



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

December 2, 2021, 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 Andrew, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young
- PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Dubow (10:23 a.m.)
- STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, B. Eisenhauer - Head of Engagement, C. Havelka - Deputy City Clerk, P. Bellefontaine - Director of Engineering & Public Works, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, A. Hudson - Assistant Director of Community Planning, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, P. Rantucci - Head of Strategic Real Estate, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, A. Newman - Assistant Director, Facilities and Construction Management, M. Thomaidis - Planning Assistant, G. Milne – Head of Strategic Operations, J. Biem – Assistant City Solicitor, D. Atkinson - Acting Fire Chief, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, S. Stoltz - Committee Secretary
- GUESTS: Jeff Bray – Executive Director, DVBA, Stephen Thatcher – VP of Operations, EComm, Oliver Grüter-Andrew – President and CEO, EComm.

A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Potts

That the agenda be approved.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Potts

That the agenda be amended as follows:

1. That the agenda be reordered in order to add item G.5 – Proclamation - Holodomor Commemoration Day under item I.2 – Councillor Sharing: Holodomor Commemoration Event.
2. That item F.1 – 224 Robertson Street: Development Permit Application No. 00634 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

That the Proclamation for Accessibility Day be added to agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the following items be approved without further debate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. READING OF MINUTES

C.1 Minutes from the Special COTW meeting held November 2, 2021

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That the minutes from the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held November 2, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. LAND USE MATTERS

F.2 768 Yates Street: Application for a Permanent Change to Hours of Liquor Service for a Food Primary Licence for Cenote

Council received a report dated August 25, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding an application by Cenote at 768 Yates Street to increase hours of licensed service for a Food Primary licence and proposing hours of licensed service from 11 am to 1 am Sunday to

Thursday, and 11 am to 2 am Friday and Saturday with a total occupant load of 110 people.

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council direct staff to provide the following response to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch:

1. That Council, after conducting a review with respect to noise and community impacts, does support the application of Cenote located at 768 Yates Street to extend hours of operation by one hour daily to 11 am to 1 am Sunday to Thursday, and to 11 am to 2 am Friday and Saturday, with no change to the existing total occupant load of 110 people.

The following comments are provided regarding the prescribed considerations:

1. The impact of noise on the community near the establishment was considered in relation to the request, and the proposed hours, occupant load, and location are compatible with the area. Approval of the licence is not expected to result in unacceptable levels of noise.
2. If the application is approved, it is anticipated to have a positive economic impact on the community as the approval supports the viability of the business as a local employer.
3. The views of residents were solicited through a mailout to neighbouring property owners and occupiers within 100 metres of the licensed location and a notice posted at the property. In response to the notification that went to 716 owners and occupants, the City received four letters in response to the notification. Two letters opposed the extension of hours and two were supportive, including a letter of support from the Downtown Residents Association.
4. Council recommends the licence be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1 Downtown Victoria Business Association – Business Improvement Area Boundary Expansion Request

Committee received a report dated November 8, 2021 from the City Clerk regarding an Alternative Approval Process for a boundary expansion of the Business Improvement Area managed by the Downtown Victoria Business Association.

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council direct staff to:

1. Proceed on the Council Initiative basis, with the Alternate Approval Process for the expansion of the Business Improvement Area.
2. Report back with results of the counter petition process, and if assent is achieved present the BIA Bylaw for introductory readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Presentations

D.1 E-Comm 9-1-1

Committee received a presentation regarding dispatch services provided by E-Comm for police emergency/non-emergency call taking for Victoria and surrounding municipalities.

Committee discussed:

- *Concerns regarding wait times for 911 calls and the ambulance transfer line*
- *Additional staffing for emergency calls*
- *Statistics specific to the Greater Victoria region, and how the review mainly focused on challenges in the Lower Mainland*
- *The potential for including a mental health dispatch option for emergency callers*

D.2 Greater Victoria Harbour Authority

Committee received a presentation of the Annual Update from the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority.

Moved By Councillor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council receive this report for information.

Committee discussed:

- *The need to diversify operations and optimization of properties*

Councillor Dubow joined the meeting virtually at 10:23 a.m.

Committee discussed:

- *Future work that will need to be done on harbour infrastructure*
- *Traffic volumes in the harbour; concerns regarding noise, but a general acceptance and support of the cruise industry by residents who are living in the area*
- *City regulations regarding tourism industry routes; recommendations for them to take the Dallas Road route*
- *Limits of municipal jurisdiction in regards to shipping and navigation, as these topics fall within federal jurisdiction*

On the main motion:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee recessed at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

E.1 848 and 836 Yates Street: Development Permit with Variances Application No. 00179 for 848 Yates and Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance Application No. 00024 for 836 Yates (Downtown)

Committee received a reports dated September 24, 2021, and August 31, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding a Development Permit with Variances Application for the property located at 848 Yates Street, specifically the through-block walkway between Yates and Johnson Street associated with a mixed-use residential building just completing construction, and a report regarding a Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance Application for the property located at 836 Yates Street, respectively.

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

MOTION TO CLOSE THE DECEMBER 2, 2021 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;

Committee entered a closed COTW meeting at 11:26 a.m. and reconvened the open meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Council reordered the agenda in order to discuss Item F.1 before the lunch break.

F. LAND USE MATTERS

F.1 224 Robertson Street: Development Permit Application No. 00634

Committee received a report dated November 18, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding information, analysis and recommendations for a Development Permit Application for the property located at 224 Robertson Street. The proposal is to allow construction of a garden suite in the rear yard of an existing single-family dwelling, and recommending that it be approved.

Committee discussed:

- *Window placement and the supportive response from adjacent neighbors*

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Thornton-Joe

That Council authorize the issuance of Development Permit Application No. 00634 for 224 Robertson Street in accordance with:

1. Plans date stamped October 6, 2021.
2. Development meeting all Zoning Regulation Bylaw requirements.
3. The Development Permit lapsing two years from the date of this resolution.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recessed for lunch at 12:31 and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

E.1 848 and 836 Yates Street: Development Permit with Variances Application No. 00179 for 848 Yates and Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance Application No. 00024 for 836 Yates (Downtown) - Continued

Moved By Mayor Helps

Seconded By Councillor Isitt

Heritage Alteration Permit with Variance Application No. 00024 for 836 Yates Street

That Council decline the issuance of Heritage Alteration Permit with a Variance Application No. 00024 for 836 Yates Street.

Council discussed:

- *Understanding the desire for the building owner to have security for their tenants*
- *Concern regarding the height of the fence conflicting with City standards*

FOR (7): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Young

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Andrew, Councillor Thornton-Joe

CARRIED (7 TO 2)

Moved By Councillor Isitt

Seconded By Councillor Young

Development Permit with Variances Application No. 00179 for 848 Yates Street

1. That Council decline proposed modifications to the through-block walkway and terms of the statutory right-of-way to ensure continued public access along the walkway.
2. That Council forego an opportunity for public comment and approve Development Permit with Variances No. 00179 for 848 Yates Street in accordance with plans date stamped July 21, 2021, allowing taller gates that must remain open in accordance with the terms of the statutory right-of-way

Council discussed:

- *The need for walkways to be accessible*

Councillor Thornton-Joe requested that the questions be called separately.

1. That Council decline proposed modifications to the through-block walkway and terms of the statutory right-of-way to ensure continued public access along the walkway.

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Young
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Thornton-Joe

CARRIED (8 TO 1)

2. That Council forego an opportunity for public comment and approve Development Permit with Variances No. 00179 for 848 Yates Street in accordance with plans date stamped July 21, 2021, allowing taller gates that must remain open in accordance with the terms of the statutory right-of-way

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.2 Housing Strategy Annual Review

Committee received a report dated November 19, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding the Victoria Housing Strategy Annual Review 2020 which summarizes the Strategy's achievements, challenges, and outcomes that year, and recommends a 2022 housing work plan for next year.

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council direct staff to:

1. Receive the Victoria Housing Strategy Annual Review 2020 for information.
2. Approve the 2022 Prioritization of Housing Strategy Actions in Attachment B to this report.

Moved By Councillor Dubow
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That the meeting be extended until 3:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee discussed:

- *Economic analysis of effects on property values; progress on delivering affordable housing to low-income residents*

- *The need to focus on more inclusive housing*
- *Tenant protections*
- *The need to support people who live and work here*

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council direct staff to:

1. Receive the Victoria Housing Strategy Annual Review 2020 for information.
2. Approve the 2022 Prioritization of Housing Strategy Actions in Attachment B to this report.
3. **To continue to pursue land assembly by the City to facilitate partnerships for affordable housing.**

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe
 OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (8 TO 1)

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Receive the Victoria Housing Strategy Annual Review 2020 for information.
2. Approve the 2022 Prioritization of Housing Strategy Actions in Attachment B to this report.
3. To continue to pursue land assembly by the City to facilitate partnerships for affordable housing.

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe
 OPPOSED (1): Councillor Young

CARRIED (8 TO 1)

G.3 Official Community Plan Annual Review 2020

Committee received a report dated November 19, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development regarding the results of the OCP Annual Review for the 2020 calendar year.

Committee recessed at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

Committee discussed:

- *Appreciation for the work undertaken*
- *Updates to the Climate Chapter with regards to new and existing documents*
- *Downtown Street front vacancy rates, and possible reasons for the increase in vacancies besides the COVID-19 pandemic*

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Mayor Helps

That Council receive the Official Community Plan Annual Review 2020 (Attachment 1) for information and direct staff to communicate the findings and highlights to the public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G.4 Childcare Strategy Implementation

Committee received a report dated November 18, 2021 from the Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development regarding recommendations for implementing actions from the Childcare in Victoria report that are in municipal jurisdiction.

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Alto

That the meeting be extended until 4:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Mayor Helps
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That Council:

1. Direct staff to commence the proposed short-term actions in 2022, noted in Attachment A to this report as follows:
 1. Consider amendments to the City's Zoning Bylaws to streamline municipal approval processes for childcare and report back to Council with recommendations and bylaw amendments;
 2. Create communications to help navigate City processes and help inform and guide childcare space creation processes and licensing requirements;
 3. Update the Childcare in Victoria report to include more recent data and childcare space targets;
 4. Consider childcare operations as part of co-location opportunities in future developments.
2. Direct staff to report back with recommendations on advancing Childcare in Victoria advocacy actions in Q2-Q3 of 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.2 Councillor Sharing: Holodomor Commemoration Event

Councillor Thornton-Joe discussed the Proclamation for Holodomor Commemoration Day and the importance of honouring the resilience and

strength of Canada's Ukrainian community, and remembrance for the millions of lives lost during the genocide.

H. STAFF REPORTS

G.5 Proclamation - Holodomor Commemoration Day

Committee received a report dated November 29, 2021 from the City Clerk regarding the proclamation for Holodomor Commemoration Day, November 27, 2021.

Moved By Councillor Thornton-Joe
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the Holodomor Commemoration Day Proclamation be forwarded to the December 2, 2021 Council meeting for Council's consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Council Member Motion: Adding Irving Park to list of parks that prohibit camping

Committee received a report dated November 29, 2021 from Councillor Andrew regarding the feasibility of adding Irving Park to the list of "no camping parks."

Moved By Councillor Andrew
Seconded By Councillor Young

With the proliferation of shelter spaces, supported housing and temporary housing, council directs staff to report back on the feasibility to add Irving Park to the list of "no camping parks".

Motion to refer:

Moved By Councillor Isitt
Seconded By Mayor Helps

That this matter be referred to the next triannual update, and direct that staff report back on the implications of the proposed action.

FOR (8): Mayor Helps, Councillor Alto, Councillor Andrew, Councillor Dubow, Councillor Isitt, Councillor Potts, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Councillor Young
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Loveday

CARRIED (8 TO 1)

I.3. Late Item - Proclamation for the Day of People with Disabilities

Moved By Councillor Andrew
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

That Council declare Friday December 3, 2021 as International Day of People with Disabilities.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday
Seconded By Councillor Isitt

1. That Council declare Friday December 3, 2021 as International Day of People with Disabilities.
2. **And that council direct staff to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to draft a proclamation for the International Day of People with Disabilities to be brought forward for council's consideration each year**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Loveday
Seconded By Councillor Andrew

1. That Council declare Friday December 3, 2021 as International Day of People with Disabilities.
2. And that council direct staff to work with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to draft a proclamation for the International Day of People with Disabilities to be brought forward for council's consideration each year
3. **And that this be forwarded to the December 2, 2021 CTFCOTW meeting.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Andrew
Seconded By Councillor Loveday

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT