



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 19, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

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 Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Young

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Coates - City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, J. Jensen - Head of Human Resources, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, P. Rantucci – Head of Strategic Real Estate, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, A. Johnston - Planner, N. Sidhu - Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, P. Bellefontaine - Assistant Director, Transportation, P. Angelblazer - Committee Secretary

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the agenda be approved.

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That item H.1 Council Member Motion – Victoria 3.0 Pivoting to a Higher Value Economy is struck from the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the following items be approved without further debate

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C.1 Minutes from the meeting held March 5, 2020

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting held March 5, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.3 Water Conservation Plan in Support of the Grant Application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

Council received a report dated March 12, 2020 from the Assistant Director of Engineering seeking Council endorsement of a water conservation plan which is required to support the City's application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Environmental Quality Sub-Stream for \$7.5 million in grant funding for sewer projects to reduce inflow and infiltration.

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council approve the City of Victoria's water conservation plan, which is a requirement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant application.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. LAND USE MATTERS

E.1 Update Report for 324/328 Cook Street and 1044, 1048 & 1052/1054 Pendergast Street (Pic a Flic): Rezoning Application No. 000634 & Development Permit with Variance Application No. 000527 (Fairfield)

Council received a report dated March 5, 2020 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development presenting Council with an update on this application in response to a Council motion for a revised proposal. Given that the applicant has revised the proposal to address the conditions outlined in the Council motion, staff are recommending that the proposal proceed to a Public Hearing.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Landscaping details.*
- *COVID-19 impacts on application processes.*

- *Lack of unit affordability.*
- *Timeline for application approval.*
- *Creating confidence and certainty in government.*
- *Budgetary impacts of limiting the amount of land use applications moving forward.*

Council considered a motion to postpone the item without designating a meeting date.

Moved By Councillor Loveday
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That consideration of this matter be postponed to the April 2nd, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 COVID-19 Update (Verbal)

Council received a verbal update from the City Manager on City efforts to manage the ongoing health, safety, and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The update included a summary of business changes, facility closures, logistics efforts, and outreach efforts.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Continuity of business and services during the crisis.*
- *City services considered to be essential.*
- *Community centres and daycares which remain open.*

F.2 Council Processes

Council received a report dated March 17, 2020 from the City Clerk seeking Council approval to suspend public hearings and in-person participation at Council meetings in the Request to Address Council portion of the meeting, and amending the Council Procedures Bylaw to enable all Council members to electronically participate in Committee of the Whole and Council meetings at the same time should the need to do so arise.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Application of the bylaw amendments under normal circumstances*
- *Determination of normal and extraordinary circumstances*
- *Ways to include electronic public participation*
- *Measures to limit the amount of people required to be in the room.*

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Mayor Helps

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 Request to Address Council and Question Period sections of Council meeting agendas for in person participation until further notice.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

Direct staff to bring back language to achieve the following:

1. **Electronic participation by up to two Council members for any reason at any time**
2. **Participation of up to all Council members during emergencies as determined by the mayor**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Young

4. That Council suspend the ~~Request to Address Council and~~ Question Period sections 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.**
 - b. **Telephone participation where possible**
 - c. **The reading out of written submissions and/or the broadcasting of recorded submissions if necessary**

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

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.

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Dubow

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (7 to 1)

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That this temporary measure be reviewed no later than April 16th, 2020.

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

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 section 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 Council members for any reason at any time
2. Participation of up to all Council members 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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NEW BUSINESS

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

Council received a report dated March 13, 2020 from Mayor Helps and Councillor Loveday requesting Council support to direct staff to examine on an urgent basis all of the City's fiscal, legislative, and legal powers to support small business and jobs, arts and culture and the visitor economy in order to sustain the local economy during the pandemic and recover stronger and more resilient than before.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Inclusion of the non-profit sector*
- *City services that support local businesses*

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, 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.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Mayor Helps

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.2 Council Member Motion - Reducing Economic Hardship Arising from COVID-19

Council received a motion dated March 17, 2020 from Councillors Isitt, Loveday, and Potts seeking Council support for a resolution which directs staff to create an economic hardship action plan, and advocacy to different levels of government for action on emergency housing supports and financial support for affected individuals.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Breadth of local government authority*
- *Fairness and measures for fairness in terms of financial assistance rollouts*
- *Public City washrooms*

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 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 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.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the motion be amended by adding the following:

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 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.**

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Mayor Helps

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.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

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.**

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Loveday

CARRIED (7 to 1)

On the amendment as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Young

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Dubow

6. Request that staff consider initiating emergency childcare services for **those who can't stay at home** ~~essential services workers~~ during the COVID19 public health emergency, either as a city-operated service or in partnership with external childcare providers.

Failed to proceed due to no seconder

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

7. Request that the University of Victoria reconsider the displacement of students current living in student housing who have no alternate housing options.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

8. Council request that landlords not increase rents at this time of crisis and defer rents for those in need.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

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.

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That this matter be forwarded to the daytime meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT