



## MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

January 23, 2025, 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**

**Meeting will recess for a lunch break between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

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

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, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, A. Johnston - Assistant Director of Development Services, B. Roder – Deputy City Clerk, Sian Maichen – Legislative Coordinator

### **A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Committee recognized that the City of Victoria is situated on the traditional lands of the Songhees and Xwsepsum First Nations communities, they expressed their gratitude for the privilege of being on these lands and extended their thanks to the nations for their enduring stewardship.

### **B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

#### **G.2.a. Closed Meeting**

Moved and Seconded:

That item *G.2.a. - Closed Meeting* be added to the agenda under New Business and the remainder of the agenda be reordered accordingly.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Committee requested that the following item be added to the Consent Agenda:*

- *G.1 - Council Member Motion: Advancing Climate-Resilient Communities.*

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

**E.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 05, 2024**

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 05, 2024 be approved.

**G.1 Council Member Motion: Advancing Climate-Resilient Communities**

1. That Council ask the Mayor to create a letter in support of a grant application to Intact Insurance for funding to assist the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society, the Sierra Club BC, the RUSH Initiative and Engage with Nature-based Solutions in their collaborative initiative directed at integrating FireSmart and ClimateSmart data into actionable tools, mobilize community participation and support suitable green infrastructure to enhance climate resilience in the CRD.
2. Further, that this Motion be considered at the Council meeting of January 23, 2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**E.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 05, 2025**

*This item was added to the Consent Agenda.*

**F. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

*There were no Notices of Motions.*

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**G.1 Council Member Motion: Advancing Climate-Resilient Communities**

*This item was added to the Consent Agenda.*

**G.2 Council Member Motion: Proposed \$125,000 grant to the Other Guise Theatre to help acquire 716 Johnson Street**

Committee received a Council Member Motion from Councillor Dell dated January 23, 2025 requesting that a \$125,000 grant be paid from the Major Community Events and Initiatives Grant to The Other Guise Theatre Company.

*Councillor Kim recused herself from the meeting at 9:08 a.m. due to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest.*

Committee discussed the following:

- Availability of spaces to support the arts community
- Logistics of donation matches for City funding

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council direct staff to provide the Other Guise Theatre Company with a \$125,000 grant, to be paid from the Major Community Events and Initiatives Grant, on the condition that:
  - a. The City's funding is matched by community donations or private donors, to be confirmed by city staff.

**Amendment:**

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council direct staff to provide the Other Guise Theatre Company with a ~~\$125,000~~ **\$100,000** grant, to be paid from the Major Community Events and Initiatives Grant, ~~on the condition that:~~
  - a. ~~The City's funding is matched by community donations or private donors, to be confirmed by city staff.~~

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond  
Conflict (1): Councillor Kim

**CARRIED (6 to 2)**

**On the main motion as amended:**

1. That Council direct staff to provide the Other Guise Theatre Company with a \$100,000 grant, to be paid from the Major Community Events and Initiatives Grant.

OPPOSED (3): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Loughton  
Conflict (1): Councillor Kim

**CARRIED (5 to 3)**

### **G.2.a. Closed Meeting**

Moved and Seconded:

MOTION TO CLOSE THE JANUARY 23, 2025 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)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*The Committee of the Whole meeting was closed to the public at 9:59 a.m. and reopened to the public at 10:19 a.m.*

*Committee recessed at 10:19 a.m. and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.*

**Motion to recess:**

Moved and Seconded:

That Council recess the Committee of the Whole meeting pending the completion of Daytime Council.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Committee recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 11:01 a.m.*

**G.3 Council Member Motion: Balanced Information For Crystal Pool Referendum**

Committee received a Council Member Motion from Councillor Hammond and Councillor Gardiner dated January 17, 2025 requesting that Council put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Financial resources allocated for the upcoming referendum*
- *Flow of information related to ongoing and upcoming projects*
- *Advertisements run regarding the Crystal Pool Wellness Centre*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum
2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**Amendment:**

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. ~~Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum~~ **Alter the advertising of the referendum to reflect more balance**
2. ~~Replace~~ **Require** upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

OPPOSED (6): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED (3 to 6)**

**Amendment:**

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum
2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. **Changes to materials and information be made prior to January 26**
4. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

*Councillor Kim left the meeting at 11:31 a.m.*

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
Absent (1): Councillor Kim

**DEFEATED (2 to 6)**

**Amendment:**

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. **Indicate the scale of cuts needed to fund Crystal Pool, providing meaningful comparisons ~~Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum~~**
2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond  
Absent (1): Councillor Kim

**DEFEATED (2 to 6)**

**Amendment:**

Moved and Seconded:

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. **To note that other options exist if the referendum does not succeed, such as refurbishment, a smaller facility or pursuing a regional service for recreation. ~~Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum~~**
2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

*Council recessed for lunch at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:08 p.m.*

**On the amendment:**

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. **To note that other options exist if the referendum does not succeed, such as refurbishment, a smaller facility or pursuing a regional service for recreation. ~~Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum~~**

2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

OPPOSED (4): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell  
Absent (1): Councillor Kim

**DEFEATED (4 to 4)**

**On the main motion:**

That Council direct staff to immediately:

1. Put a stop to one-sided advertising regarding the referendum
2. Replace upcoming advertising and information sessions (such as “pop up” locations) as well as the City’s website to include arguments or reasoning for both the “yes” and “no” sides of the binding question on the referendum
3. Have this information vetted by the City Manager before changes are made

That this matter be forwarded to the January 23, 2025, Council to follow Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Opposed (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
Absent (1): Councillor Kim

**DEFEATED (2 to 6)**

**I. 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**

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR