



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

January 9, 2025, 6:38 P.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 Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Gardiner

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Deputy City Manager, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator, B. Roder – Deputy City Clerk, A. Klus – Senior Legislative Coordinator, A. Heimbürger – Senior Legislative Coordinator

B. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council 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 preserving and protecting the land for generations.

A. POETRY

Council received a poetry reading by Eva Haas, Youth Poet Laureate, who also expressed their appreciation for the Youth Poet Laureate Program.

C. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Moved and Seconded:

That the following speakers be permitted to address Council:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E.1 Dr. Shelley Cook, Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria: Greater Victoria Rent Bank - Trends and Themes for 2024/2025 (In-person)

Provided a summary of rent bank activities for the City of Victoria, including trends and issues, a fiscal snapshot for 2023/2024, the rent-to-income ratio, household composition, sources of income, and highlighted the disproportionate number of applications from Victoria than from other municipalities.

E.2 Melissa Giles, BC Rent Bank, a program of VanCity Community Foundation: Why Eviction Protection Matters (In-person)

Outlined the services provided by the Rent Bank, including debt consolidation, and stressed social and economic implications in preventing costs associated with evictions. The speaker indicated that the Rent Bank has saved over half a million dollars to renters and thanked the City for its commitment to the Rent Bank program.

E.3 Anna Brazeau: Equality (In-person)

The Chair noted that this speaker was not present to address Council.

E.4 Jayson Despres: Limitation of Homelessness (In-person)

The Chair noted that this speaker was not present to address Council.

E.5 Jason Goldsworthy, COAST Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies: The positive impacts of the new COAST Ocean Innovation Hub on Herald Street (In-person)

Extolled the benefits of the "blue economy" and highlighted the coworking space on Herald Street as an innovation hub for the blue tech sector, raising the region's profile in ocean innovation.

E.6 Aaron Stone, South Island Prosperity Partnership: South Island Prosperity Partnership - Update and Activities. Reflection on 60 Days (In-person)

Outlined the challenges and opportunities that come with uncertain economic times, and the value in leveraging collaborative regional partnerships towards building and facilitating economic prosperity for all. The speaker thanked the City

for its strong partnership and leadership in the creation of South Island Prosperity Partnership and looks forward to continued collaboration.

E.7 Christina Clark, Indigenous Prosperity Centre - South Island Prosperity Partnership: Indigenous Prosperity Centre (In-person)

Provided an update on the work of the centre, including the Songhees economic objectives, eco adventures with Indigenous students, ongoing work of the Indigenous Youth Steering Committee, and their partnership with UVic. The speaker also thanked the City for being a supportive partner.

E.8 Correne Antrobus: Unhoused & Sweeps (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding the homeless situation on Pandora Avenue, the removal of belongings by bylaw officers, the safety of housing available for those searching for it, and the stigma still associated with living on the street.

E.9 Olia Kovalenko: Administration of Property in City Custody Bylaw (In-person)

Expressed concerns about belongings of the unhoused being impounded by bylaw officers and requested a call to action from the Federal housing ministry to amend the property and custody bylaw to provide more support in severe weather events.

E.10 Kyam Sankeralli: Homeless, Tourism (In-person)

The Chair noted that this speaker was not present to address Council.

E.11 Sylvia Ceacero, Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region: Alliance work on regional outreach, governance change and progress on community plan of action (In-person)

Provided an overview of ongoing work of the Alliance, including new partnerships within the region, and a community plan to reach functional zero homelessness.

E.12 Michalle Vanchu-Orosco, Alliance to End Homelessness in the Capital Region: Herluma, community data dashboard and other projects (In-person)

Outlined two critical projects for the Alliance; The Herluma application, which aims to consolidate shelters in Victoria to a unified online system that helps shelters manage their waitlists and logbooks and streamlines the transfer process, with the end goal of progressing more individuals from emergency into transitional housing, and the Community Data Dashboard, which provides a snapshot that will be used to inform progress toward achieving functional zero.

E.13 Lyall Atkinson: Bike Lane on 900-1000 Block of Tolmie (In-person)

Expressed grievances towards parking issues and a bike lane on Tolmie Avenue and questioned historical decisions made in urban planning.

E.14 Doug Jarvis: ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria: Investing in the Arts (In-person)

Spoke to the improvements made by OpenSpace due to receiving the Cultural Infrastructure Grant from the City as well as the role of the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria in promoting a number of community programs and hosting the Regional Arts Awards and City of Victoria Creative Builder Award. The speaker further urged continued partnership between all levels of government to support cultural identity and local economy, asking that the City maintains funding as one of those supportive partnerships.

Council recessed at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

F. PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS

F.1 522 St. Charles Street: Heritage Designation No. 000202

F.1.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval

Kristal Stevenot (Heritage Planner): Advised that the application is to designate the exterior of the building located at 522 St. Charles Street, legally described as protected heritage property.

The Chair opened the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Hans Rodenburg (Owner): Provided information regarding the application.

The Chair called a first and second time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Council recessed from 8:03 p.m. until 8:07 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons called in to speak to the proposed application.

The Chair called a third and final time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 8:08 p.m.

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaw **be given third reading**:

1. Heritage Designation (522 St. Charles Street) Bylaw, No. 24-040

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2 1601 Douglas Street: Heritage Designation No. 000210

F.2.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval

Kristal Stevenot (Heritage Planner): advised that the application is to designate the exterior of the building located at 1601 Douglas Street, legally described as protected heritage property.

The Chair opened the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Darren Alderman (Applicant): Provided information regarding application.

The Chair called a first and second time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Council recessed from 8:12 p.m. until 8:17 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons called in to speak to the proposed application.

The Chair called a third and final time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 8:18 p.m.

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaw **be given third reading**:

1. Heritage Designation (1601 Douglas Street) Bylaw, No. 24-079

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaw **be adopted**:

1. Heritage Designation (1601 Douglas Street) Bylaw, No. 24-079

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

There was no closed meeting.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT