



MINUTES – SPECIAL VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

March 23, 2020

And continued on March 24, 2020

Council Chambers, City Hall, 1 Centennial Square

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People

PRESENT: Mayor Helps in the Chair, Councillor Alto, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Coates - City Clerk, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Director of Finance, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, A. James - Head of Strategic Operations; K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, P. Martin - Council Secretary, M. Heiser – Committee Secretary.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CLOSED MEETING

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

MOTION TO CLOSE THE MARCH 23, 2020 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)(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. APPROVAL OF CLOSED AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the closed agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. CLOSED - NEW BUSINESS

E.1 Legal Advice - Community Charter Section 90(1)(i)

Council received a verbal report providing legal advice.

The motion was recorded and kept confidential.

Council returned to the open meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Mayor Helps recessed the meeting until March 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and advised the meeting would begin in closed.

Mayor Helps reconvened the meeting March 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Council returned to the open meeting at 9:39 a.m.

J. NEW BUSINESS

J.1 Consideration of a Declaration of a State of Local Emergency

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

WHEREAS there is a global COVID-19 pandemic and associated social and economic disruption within the jurisdiction of the City of Victoria;

AND WHEREAS the social and economic disruption, which results in immediate hardship to many residents and businesses in the City of Victoria, including loss of income for thousands of residents, closures of hundreds of businesses and risk of widespread illness and suffering, poses an existing or imminent threat to people and property within the City of Victoria;

AND WHEREAS this medical, social and economic emergency requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety, and welfare of people or to limit damage to property;

NOW THEREFORE:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Section 12 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* that a state of local emergency exists in the City of Victoria due to COVID-19 pandemic and associated social and economic disruption;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the City Manager, Jocelyn Jenkyns, and the Deputy City Manager, Susanne Thompson, and any person acting under their direction are empowered pursuant to Section 13 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* to do all acts and implement all procedures that are considered necessary to prevent or to alleviate the effects of the emergency, including:

- (a) pursuant to section 10(1)(e) and (l), to require all persons in the City of Victoria currently providing residential rental accommodation to others to render assistance to alleviate the effects of the current emergency by:
 - i. continuing to provide the residential rental accommodation for the duration of the emergency on the same terms and conditions (including rent) as existed on March 1, 2020; and
 - ii. not issuing any eviction notices based on failure to pay rent during the duration of the emergency,
- (b) pursuant to section 10(1)(e) and (l), to require all persons in the City of Victoria currently providing commercial rental premises to others to render assistance to alleviate the effects of the current emergency by:
 - i. continuing to provide the commercial rental premises for the duration of the emergency on the same terms and conditions (including rent) as existed on March 1, 2020; and
 - ii. not take any action (including evictions, distress, or other remedy whether in law or equity) based on failure of tenant to pay rent during the duration of the emergency.

ORDERED by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Victoria this date, March 23, 2020, to remain in force for seven days until March 30, 2020 at midnight unless cancelled by the Mayor of the City of Victoria or the Minister responsible.

Motion to postpone:

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council postpone consideration of the Declaration of Local Emergency until Thursday, March 26, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

K. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the Special Council Meeting be adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR