



MINUTES – SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 4, 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 Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Young

PRESENT VIA ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION: Councillor Isitt

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Director of Finance, C. Coates - City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, P. Bellefontaine - Acting Director of Engineering & Public Works, J. Jensen - Head of Human Resources, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, A. Meyer - Assistant Director of Development Services, A. Hudson - Assistant Director of Community Planning, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, K. Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, J. Karakas - Senior Urban Designer, L. Milburn – Senior Planner, R. Morhart - Manager, Permits & Inspections, S. Webb - Manager of Transportation, N. Reddington - Senior Cultural Planner, A. James - Head of Strategic Operations, R. Kenny – Manager of Transportation Operations & Construction, Q. Anglin – Business Ambassador, P. Angelblazer - Committee Secretary

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 9:02 a.m., and reconvened at 9:04 a.m.

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 COVID-19 Recovery Motions Report Back

Council received a series of presentations from staff on reports in response to Council Member Motions regarding recovery after COVID-19, that were previously passed at the Council level.

Committee moved into a closed portion of the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

G. CLOSED MEETING

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

MOTION TO CLOSE THE JUNE 4 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 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

G. CLOSED – NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Legal Advice – Community Charter Section 90(1)(i)

Council received closed legal advice.

The conversation was recorded and kept confidential.

Committee reconvened the open meeting at 10:30 a.m.

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 COVID-19 Recovery Motions Report Back

Appendix A – H.1.c Supporting the Recovery of the Arts and Culture Sector

Committee discussed the following:

- *Consideration for arts and cultural spending the following year*
- *Budget shortfalls for partner organizations in arts & culture*

- *Feasibility of proposed timeline*

Moved By Councillor Loveday
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That Council:

- Direct staff to shift funding allocated for the Cultural Infrastructure and Cultural Space Roadmap towards a one-time only Everyday Creativity Grant program during COVID pandemic.
- Direct staff to report back on the Everyday Creativity Grant program criteria and process by end of June 2020.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday
Seconded By Mayor Helps

- That funding for the cultural spaces grant program and art spaces roadmap be allocated as part of the 2021 budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix B – H.1.h COVID-19 Community Recovery Grants Program

Committee discussed the following:

- *Impacts of COVID-19 on Strategic Plan Grant applicants*
- *Concerns that allocating funds early will leave less funding for reallocation in future budget update discussion*
- *Outcome of re-opening applications for Strategic Plan Grants.*
- *Equity framework progress*

The Mayor requested that points 1, 2 and 3 are considered separately from point 4.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council authorize:

1. An increase in the funding for the My Great Neighbourhood COVID-19 grant stream by \$100,000 funded from 2020 contingencies.

2. A rolling intake from June to December 2020, giving the City Manager the decision-making power to approve the grants following an internal staff review.
3. A grant threshold up to \$5000 per grant application to best support as many city-based business, organization, neighbourhood, or other entity directly affected by COVID-19.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Alto

4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$350,000.

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$350,000 **and that the Canada Day special duty policing, first 3 officers for special events, coordinated implementation of Pandora Task Force, Protocol and reconciliation dialogues totaling \$310,00 to be repurposed for the strategic plan grants second intake and the remaining \$40,000 would come from the 2020 contingency.**

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$350,000 **and that the unspent funds from Canada Day special duty policing, first 3 officers for special events, coordinated implementation of Pandora Task Force, Protocol and reconciliation dialogues totaling \$310,00 to be repurposed for the strategic plan grants second intake and the remaining \$40,000 amount would come from the 2020 contingency.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$350,000 and that the unspent funds from Canada Day special duty policing, first 3 officers for special events, coordinated implementation of Pandora Task Force, Protocol and reconciliation dialogues totaling \$310,00 to be repurposed for the strategic plan grants second intake and the remaining amount would come from the 2020 contingency.

Direct staff to undertake a second round of Strategic Plan grants with a recovery category added

- that Council review the applications;
- that the due date is July 15, 2020; and,
- that funds are dispersed as soon as is practicable.

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by ~~\$350,000~~ **\$100,000** and that the unspent funds from Canada Day special duty policing, first 3 officers for special events, coordinated implementation of Pandora Task Force, Protocol and reconciliation dialogues totaling \$310,00 to be repurposed for the strategic plan grants second intake and the remaining amount would come from the 2020 contingency.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

Direct staff to undertake a second round of Strategic Plan grants of up to \$250,000 with a recovery category added

- that Council review the applications;
- that the due date is July 15, 2020; and,
- that funds are dispersed as soon as is practicable.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

Direct staff to undertake a second round of Strategic Plan grants of up to \$250,000 with an exclusive focus on recovery projects ~~category added.~~

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:

Direct staff to undertake a second round of Strategic Plan grants of up to \$250,000 with an exclusive focus on recovery projects,

- **that Council review the applications;**
- **that the due date is July 15, 2020; and,**
- **that funds are dispersed as soon as is practicable.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council authorize:

1. An increase in the funding for the My Great Neighbourhood COVID-19 grant stream by \$100,000 funded from 2020 contingencies.
2. A rolling intake from June to December 2020, giving the City Manager the decision-making power to approve the grants following an internal staff review.
3. A grant threshold up to \$5000 per grant application to best support as many city-based business, organization, neighbourhood, or other entity directly affected by COVID-19.
4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$100,000 and that the unspent funds from Canada Day Special Duty policing, first 3 officers for special events, coordinated implementation of Pandora Task Force, Protocol and reconciliation dialogues totaling \$310,000 to be repurposed for the strategic plan grants second intake and the remaining amount would come from the 2020 contingency.

Direct staff to undertake a second round of Strategic Plan grants of up to \$250,000 with an exclusive focus on recovery projects,

- that Council review the applications;
- that the due date is July 15, 2020; and,
- that funds are dispersed as soon as is practicable.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix C – H.1.i COVID Recovery: Housing Security

Committee discussed the following:

- *Priority tasking for bylaws.*

- *Alignment or misalignment between Municipal, Regional, and Provincial initiatives*
- *Impacts of banning renovations and demovictions.*
- *Benefits and disadvantages of the proposed direction.*
- *Regional distribution of affordable housing.*

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Potts

That Council endorse the following Victoria Housing Strategy priorities in 2020 to improve housing security as part of COVID-19 recovery:

1. Advance and support the rapid supply of affordable and supportive housing with government partners and non-profit housing providers;
2. Bring forward an expanded Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw for consideration;
3. Develop a Rental Property Licensing Bylaw to prevent renovations and demovictions;
4. Explore the creation of a non-profit administered rent bank on a pilot basis.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Mayor Helps

1. Advance and support the rapid supply of affordable and supportive housing **in neighbourhoods throughout the city** with government partners and non-profit housing providers;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Young

Seconded By Mayor Helps

in the neighbourhoods throughout the city and the region

FOR (3): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (5): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Dubow

DEFEATED (3 to 5)

On the main motion as amended:

That Council endorse the following Victoria Housing Strategy priorities in 2020 to improve housing security as part of COVID-19 recovery:

1. Advance and support the rapid supply of affordable and supportive housing in neighbourhoods throughout the city with government partners and non-profit housing providers;

2. Bring forward an expanded Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw for consideration;
3. Develop a Rental Property Licensing Bylaw to prevent renovations and demovictions;
4. Explore the creation of a non-profit administered rent bank on a pilot basis.

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)

Appendix D – H.1.i Capital Projects

Committee discussed the following:

- *General timelines for capital projects.*
- *Uptake on regional projects by upper levels of government.*
- *Tacitly approved capital projects.*
- *Impacts of the motion on other capital projects.*

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council receive the following for information.

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council direct staff to share all of these projects with the Federal Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities and find out which ones are most likely to be funded and report back to Council with a prioritized list based on the Ministry's feedback.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix E – H.1.b Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces, & H.1.d Increasing Physical Distancing for Pedestrians in Public space

Committee discussed the following:

- *Potential accessibility concerns*

- *Limitations on time for patios*
- *Government street closure pedestrian experience*
- *Concerns from business owners about a disruption of deliveries, pickups, and overall viability*
- *Impacts of flex zones on businesses*
- *Potential food truck placements*
- *Flexibility in re-opening*

Committee recessed at 12:30 p.m., reconvened at 12:48 p.m.

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council endorse the proposed program described in Appendix E - H.1.b. *Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces.*

That Council endorse the proposed programs to provide additional space for physical distancing for pedestrians.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Young

The section between Fort and View Streets along Government Street be pedestrian priority as opposed to closed to traffic.

FOR (2): Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Dubow

DEFEATED (2 to 6)

Councillor Young requested that the first section, the second section excluding Fort & View, and the section along Fort & View be voted on separately.

On the first section:

That Council endorse the proposed program described in Appendix E - H.1.b. *Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the second section

That Council endorse the proposed programs to provide additional space for physical distancing for pedestrians (excluding the section between Fort and View Streets).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the second section:

That Council endorse the proposed programs to provide additional space for physical distancing for pedestrians (including the section between Fort and View Streets).

FOR (6): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, and Councillor Dubow

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

CARRIED (6 to 2)

Appendix E – H.1.g. Assistance with Recovery Phase for Business and H.1.n Hospitality Industry

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council adopt the proposed *Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw* that would:

- Temporarily delegate all Development Permits and Heritage Alteration Permits proposing outdoor commercial use, with or without parking variances, to staff subject to the applicant providing the City with an irrevocable undertaking to remove any construction or alteration authorized by the Permit within six months and to restore the property to its current conditions.
- Waive fees for all delegated Development Permits and Heritage Alteration Permits proposing outdoor commercial use, with or without parking variances.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix E - H.1.f. Commercial Loading Zones to Free Time Limited Zones

Committee discussed the following:

- *Parking regulations during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
- *Impact on businesses*

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the meeting be extended until 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council endorse the approach to commercial loading zones described below within the context of broader demands for these zones plus potential for use to support COVID-19 recovery efforts.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix E - Liquor Licensing changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council direct staff to inform the General Manager of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch in writing that Council pre-approves all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments in the City of Victoria who may apply for expanded liquor service area before October 31, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix E - H.1.g. Assistance with Recovery Phase for Business – Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw No. 20-72

Committee discussed the following:

- *Impacts on timelines*

Moved By Councillor Loveday

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

Amend section 8(3) to add, immediately after the words “in subsection (1)”, the words “and the property owner” in the proposed *Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw*

FOR (5): Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, and Councillor Young

OPPOSED (3): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, and Councillor Dubow

CARRIED (5 to 3)

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the following be forwarded to the daytime special council meeting:

1. That Council give first second and third readings to Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw 20-072 as amended.
2. That Council reconsider and adopt Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw No. 20-072.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. STAFF REPORTS

J.1 Create Victoria Progress Report

Council received a report dated June 4, 2020 from the Head of Business and Community Relations providing Council with a progress report on implementation of Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan. This is also an opportunity to check in with Council on any issues, opportunities and considerations for cultural service delivery in the community.

Committee discussed the following:

- *City commitment to diversity, and inclusion.*
- *Importance of arts & culture*

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Alto

That Council receive this report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J.2 Curbside Fees for Parking Stands and Yellow Curb Use

Council received a report dated May 25, 2020 from the City Clerk and the Acting Director of Engineering & Public Works bringing forward potential financial relief to the tourism-oriented operators who pay for commercial parking stand and yellow curb fees to the city under the auspices of the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Creating fairness for businesses*
- *Intent of changing the fee rates*
- *Fiscal capacity of the City of Victoria*

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe

Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council forward the following to the daytime Council meeting:

1. Give first, second and third readings the Vehicles for Hire Amendment (No. 21) Bylaw No. 20-071.
2. Reconsider and adopt the Vehicles for Hire Amendment (No. 21) Bylaw No. 20-071

3. Approve the suspension of Parking Stand fees for Horse Drawn Carriages for 2020
4. Approve the suspension of Parking Stand fees for Sightseeing vehicles for 2020.

Councillor Isitt requested that items 3 & 4 are considered separately from 1 & 2.

On item 1 & 2:

1. Give first, second and third readings the Vehicles for Hire Amendment (No. 21) Bylaw No. 20-071.
2. Reconsider and adopt the Vehicles for Hire Amendment (No. 21) Bylaw No. 20-071

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On item 3:

3. Approve the suspension of Parking Stand fees for Horse Drawn Carriages for 2020

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

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Isitt

CARRIED (7 to 1)

On Item 4:

4. Approve the suspension of Parking Stand fees for Sightseeing vehicles for 2020.

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

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Isitt

CARRIED (7 to 1)

M. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the motions from item F.1 COVID-19 Recovery Motions Report Back, are forwarded to the June 4, 2020 Special Council to Follow Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Dubow

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT