

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD MARCH 19, 2020

For the Council meeting of March 19, 2020, the Committee recommends the following:

F.2 Council Processes

That Council forward to the March 19, 2020 daytime Council meeting the following recommendations:

1. That Council give first second and third reading to Council Procedures Amendment (No. 1) Bylaw No. 20-053.
2. That staff undertake required advertising of the proposed Bylaw in accordance with section 124(3) of the Community Charter.
3. That Council suspend the holding of Public Hearings in accordance with the Class Order on COVID-19 from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer until further notice.
4. That Council suspend the Question Period sections of Council meeting agendas for in person participation until further notice.

Direct staff to bring back language to amend the bylaw:

1. Electronic participation by up to two Councillors in ordinary circumstances for any reason at any time
 2. Participation of up to all Councillors during emergencies as determined by the mayor
5. That Council authorize adjustments to the Request to Address Council process including :
- a. Limiting speakers up to 6 delegations at a Council meeting through either:
 1. Telephone participation where possible
 2. The reading out of written submissions and/or the broadcasting of recorded submissions, if necessary.

That this temporary measures in 3, 4, and 5 be reviewed no later than April 16th.

6. That language be incorporated into the bylaw to grant the extraordinary power to the mayor only during declared national emergencies

H.2 Council Member Motion - COVID-19 City Response to Support Small Business, Arts and Culture and the Visitor Economy

1. Direct staff to examine all of the City's fiscal, legislative and legal powers to support small businesses and jobs, non-profit sector, arts and culture and the visitor economy in order sustain the local economy during the pandemic and recover stronger and more resilient than before.
2. Report back to Council on an urgent basis.

3. Forward this recommendation to the daytime Council meeting of March 19th.

Motion Arising:

Direct staff to look at the operational and capital plan for 2020 to see what will not be accomplished in this year due to COVID-19 and bring recommendations to Council as to what would come out of the budget accordingly.

H.3 Council Member Motion - Reducing Economic Hardship Arising from COVID-19

1. Direct staff to develop an Action Plan without delay identifying measures within municipal jurisdiction to reduce economic hardship on individuals and organizations impacted by COVID-19, including consideration of the following measures:
 - a. Repurposing underutilized facilities for emergency shelter and healthcare for the unhoused, to allow for social distancing, proper care, harm reduction, and recovery.
 - b. Emergency regulations to restrict evictions of tenants who have suffered a loss of earnings due to quarantine, self-isolation, layoff or declining economic activity.
 - c. Temporary deferral of fees, taxes and other payments owing to the city from those suffering hardship.
2. Advocate to the Governments of British Columbia and Canada for immediate action along the following lines:
 - a. Emergency housing and healthcare for the unhoused through the retrofitting of underutilized facilities to allow for social distancing, proper care, harm reduction and recovery.
 - b. Income support through Employment Insurance, statutory Paid Sick Leave provisions and / or other programs to replace earnings that have been lost as a result of COVID-19, with immediate and retroactive effect, including eligibility for precariously employed workers in the service sector and "gig economy", self-employed workers and small business operators.
 - c. A temporary moratorium on evictions, foreclosures and payment of debt and utility fees.
 - d. Support for Indigenous communities that are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to substandard health, housing, water and social service systems.
 - e. Temporary deferral of payroll deduction remittances (i.e. EI, CPP, Income Tax) and income tax instalment payments where necessary to reduce pressure on business cash reserves and maintain payment to employees and suppliers.

3. Request that the Mayor write, on behalf of Council, to the Premier of British Columbia and the Prime Minister of Canada, requesting immediate action along the lines outlined above, and indicating the City of Victoria's willingness to cooperate with those orders of government to ensure an integrated and effective response to COVID-19, including reducing economic hardship on individuals and organizations and safeguarding the economic base of the community.
4. Direct staff to prepare bylaw amendments to allow for the temporary waiver of financial penalties for non-payment of municipal utilities fees and taxes during provincially declared emergencies.
5. Request that the Province of British Columbia grant local governments the discretion to postpone payment of property taxes with no financial penalty in 2020 for those that meet a provincially determined threshold.
6. Request that staff consider initiating emergency childcare services for essential services workers during the COVID19 public health emergency, either as a city-operated service or in partnership with external childcare providers.
7. Request that the University of Victoria reconsider the displacement of students current living in student housing who have no alternate housing options.
8. Council request that landlords not increase rents at this time of crisis and defer rents for those in need.

That this matter be forwarded to the daytime council meeting.