency powers under the Emergency Program Act to requisition hotel and motel rooms, **in the region**, for all unhoused people in the Capital Region.

2. Further, that if the Provincial government is unwilling to take this action, the City of Victoria requests the authority to declare a local state of emergency to use emergency powers to requisition hotel and motel rooms for people who are unsheltered in the city and that the City work with BC Housing and Island Health to provide those units to people who are asymptomatic but at risk of contracting COVID-19 because they cannot currently follow health orders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Mayor Helps

1. That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General, and the Ministers of Housing, Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, copying Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, requesting that the Provincial government utilize its emergency powers under the Emergency Program Act to requisition hotel and motel rooms, in the region, for all unhoused people in the Capital Region.
2. Further, that if the Provincial government is unwilling to take this action, the City of Victoria requests the authority to declare a local state of emergency to use emergency powers to requisition hotel and motel rooms for people who are unsheltered in the city and that the City work with BC Housing and Island Health to provide those units to people who are asymptomatic but at risk of contracting COVID-19 because they cannot currently follow health orders.
3. **That the motion be forwarded to the other municipalities in the region.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

1. That Council request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia, the Solicitor General, and the Ministers of Housing, Health, and Mental Health and Addictions, copying Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies in the Capital Region, requesting that the Provincial government utilize its emergency powers under the Emergency Program Act to requisition hotel and motel rooms, in the region, for all unhoused people in the Capital Region **and provide the health, mental health and addictions support for people moving in.**
2. Further, that if the Provincial government is unwilling to take this action, the City of Victoria requests the authority to declare a local state of emergency to

use emergency powers to requisition hotel and motel rooms for people who are unsheltered in the city and that the City work with BC Housing and Island Health to provide those units to people who are asymptomatic but at risk of contracting COVID-19 because they cannot currently follow health orders.

3. That the motion be forwarded to the other municipalities in the region.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

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

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (6 to 1)

K.2 Council Member Motion - Endorsing a Letter to Provincial Ministers re Urgent Action to Address Inequities in COVID-19 Regional Response

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated April 14, 2020 from Councillor Alto and Mayor Helps regarding the endorsement of an open letter to Honourable Selina Robinson, Honourable Adrian Dix, Premier John Horgan, Honourable Mike Farnworth, Honourable Judy Darcy, Honourable Scott Fraser, and Honourable Shane Simpson regarding the urgent action needed to assist unsheltered residents in the region.

Committee discussed:

- *Concerns with the term safe supply and how it will be distributed.*
- *Concerns with the current model not working.*

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council endorse the attached letter, and ask the Mayor to communicate this endorsement to Honourable Selina Robinson, Honourable Adrian Dix, Premier John Horgan, Honourable Mike Farnworth, Honourable Judy Darcy, Honourable Scott Fraser, and Honourable Shane Simpson.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council endorse the attached letter, and ask the Mayor to communicate this endorsement to Honourable Selina Robinson, Honourable Adrian Dix, Premier John Horgan, Honourable Mike Farnworth, Honourable Judy Darcy, Honourable Scott Fraser, and Honourable Shane Simpson **and that the motion and letter be forwarded to other municipalities in the region for their consideration.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

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

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (6 to 1)

K.3 Council Member Motion - Securing Indoor Sheltering Options for Vulnerable Populations

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated April 15, 2020 from Councillors Isitt and Potts regarding the need for securing indoor sheltering options for vulnerable populations.

Committee discussed:

- *The possibility of procuring places like Mt. Edwards and other vacant buildings for vulnerable populations.*
- *Concerns with the City funding this initiative and not being able to recoup the money expended.*
- *Concerns with the motion sending the wrong message to the Province.*

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Potts

That Council endorses the following resolution and directs staff to act on it with immediate effect:

Resolution: Securing Indoor Sheltering Options for Vulnerable Populations

WHEREAS the Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver Island, Dr. Richard Stanwick, advised the City of Victoria and other public agencies on March 17, 2020 that these entities had four days to identify a sheltering solution for street-involved people in the 900-block of Pandora Avenue to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19 within that vulnerable population;

AND WHEREAS thirty days have passed since Dr. Stanwick provided this advice to the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the BC Rental Housing Management Corporation (BC Housing);

AND WHEREAS emergency sheltering options established by the City, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and BC Housing in approximately 120 motel rooms and a temporary sheltering area at Topaz Park are insufficient to meet the demand for emergency lodging and supports for approximately 200-300 street-involved people in the City of Victoria;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria Emergency Plan provides for the direct provision of emergency lodging and supports during emergencies;

AND WHEREAS Victoria City Council has authorized funding and provided direction to staff to deploy City of Victoria resources, facilities and personnel to meet the emergency lodging and support needs of unhoused people;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Victoria City Council directs staff to act immediately using previously authorized funding to book a sufficient supply of transient accommodation units and other vacant housing units to provide indoor sheltering options and supports for unhoused people in the City of Victoria, aiming for cost-recovery from the Provincial government after the crisis has passed.

FOR (3): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, and Councillor Potts

OPPOSED (4): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

DEFEATED (3 to 4)

K.4 Council Member Motion - Funding for Emergency Outreach Services for Vulnerable Populations

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated April 15, 2020 from Councillors Potts, Isitt and Loveday regarding funding for Emergency Outreach Services to provide health and social services for vulnerable populations.

Moved By Councillor Potts

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council authorize a grant of up to \$50,000, from previously approved COVID19 response funds, toward emergency outreach services for vulnerable populations, to be allocated among AVI, SOLID, Peers Victoria and the Indigenous Harm Reduction Team upon confirmation of a delivery model to the satisfaction of the City Manager, aiming for cost-recovery from the Provincial government after the crisis has passed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

L. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR