

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young.

Absent: Councillor Alto

Staff Present: J. Johnson – City Manager; R. Woodland – Director of Legislative & Regulatory Services; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; K. Hamilton – Director of Civic Engagement & Strategic Planning; J. Jenkyns – General Manager of the Victoria Conference Centre; D. Kalynchuk – Director of Engineering & Public Works; J. MacDougall – Acting Director of Parks & Recreation; A. Hudson – Assistant Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development; T. Zworski – City Solicitor; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; C. Mycroft – Assistant to City Manager; A. Ferguson – Recording Secretary.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

Action: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Agenda of the February 16, 2015, Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC116

3. FINANCIAL PLAN PRESENTATIONS

Suzanne Thompson, Director of Finance, provided Committee with an introduction to the budget presentations that will be given today by City departments. Presentations will continue on February 17 and 19 until each department has presented their capital and operating budgets to Committee. Committee is asked to review and discuss the proposed budget, and provide any direction to staff.

Katie Hamilton, Director of Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning presented Committee with the proposed budget for the Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning Department. The presentation included an overview of services provided by the department; a summary of the proposed budget for 2015 in comparison to the previous year; proposed initiatives for 2015; and a supplementary request for

funding to celebrate the 35th Anniversary with the Twin Cities. The request will be reviewed and discussed further and staff will return to Committee with a formal request prior to public consultation.

Suzanne Thompson, Director of Finance, presented Committee with the proposed budget for Finance. The presentation included an overview of services provided by the department; a summary of the proposed budget for 2015 in comparison to the previous year; and proposed initiatives for 2015.

Committee discussed the following:

- Potential cost savings by developing software internally.
- Johnson Street Bridge expenditures.
- Giving preference to local suppliers.
- Payroll services for the Victoria Police Department and how policing costs are split with Esquimalt.
- The five year forecast for each budget.

Dwayne Kalynchuk, Director of Engineering & Public Works, presented Committee with the proposed budget for Engineering & Public Works. The presentation included an overview of how the budget was determined; services provided by the department; a summary of the proposed budget for 2015 in comparison to the previous year; proposed initiatives for 2015; and a supplementary request for funding of concrete and brick paver intersection maintenance and sidewalk maintenance upgrades.

Committee discussed the following:

- Expanding the use of banners from downtown into the village centers.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back with information on the cost of assisting village centers with the installation of banners.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that the motion be amended as follows:

That Council direct staff to report back with information on the cost of assisting village centers with the installation of banners **and other beautification initiatives.**

On the amendment:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC117

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC118

Committee discussed the following:

- Extending the financial support for utility, maintenance and janitorial costs given to some of the community centers to all of the community centers.
- The cost and environmental impacts resulting from unnecessary use of City vehicles including police cruisers.
- Transitioning to more fuel-efficient vehicles.

- Concerns as to which jobs are being contracted to outside agencies as there is a higher level of control and community benefit to keeping the jobs internal.
- The large cost of the Douglas Street Retaining Wall and whether there is a more cost effective alternative.
- Whether training current staff or hiring a new position to provide the “safe walk” service at the parkades would be more cost effective than maintaining a security position.
- The current state of City efforts to reduce the infiltration of rain water into the sewer and the need for an update on Inflow and Infiltration.
- Pandora Avenue being a top priority for the Bicycle Master Plan implementation.
- The need for an additional north and south route within the Bicycle Master Plan.
- The necessity of installing a mid-block walkway in the 500 block of Fisgard Street.
- Concern that there were no neighborhood crosswalks identified for approval.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report back on the crosswalk implementation plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC119

Committee discussed the following:

- Concerns as to why the west side of Higgins Street was chosen for sidewalk improvements as improvements to the east side would give better linkage to the park.
- The need for a crosswalk at Vista Heights and Quadra Street.
- The need for education, prevention and enforcement around graffiti.
- The trial of kitchen scrap bins alongside garbage bins in the downtown core.
- Enhancing garbage pick-up downtown during tourist season.
- Increasing the park yard hours.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff to report on service levels for downtown garbage collection during the tourist season.

Committee discussed the motion as follow:

- To include areas of the City which may also need increased collection frequency.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Mayor Helps, that the motion be amended as follows:

That Council direct staff to report on service levels for ~~downtown~~ garbage collection **in public areas including separating waste streams**, during the tourist season.

On the amendment:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC120

On the main motion as amended:
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC121

Action: It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Mayor Helps, that yard waste be acceptable in kitchen scrap bins.

Staff advised that there is a report forthcoming to address this issue.

Councilor Thornton-Joe withdrew her motion.

- The plan to place a crosswalk on a street that allows J-Walking such as Fisgard Street seems unnecessary and confusing.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council defer the installation of the 500 block of Fisgard crosswalk for one year.

Committee discussed the motion as follows:

- The issues of accessibility.
- Providing a linkage between walkways and alleys is a seamless way of moving pedestrians through the city.
- The need for further discussion and careful attention on this proposal.
- The impact a crosswalk could have on Chinatown's character.
- Possibility of placing signage on the streets to advise vehicles that pedestrians are given priority.

Action: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Madoff, that Committee Postpone consideration of the motion until they receive a report from staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC122

Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 10:56 a.m. and returned at 10:57 a.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- The need to determine which light poles need painting and/or replacing.
- The increase in use of the Centennial Square washrooms and the possibility of updating these facilities.

Councillor Isitt withdrew from the meeting at 11: 01 a.m. and returned at 11:02 p.m.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Thornton-Joe, seconded by Mayor Helps, that Committee recommends that Council direct staff provide a report on what it will take to upgrade the Centennial Square washrooms and impacts on other projects.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC123

Mayor Coleman assumed the chair at 11:03 a.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- Exploring ways to better cost share with Esquimalt.

Mayor Helps assumed the chair at 11:05 a.m.

Committee continued to discuss the following:

- The desire to research other communities' success with public kitchen scraps bins.
- Preference for allocating funds to the community centers instead of providing them with services and paying the hydro bills.
- The need to remind the public that part of the budget process is allocating crosswalk project priority.
- The importance of celebrating the Dallas Road Sea Wall repair.
- The connector from Menzies Street between Michigan Street and Simcoe Street is a natural spot for a crosswalk similar to Cedar Hill Road but this has not yet been marked as a priority.
- The need for a memo or a report supplying the Committee with a list of streets where J-Walking is permitted.
- The need for the Bicycle Master Plan to be implemented on Vancouver Street.

Action: It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee recommends that Council direct future Engineering budgets to include consideration of funding for traffic calming, including specific projects and locations.

Committee discussed the motion as follows:

- All motions with regards to Engineering will be receiving a report.
- Possibility of funds for traffic calming to come from complete streets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC124

Committee discussed the following:

- Revisiting the cost of allocation for the police station building as it also serves Esquimalt.
- Relamping street lights is a large cost project and there needs to be assurance that we are receiving the best quality in terms of what is available.
- The repair of the Gate of Harmonious Interest and how best to resemble the current materials with longevity in mind.
- The sanitary sewer and storm drain relining projects and Green Municipal Fund funding.
- Looking into "Trenchless Technology" for fiscal savings.
- The use of the Corporate Server Room.
- The desire to have a more consistent meeting set up as it takes time and strain for Building Services to constantly flip the Council rooms for different meetings.
- The number of seniors within the community will be rising creating a significant need to revamp the sidewalks.
- Applying the *Anti-Idling Bylaw* to all city vehicles.
- The desire to have graffiti removed on beaches as quickly as it is downtown or on businesses.
- Utilizing the City's learning's from the Dallas Road Sea Wall to aid in the Douglas Street Retaining Wall project.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Action: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Young, that the Special Governance & Priorities Committee meeting of February 16, 2015, be adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15/GPC125

Mayor Helps, Chair