



MINUTES – SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 4, 2024, 9:03 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation

PRESENT: Mayor Alto in the Chair, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Kim

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, S. Johnson - Director of Communications and Engagement, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, P. Rantucci - Director of Strategic Real Estate, T. Soulliere - Deputy City Manager, J. Jensen - Director, People and Culture, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, C. Kingsley – City Clerk, B. Roder - Senior Legislative Coordinator, A. Klus - Legislative Coordinator

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, and thanked them for their stewardship, which has allowed Council to be in the Chamber, making the decisions before them, in the best interest of all residents.

B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded

That item *E. CLOSED MEETING* be reordered to follow item *C. Approval of Agenda*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded:

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
November 04, 2024

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. CLOSED MEETING

Moved and Seconded:

MOTION TO CLOSE THE NOVEMBER 04, 2024 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

That Council convene a closed 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)(c) labour relations or other employee relations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Committee of the Whole meeting was closed to the public at 9:13 a.m.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Employee Relations - Community Charter Section 90(1)(c)

Committee discussed a matter related to employee relations. The discussion was recorded and kept confidential.

The Special Committee of the Whole meeting was opened to the public at 11:33 a.m.

Committee recessed at 11:33 a.m. and reconvened at 11:43 a.m.

D. STAFF REPORTS

D.1 2025 Draft Budget Public Engagement Summary Report

Committee received a report dated October 15, 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager and from the Director of Communications and Engagement regarding the results of the City's 2025 Budget engagement to inform the City's Draft Budget and future-year budget planning.

D.2 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan

Committee received a report dated October 10, 2024 from the Deputy City Manager regarding the Draft 2025-2029 Financial Plan, which includes the resources required to continue to deliver services, programs, initiatives and capital infrastructure renewal.

The Deputy City Manager/ Chief Financial Officer provided a response to the Committee regarding discussions from the October 24th, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Proposed tax lift and remaining percentage*
- *Asset management, including intended design life versus current condition of assets*

Committee recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Moved and Seconded:

Council direct staff to:

- 1) bring forward options to reduce the city's portion of the 2025 and 2026 property tax increases to 4%, 5%, 6% and/or 7% by:
 - a. focusing on reducing services/programs that are property tax funded
 - b. focusing on services/programs that are ongoing
 - c. avoiding adding new services/programs/assets
 - d. avoiding expanding services/programs/assets
 - e. avoiding negatively impacting existing assets and increase deferred maintenance
 - f. pausing actioning new/expanded initiatives to reduce tax increase or avoid an additional tax increase, even if previously directed by Council, and
- 2) report back to Council on the implications of adjusting the ratio of the "Business and Other" tax class from 3.67 to 3, and/or 2.5, as compared to the Residential rate.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

Council direct staff to:

- 1) bring forward options to reduce the city's portion of the 2025 and 2026 property tax increases to ~~4%, 5%~~, **5.5%**, 6% and/or 7% by:
 - a. focusing on reducing services/programs that are property tax funded
 - b. focusing on services/programs that are ongoing
 - c. avoiding adding new services/programs/assets
 - d. avoiding expanding services/programs/assets
 - e. avoiding negatively impacting existing assets and increase deferred maintenance
 - f. pausing actioning new/expanded initiatives to reduce tax increase or avoid an additional tax increase, even if previously directed by Council, and

- 2) report back to Council on the implications of adjusting the ratio of the “Business and Other” tax class from 3.67 to 3, and/or 2.5, as compared to the Residential rate.

OPPOSED (7): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, and Councillor Thompson

DEFEATED (2 to 7)

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

Council direct staff to:

- 1) bring forward options to reduce the city’s portion of the 2025 and 2026 property tax increases to 4%, 5%, 6% ~~and/or~~ 7%, **8% and/or 9%** by:
 - a. focusing on reducing services/programs that are property tax funded
 - b. focusing on services/programs that are ongoing
 - c. avoiding adding new services/programs/assets
 - d. avoiding expanding services/programs/assets
 - e. avoiding negatively impacting existing assets and increase deferred maintenance
 - f. pausing actioning new/expanded initiatives to reduce tax increase or avoid an additional tax increase, even if previously directed by Council, and
- 2) report back to Council on the implications of adjusting the ratio of the “Business and Other” tax class from 3.67 to 3, and/or 2.5, as compared to the Residential rate.

OPPOSED (7): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, and Councillor Loughton

DEFEATED (2 to 7)

The Chair requested that the first and second part of the motion be voted on separately.

On number one:

Council direct staff to:

- 1) bring forward options to reduce the city’s portion of the 2025 and 2026 property tax increases to 4%, 5%, 6%, and/or 7%, by:
 - a. focusing on reducing services/programs that are property tax funded
 - b. focusing on services/programs that are ongoing
 - c. avoiding adding new services/programs/assets
 - d. avoiding expanding services/programs/assets
 - e. avoiding negatively impacting existing assets and increase deferred maintenance

- f. pausing actioning new/expanded initiatives to reduce tax increase or avoid an additional tax increase, even if previously directed by Council, and

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

One number two:

- 2) report back to Council on the implications of adjusting the ratio of the “Business and Other” tax class from 3.67 to 3, and/or 2.5, as compared to the Residential rate.

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (8 to 1)

J. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR