



## **MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL**

**March 19, 2020, 12:08 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE  
VICTORIA, BC**

**To be held immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting  
The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Potts

**STAFF PRESENT:** J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Coates - City Clerk, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, J. Jensen - Head of Human Resources, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, P. Rantucci - Head of Strategic Real Estate, S. Perkins – Head of Bylaw Services, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, A. James - Head of Strategic Operations, P. Bellefontaine - Acting Director of Engineering and Public Works, P. Angelblazer - Committee Secretary

### **B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved By** Councillor Alto  
**Seconded By** Councillor Isitt

That the agenda be approved.

#### **Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Loveday  
**Seconded By** Councillor Isitt

That the agenda be amended to include the March 19, 2020 Committee of the Whole report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**On the main motion as amended:**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council to Follow Committee of the Whole Minutes

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**C. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**C.1 Committee of the Whole**

**C.1.a Report from the March 19, 2020 COTW Meeting**

**C.1.a.a Council Processes**

**Moved By** Mayor Helps  
**Seconded By** Councillor Alto

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 section of Council meeting agendas for in person participation until further notice.
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 16<sup>th</sup>.

That the following bylaw be given **first, second, and third readings**:

1. Council Procedures Bylaw Amendment (No. 1) Bylaw No. 20-053

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C.1.a.b Council Member Motion - COVID-19 City Response to Support Small Business, Arts and Culture and the Visitor Economy**

**Moved By** Mayor Helps  
**Seconded By** Councillor Loveday

1. Direct staff to examine all of the City's fiscal, legislative and legal powers to support small businesses and jobs, the 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.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion Arising:**

**Moved By** Mayor Helps  
**Seconded By** Councillor Alto

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.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C.1.a.c Council Member Motion - Reducing Economic Hardship  
Arising from COVID-19**

**Moved By** Councillor Isitt  
**Seconded By** Councillor Loveday

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.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. CLOSED MEETING**

**Moved By** Councillor Loveday

**Seconded By** Councillor Isitt

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MARCH 19 COUNCIL MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

That Council convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 90 of the *Community Charter* for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Sections 90(1) and/or (2) of the *Community Charter*, namely:

Section 90(1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

*Section 90(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations;*

*Section 90(1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;*

*Section 90(1)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;*

Section 90(2) A part of a council meeting must be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to one or more of the following:

*Section 90(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party;*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. APPROVAL OF CLOSED AGENDA**

**Moved By** Councillor Alto

**Seconded By** Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the closed agenda be approved.

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Mayor Helps

**Seconded By** Councillor Alto

That the following items be placed on the consent agenda:

Council to Follow Committee of the Whole Minutes

**F.1 - Minutes from the closed meeting held March 5, 2020**

**I.1 - Land - Community Charter Section 90(1)(e)**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**On the main motion as amended:**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**F. READING OF CLOSED MINUTES**

**F.1 Minutes from the closed meeting held March 5, 2020**

**Moved By** Mayor Helps

**Seconded By** Councillor Alto

That the minutes from the closed meeting held March 5, 2020 be adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**I. NEW BUSINESS**

**I.1 Land - Community Charter Section 90(1)(e)**

Council received a report on a land matter.

The motion was recorded and kept confidential.

**I.2 Legal Advice - Community Charter Section 90(1)(i)**

Council received a report on a legal matter.

The discussion and motion were recorded and kept confidential.

**I.3 Legal/Intergovernmental Negotiations - Community Charter Section 90(1)(i)&(2)(b)**

Council received a report on a land and intergovernmental relations matter.

The discussion and motion were recorded and kept confidential.

**Moved By** Councillor Isitt

**Seconded By** Councillor Dubow

That item I.4 – Community Charter Section 90(1)(e) be added on to the Closed Agenda.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council to Follow Committee of the Whole Minutes

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**I.4     Land - Community Charter Section 90(1)(e)**

Council received a verbal report on a land matter.

The discussion and motion were recorded and kept confidential.

*All staff except the City Manager left the meeting at 1:36 p.m.*

**I.5     Employee Relations - Community Charter Section 90(1)(c)**

Council received a verbal update on an employee relations matter.

**K.     ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By** Councillor Isitt

**Seconded By** Councillor Dubow

That the Closed Council Meeting be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR