



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 27, 2025, 9:00 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 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, J. Jensen - Director, People and Culture, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, A. Hudson - Assistant Director of Community Planning, K. Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, A. Johnston - Assistant Director of Development Services, L. Klose - Manager of Community Planning, R. Soward - Manager of Housing, B. Molnar - Manager of Land Development, R. Kenny - Assistant Director of Transportation, A. Hudson - Assistant Director of Community Planning, J. Handy - Manager of Planning & Regulatory Services, M. Angrove - Senior Planner, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, A. Heimbürger - Senior Legislative Coordinator, D. Newman - Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, W. Doyle - Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged the remarkable stewardship of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities – on whose homelands the City of Victoria is located – noting that Council's work is made possible only because of the historic and ongoing care to the lands and waters by the Nations. Council thanked the Songhees and Xwsepsum First Nations for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E.1 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan – Impact of Province's Decision on Victoria Esquimalt Police Board Section 27 Appeal

Committee received a report dated February 14, 2025 from the Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer regarding the impacts of the Province's decision on the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board's Section 27 appeal to the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan and recommending that the report be received for information.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Staffing model for late night police task force*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan – Impact of Province's Decision on Victoria Esquimalt Police Board Section 27 Appeal report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E.2 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan - Impact of Crystal Pool Replacement Project Referendum Result

Committee received a report dated February 14, 2025 from the Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer regarding the impacts of the Crystal Pool Replacement Project referendum result to the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan and recommending that the report be received for information.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Allowable terms, interest rates and debt repayment scheduling for local government borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority*
- *Increased operational costs of new facility and prospective revenue stream options*
- *Project flexibility, contingency planning and funding options for maintaining the Crystal Pool project budget*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan - Impact of Crystal Pool Replacement Project Referendum Result report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 10:17 a.m. and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

E.3 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan

Committee received reports dated October 24, 2024 and December 12, 2024 from the Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer introducing the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan and outlining property tax increase reduction scenarios, respectively, and seeking Council direction regarding the 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Refusal of the Police Board to consider a phased approach to incorporating certain line items within the 2025 Victoria Police Department budget*
- *Factors contributing to the decline of Victoria's downtown*
- *Concerns around the decision-making process for approval of annual police budget*

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council approve the 2025 Victoria Esquimalt Police Board budget as proposed, including the amount required as a result of the S.27 appeal, for a total property tax increase for police of 3.78%

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Caradonna, and Councillor Kim

CARRIED (7 to 2)

Moved and Seconded:

2. That Council set the city's portion of the 2025 property tax increase at 4%.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Impacts to service and project delivery*
- *City's investment in the Centennial Square Revitalization project to date*
- *Opportunities for engagement of Centennial Square users to mitigate displacement*

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

2. That Council set the city's portion of the 2025 property tax increase at 4%.

That Council direct staff to:

1. **Reduce the budget for Centennial Square to equal the grant funding in place, and to report back on the impact of that change to the Centennial Square budget.**

OPPOSED (5): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Loughton, and Councillor Thompson

DEFEATED (4 to 5)

Committee recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Motion to refer:

Moved and Seconded:

That the 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan matter be referred to the March 03, 2025 Special Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 Draft Official Community Plan and Regulatory Directions

Committee received a report dated February 13, 2025 from the Director of Planning and Development regarding a summary of consultation and feedback collected as part of the 10-year Official Community Plan Update, providing Council with opportunities to advance the proposed updated Official Community Plan ("Victoria 2050") and to consider other key policy or bylaw updates necessary for alignment with Victoria 2050, as well as priority action items for implementation.

Committee discussed the following:

- *History of the City's vacancy rates and feasibility of projected vacancy rates*
- *Strategies to encourage and support family housing and mixed-use development proposals*

Committee recessed at 2:46 p.m. and reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Use Amenity Cost Charges versus Community Amenity Contributions to support fair market housing projects*
- *Benefits and consequences of implementing and combining residential housing in light industrial areas*

Motion to extend:

Moved and Seconded:

That the meeting be extended to 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee discussed the following:

- *Desire for core values to be inclusive of Blue Green Network*
- *Collaboration with neighbouring municipalities to promote connectivity of active transportation networks*
- *Risks associated with investing in and advocating for infrastructure to support public transit*

Motion to refer:

Moved and Seconded:

That the Draft Official Community Plan and Regulatory Directions matter be referred to the March 6, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

And that the remainder of the February 27, 2025 Committee of the Whole agenda items be referred to the March 6, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

There was no closed meeting.

J. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR