

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015, 9:00 A.M.**

1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Helps in the Chair; Councillors Coleman, Isitt, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young

Absent for a Portion of the Meeting: Councillor Loveday

Absent: Councillor Alto

Staff Present: J. Johnson – City Manager; D. Kalynchuk – Director of Engineering & Public Works; J. MacDougall – Acting Director of Parks & Recreation; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; B. Dellebuur – Acting Assistant Director of Transportation & Parking Services; E. Robertson – Assistant Director of Public Works; Police Chief Elsner; S. Seivewright – VicPD; M. McIntyre – VicPD; T. Askam – Manager, Recreation Programs & Facilities; K. Oberg – Manager of Arts, Culture & Special Events; L. Sifton – Manager of Parks Planning, Design & Development; G. Smith – Manager of Parks Operations; J. Brehaut – Community Recreation Coordinator; C. Havelka – Recording Secretary.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Action: It was moved by Councillor Coleman, and seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that the Agenda of the February 17, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC126

3. FINANCIAL PLAN PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Engineering and Public Works

Mayor Helps continued the discussion from the February 16, 2015 meeting on the Engineering and Public Works Budget presentation.

Councillor Loveday joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- Reducing the amount of vehicles in the fleet through a car share program.

Belleville Terminal Phase 2 Project

Mayor Helps provided Committee with information from the Province regarding Phase 2 of the Belleville Terminal project.

Action: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to assess the possibility, as outlined in the letter from the Province dated January 28, 2015, and to report back to Council with information on including infrastructure work related to the Belleville Terminal Phase 2 Project in the 2017 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC127

Mayor Helps provided information with respect to requests from BC Transit, PCL, Greyhound and Wilson Transportation who have expressed an interest in renting space within to the Crystal Gardens and developing a curbside bus station when the existing terminal is relocated.

Action: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on human resource implications of potentially relocating the bus terminal stop in the 2016 budget funded by BC Transit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC128

Committee discussed the possibility of expediting the Bicycle Master Plan and the deliverables described on page 809 of the 2015 Financial Plan.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on expediting the cycling facilities on Vancouver Street, the off-Bay Street route, Johnson Street and Craigflower-Skinner by 2016.

Committee discussed this topic which was part of the strategic planning actions and may have been addressed through that process.

Councillor Young withdrew from the meeting at 9:16 a.m. and returned at 9:17 a.m.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee amend the motion as follows:

That Council direct staff to report back on expediting the cycling facilities on Vancouver Street, the off-Bay Street route, Johnson Street and Craigflower Skinner by **the end** 2016.

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC129

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC130

Committee discussed:

- The Johnson Street Bridge Project budget.
- Chinatown signage regarding jaywalking.
- Including transportation impacts in Planning & Land Use Committee reports.
- Bus lane improvements.
- The oldest water line from 1891 located at Fort and St. Charles Streets.
- The Bay Street/North Park pedestrian facilities.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on completing pedestrian facilities on Bay Street between Wark Street and Quadra Street sooner than 2022.

The motion failed due to no seconder.

Committee discussed:

- Street rehabilitation and arterial street upgrades.
- The possibility of undergrounding electrical utilities.
- The expenditure for City owned properties related to remediation and servicing; concerns that the Northern Junk lands have not completed the rezoning/public hearing process.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide Council with a breakdown of expenditures on page 903 *Remediation/Capital Work – City Owned Properties*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 14/GPC131

Committee discussed:

- Costs related to underground utilities.
- The replacement of City lights and supplying Council with a map of where the residential lamps will be located.

3.2 Victoria Police Budget

Victoria Police Chief Frank Elsner provided Committee with a presentation on the 2015 Police Provisional Budget.

Committee discussed:

- A breakdown of the capital budget spent on police vehicles.
- Transitioning the community concept of policing by moving from vehicles to more foot and bike patrols.
- Concerns regarding the cost of policing and reducing the number of full time employees;
 - Meeting with the ministry to review and change the policing model.
 - Continuing to look for internal efficiencies.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that Committee recommends that Council does not approve the salary line item in the police budget of \$41.9 million.

Committee discussed:

- The municipalities' legal authority to not approve this expenditure.
- The increased time officers spend in court and high case loads.
- Other issues including pensions and CREST governance.
- The changes in policing including social services issues that need addressing.
- A reduction in crime rates not necessarily followed by a reduction in the police force.
- Writing the province regarding the police salary arbitration process.
- Restorative justice and crime prevention mechanisms to reduce crime rates.

For: Councillors Isitt and Loveday

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

DEFEATED 14/GPC132

Committee discussed:

- The importance of education as a mechanism to reduce crime.
- Information regarding the E-Comm communications system used on the mainland.
- The importance of the restorative justice program.
- Information and changes regarding the CREST system.
- The issue of sharing costs for services supplied to other jurisdictions.

Committee recessed at 10:55 a.m.

Committee reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

3.3 Parks, Recreation and Culture

The Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided Committee with a presentation on core services and the draft financial plan.

Committee discussed:

- Revenue and expenditures related to the doggy bag program; the suggestion the City sell doggy bags.
- Reductions in the paper copies of the Active Living Guide.
- A review of the Taxed Boulevard Program, which is not in the workplan at this time.
- Events held in public venues and receiving more information on the numbers of attendees.
- The replacement of trees on boulevards and how staff approach the policy to use native trees.
 - Staff will be providing a report on managing urban forests.

- Including in the report how public consultation might occur for tree replacement on streets.
- Information on the expenditure for equipment rentals.
- The engagement process for Vic West Park Improvements.
- Statistics regarding new users to the Arts Victoria website and promoting that website.
- The revenue from field rentals at Royal Athletic Park.
- Information regarding leaf mulch, fencing community gardens and fencing dog optional areas.
- The pathway on Dallas Road and if this will be addressed before the completion of the Parks Master Plan.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide a report on options and implications of the Dallas Road pathway and the conflicts between the pathway and the leash optional area along Dallas Road.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC133

Committee discussed:

- Management and maintaining the Ross Bay Cemetery and the suggestion a self-financing model be considered.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Loveday, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of February 17, 2015, be adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC134

Mayor Helps, Chair