



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 26, 2025, 9:03 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 (joined at 9:39 a.m.), Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Johnson - Director of Communications and Engagement, P. Rantucci - Director of Strategic Real Estate, O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, L. Monk - Manager of Revenue, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, A. Heimburger - Senior Legislative Coordinator, S. Maichen - Legislative Coordinator, D. Newman - Director of Parks and Recreation, W. Doyle - Director of Engineering and Public Works

GUESTS: Stephen Watson, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Lead - BC Hydro, Justin Miedema, Project Manager - BC Hydro

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation communities, and urged us to find something personal that brings a thought or experience to connect us to the lands that the Nations stewarded.

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

Committee requested the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda:

- *J.1 - Council Member Motion: Expediting Housing and Support for People Sheltering Downtown*

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda item be approved:

E.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held April 24, 2025

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held April 24, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

E.1 Minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held April 24, 2025

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

F. PRESENTATION

F.1 BC Hydro - Victoria to Esquimalt and Victoria to Saanich Cable Replacement Projects

Committee received a presentation from Stephen Watson, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Justin Miedema, Project Manager from BC Hydro regarding work with the City to replace cables at various locations in Victoria, Saanich, and Esquimalt.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Project timeline*
- *Potential disruptions to outdoor spaces*
- *Specifications on the seismic resiliency component*
- *Neighborhood association consultation*

Motion Arising:

Moved and Seconded:

That the City requests that BC Hydro works with City staff on amenities at Banfield Park, such as a washroom and improved beach access, to compensate for disruptions to this key community asset.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Dell joined the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

That the City requests that BC Hydro works with City staff on amenities at Banfield Park and **Arbutus Park**, such as a washroom and improved beach access, to compensate for disruptions to this key community asset.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the motion as amended:

That the City requests that BC Hydro works with City staff on amenities at Banfield Park and Arbutus Park, such as a washroom and improved beach access, to compensate for disruptions to this key community asset.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

G.1 Council Member Motion: Residential Tenancy Act

Moved and Seconded:

That Council recommend that the Mayor write to the Premier, copying the Minister of BC Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, requesting:

1. that the BC Government make changes to the Residential Tenancy Act as per the BC Coalition for Safe and Sustainable Housing recommendation (removing supportive housing from the Residential Tenancy Act).
2. that the BC Government make changes to policy and regulation to permit the local police to work with BC Housing supportive housing contractors during their selection of people who are invited into supportive housing complexes.

Motion to refer:

That this matter be referred to the July 03, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notices of Motions.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Council Member Motion: Expediting Housing and Support for People Sheltering Downtown

A Council Member Motion requesting staff work with B.C. Housing and Island Health to expedite housing and support for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core.

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.
2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.
2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.
3. **That Council request the Mayor write to the Ministers of Health and Housing, requesting that Ministers direct their staff to prioritize the matters in the previous two clauses.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces, **outside the City of Victoria** for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.
2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.
3. That Council request the Mayor write to the Ministers of Health and Housing, requesting that Ministers direct their staff to prioritize the matters in the previous two clauses.

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved and Seconded:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces, **including outside the City of Victoria**, for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.
2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.
3. That Council request the Mayor write to the Ministers of Health and Housing, requesting that Ministers direct their staff to prioritize the matters in the previous two clauses.

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 to 2)

On the amendment as amended:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces, **including outside the City of Victoria**, for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.
2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.
3. That Council request the Mayor write to the Ministers of Health and Housing, requesting that Ministers direct their staff to prioritize the matters in the previous two clauses.

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 to 2)

Council requested that each part of the motion be considered separately:

On number one as amended:

1. That Council directs staff to request that B.C. Housing prioritizes supportive housing and shelter spaces, including outside the City of Victoria, for people experiencing homelessness in Victoria's downtown core through the Coordinated Access and Assessment process in 2025.

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 to 2)

On number two:

2. That Council directs staff to work with Island Health to assign a dedicated Island Health outreach support worker with the capability to make referrals to treatment, complex care, and other health care needs, to work in conjunction with the City of Victoria's Relocation Coordination Team.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On number three:

3. That Council request the Mayor write to the Ministers of Health and Housing, requesting that Ministers direct their staff to prioritize the matters in the previous two clauses.

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 to 2)

K. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

There was no closed meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR