



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 13, 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

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

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Hammond

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, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, A. Klus - Senior Legislative Coordinator, D. Newman - Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities

GUESTS: N. Chan - Chief Financial Officer, Capital Regional District, T. Robbins - Chief Administrative Officer, Capital Regional District

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation who have stewarded the lands for hundreds and thousands of years to afford us the opportunity to be here today making decisions about those lands. Committee encouraged listeners to reflect on the sentiment that we are able to feel grounded here today because of those who came before. Committee thanked the 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

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

F.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 12, 2024

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 12, 2024 be approved.

F.2 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 09, 2025

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 09, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. PRESENTATIONS

E.1 Capital Regional District Budget

N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer, and T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a presentation on the Capital Regional District budget.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Provisional budget*
- *Performing arts sub-regional service*
- *CRD transparency, public engagement with CRD meetings, and advisory committees*
- *CRD director remuneration*
- *Shared responsibility for warming centres in the region*

Committee recessed at 10:31 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

F. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

F.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held December 12, 2024

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

F.2 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 09, 2025

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1 2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan

Moved and Seconded:

Direct staff to report back on February 27, 2025, on the impact of the Crystal pool referendum decision on the budget options presented in the December 4, 2024, staff report “2025-2029 Draft Financial Plan – Tax Increase Reduction Options”,

And that this motion be advanced for same day consideration at the daytime Council meeting of February 13, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notices of Motions.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Council Member Motion: Victoria Response to Trump’s Trade War

Committee received a Council Member Motion from Mayor Alto and Councillor Thompson dated February 7, 2025 discussing the options and implications of the City of Victoria addressing the US trade war.

Moved and Seconded:

That Council:

1. Directs staff to report on options and implications of the City of Victoria addressing the US trade war, including for example:
 - a. Adjusting our policies where possible to avoid purchasing US goods and services;
 - b. Moving to other social media platforms, and closing the City’s X / Twitter account;
 - c. Continuing the City’s ongoing work in identifying and pursuing opportunities to diversify and strengthen our economy, particularly small businesses; and
 - d. Identifying any additional opportunities; and,
2. Voices its support for an all-government, Team Canada response to a US trade war, and calls on the federal and provincial governments to take any measures that would further increase the capacity of municipalities to respond effectively using procurement or other means; and,
3. Requests the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister and BC Premier to share these actions and positions.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council:

1. Directs staff to report on options and implications of the City of Victoria addressing the US trade war, including for example:
 - a. Adjusting our policies where possible to avoid purchasing US goods and services;
 - b. Moving to other social media platforms, and closing the City's X / Twitter account;
 - c. Continuing the City's ongoing work in identifying and pursuing opportunities to diversify and strengthen our economy, particularly small businesses; and
 - d. Identifying any additional opportunities; and,
2. Voices its support for an all-government, Team Canada response to a US trade war, and calls on the federal and provincial governments to take any measures that would further increase the capacity of municipalities to respond effectively using procurement or other means; and,
3. Requests the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister, ~~and~~ BC Premier, **the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Union of BC Municipalities, and Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities**, to share these actions and positions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council:

1. Directs staff to report on options and implications of the City of Victoria addressing the US trade war, including for example:
 - a. Adjusting our policies where possible to avoid purchasing US goods and services;
 - b. Moving to other social media platforms, and closing the City's X / Twitter account;
 - c. Continuing the City's ongoing work in identifying and pursuing opportunities to diversify and strengthen our economy, particularly small businesses; and
 - d. Identifying any additional opportunities; and,
2. Voices its support for an all-government, Team Canada response to a US trade war, and calls on the federal and provincial governments to take any measures that would further increase the capacity of municipalities to respond effectively using procurement or other means; and,
3. Requests the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister, BC Premier, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Union of BC Municipalities, and Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, to share these actions and positions.

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 11:31 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT