

# March 13, 2025, 6:32 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 Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim,

Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

ABSENT: Councillor Dell

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, C. Mycroft -

Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, S. Maichen - Committee Secretary, A. Klus - Senior Legislative Coordinator, A.

Heimburger - Senior Legislative Coordinator

#### A POETRY

Recording of readings by Marie Metaphor Specht, Poet Laureate

# 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 urged those in attendance or watching online to reflect, in some personal way, on what it means to us to have the opportunity to live on these territories and give thanks to the people who stewarded them.

## 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 Susanne Rautio: Public Participation in Public hearings (phone)

The speaker expressed concerns regarding community engagement in relation to the draft Official Community Plan, believing that the questionnaire posed leading questions and did not adequately address zoning around multi-storey buildings and green infrastructure.

# E.2 Jan Firstbrook: Density and the Urban Forest (in-person)

The speaker touted benefits of Banfield Park improvements but urged Council to save the Japanese cherry tree as part of the revitalization of Centennial Square.

# E.3 <u>Diana Smardon, the Committee to End Homelessness: Homelessness,</u> <u>Affordable Housing, Cancel Pool (in-person)</u>

The speaker advocated for affordable housing and expressed concerns about the Crystal Pool Replacement Project taking funding away other priorities.

# E.4 Edward Pullman: Wayfinding for Cycling Routes (phone)

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

# E.5 Carol Sokoloff: Centennial Square (in-person)

The speaker expressed concerns about revitalizing Centennial Square and sang a song about trees.

## E.6 Kirk Buhne: Proposed Official Community Plan (in-person)

The speaker expressed concerns over the process of citizen engagement regarding the Official Community Plan consultation, believing the process to be intrinsically flawed and misleading.

## E.7 Carollyne Yardley: Urban Forest and Natural Assets (in-person)

The speaker described how the urban forest has been affected by policies and bylaws over the years and proposed recommendations to City of Victoria Urban Forestry staff.

# E.8 <u>Jason Jones: The Redesign of Centennial Square (in-person)</u>

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

## F. EXTENDED ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

That additional speakers be permitted to speak. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** F.1 Tom Hackney The speaker addressed various aspects of the Official Community Plan, including the climate action, reconciliation, affordable low-carbon transportation, functional connected green spaces, and walkable communities. **F.2 Janie Rollins** The speaker expressed concerns regarding the rental housing crisis in the City. G. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS** There were no Notices of Motions. Н. **CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED** There was no closed meeting. I. **ADJOURNMENT** Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** 

CITY CLERK

Council Meeting Minutes March 13, 2025

Moved and Seconded:

MAYOR