



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 7, 2024, 9:01 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 Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Kim

ABSENT: Councillor Coleman

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, T. Seal-Jones – Emergency Program Coordinator, D. Atkins – Fire Chief, A. Johnston - Assistant Director of Development Services, M. Angrove - Planner, 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 continued stewardship over the lands for millennia.

B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

The Chair allocated space on the agenda to provide comments on the upcoming Remembrance Day memorial.

Councillor Gardiner made remarks honoring veterans and soldiers who fought in World War II.

Councillor Hammond conveyed the importance of remembering the sacrifices people made for the country and its people.

Councillor Thompson spoke of pride for his grandfather who fought in World War II and the importance of remaining vigilant against encroaching tyranny.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Committee requested that the following items be removed from the Consent Agenda:

- F.2 – 1535 and 1537 Despard Avenue: Development Variance Permit Application No. 00263 (Rockland)*
- G.1 – Post-Event Review for Touchdown Pacific 2024*

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

E.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 03, 2024

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 03, 2024 be approved.

E.2 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 10, 2024

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 10, 2024 be approved.

F.1 1321 Yates Street: Amendment to Covenant No. FB004862 (Fernwood)

That Council authorize amendment of the covenant FB004862 related to 1321 Yates Street (the “Lands”), with contents satisfactory to the Director of Planning and Development and form satisfactory to the City Solicitor to allow the 24-hour operation of the convenience store and gas bar, but not the carwash, on the Lands.

F.3 1535 and 1537 Despard Avenue: Development Variance Permit Application No. 00263 (Rockland)

1. That Council authorize the issuance of Development Variance Permit Application No. 00263 for 1535 & 1537 Despard Avenue, in accordance with:

- a. Subdivision file SUB00418 (Subdivision of 1535/37 Despard Avenue).
- b. Offsite civil plans date stamped June 22, 2021.
- c. Development meeting all Victoria Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw requirements, except for the following variance:
 - i. Remove the requirement to construct the required frontage improvements as described within the Victoria Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw.
- d. Provision of \$17,285 security equivalent to the costs of installing frontage improvements. The \$17,285 would be applied to frontage improvements on Despard Avenue when capital projects for street improvements occur on these streets.
- e. The Development Variance Permit, if issued, expires two years from the date of this resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. LAND USE MATTERS

F.2 1542 Despard Avenue and 1551 Montgomery Avenue: Development Variance Permit Application No. 00285 (Rockland)

Committee received a report dated October 22, 2024 from the Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works regarding the Development Variance Permit application for the property located at 1542 Despard Avenue and 1551 Montgomery Avenue in order to remove the requirement for the developer to construct sidewalks along the two frontages of the development and recommending that it be approved.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Request for pay in lieu of sidewalks*

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council authorize the issuance of Development Variance Permit Application No. 00285 for 1542 Despard Avenue & 1551 Montgomery Avenue (formerly 1540 Despard Avenue), in accordance with:
 - a. Subdivision file SUB00412 (Subdivision of 1540 Despard Avenue).
 - b. Offsite civil plans date stamped October 20, 2023.
 - c. Development meeting all Victoria Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw requirements, except for the following variance:
 - i. Remove the requirement to construct a portion of the required frontage improvements as described within the Victoria Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw.
 - d. Provision of \$17,000 security equivalent to the costs of installing frontage improvements. The \$17,000 would be applied to sidewalk improvements on Despard Avenue and Montgomery Avenue, when capital projects for street improvements occur on these streets.

- e. The Development Variance Permit, if issued, expires two years from the date of this resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1 Post-Event Review for Touchdown Pacific 2024

Committee received a report dated October 15, 2024 from the Deputy City Manager regarding details of a post-event review by City staff of Touchdown Pacific 2024, an event co-hosted by the City with the BC Lions football club, and recommending that it be received for information.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Line managements and access to facilities and concession*
- *Mitigating impacts on the community*
- *Expanding use and access to the facility*

Moved and Seconded:

That the Post-Event Review for Touchdown Pacific 2024 report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G.2 Update on 2024-2025 Emergency Winter Weather Response and Planning

Committee received a report dated November 06, 2024 from the Fire Chief providing Council with information on the City's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan and advising Council on the resources and emergency response plans for other regional municipalities and recommending that the report be received for information.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Ability of the BC government mandate to compel other municipalities to care for their residents*
- *Capital Regional District's lack of legal authority to compel municipalities to respond to sheltering needs*
- *Not enough space to support the region*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response; **and that the Council directs the Mayor to write to the Mayor and Council of Saanich and request that the District of Saanich work with BC Housing to set up an EWR shelter in the District of Saanich and take responsibility for unhoused residents in their own jurisdiction.**

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response; **and that the Council directs the Mayor to write to the Mayor and Council of Saanich and request that the District of Saanich work with BC Housing to set up an EWR shelter spaces in the District of Saanich and take responsibility for unhoused residents in their own jurisdiction.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response; **and that the Council directs the Mayor to write to the Mayor and Council of Saanich and request that the District of Saanich set up additional shelter spaces in the District of Saanich and take responsibility for unhoused residents in their own jurisdiction.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response; **and that the Council directs the Mayor to write to the Mayor and**

Council of Saanich and request that the District of Saanich set up additional shelter spaces in the District of Saanich and take responsibility for unhoused residents in their own jurisdiction.

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (7 to 1)

On the main motion as amended:

That Council receive this report for information on the City of Victoria's 2024/25 Emergency Winter Weather Response Plan, what resources exist in other municipalities in the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the Emergency Plans of other municipalities with respect to cold weather events and emergency response; and that the Council directs the Mayor to write to the Mayor and Council of Saanich and request that the District of Saanich set up additional shelter spaces in the District of Saanich and take responsibility for unhoused residents in their own jurisdiction.

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (7 to 1)

Motion arising:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council directs the Mayor to write to all mayors and councils in Greater Victoria, with the exception of Sooke, to request they stand up their own Emergency Warming Centre for the unhoused during extreme weather events starting immediately.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council directs the Mayor to write to all mayors and councils in Greater Victoria, ~~with the exception of Sooke~~, to request they stand up their own Emergency Warming Centre for the unhoused during extreme weather events starting immediately.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion arising as amended:

That Council directs the Mayor to write to all mayors and councils in Greater Victoria to request they stand up their own Emergency Warming Centre for the unhoused during extreme weather events starting immediately.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

H. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no notice of motions

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Council Member Motion: Downtown Businesses and Parking

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to survey businesses within the Downtown Core Area to assess their parking and street use needs.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to survey businesses within the Downtown Core Area to assess their parking and street use needs, **including related impacts and trade offs, including on taxes, investment in downtown revitalization, and other development and transportation considerations.**

OPPOSED (4): Mayor Alto, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, and Councillor Loughton

DEFEATED (4 to 4)

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to ~~survey~~ **reach out to** businesses within the Downtown Core Area to assess their parking and street use needs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to reach out to businesses within the Downtown Core Area to assess their parking and street use needs, **and highlight current downtown initiatives.**

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (7 to 1)

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff to reach out to businesses within the Downtown Core Area to assess their parking and street use needs, and highlight current downtown initiatives.

OPPOSED (3): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, and Councillor Thompson

CARRIED (5 to 3)

Committee recessed for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

I.2 Council Member Motion: New Location for Storage Facility for Unhoused Victorians

Committee discussed the following:

- *Rental and relocation logistics of storage sea cans*

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council directs staff to work with SOLID Outreach Society and BC Housing to move the storage facility at 926/930 Pandora Street to another location.
2. That this motion be sent to the Council to Follow Committee of the Whole on November 7, 2024, for same-day consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

There was no closed meeting.

K. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 1:21p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR