



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

January 12, 2023, 6:30 P.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 Alto in the Chair, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, P. Bellefontaine - Director of Engineering & Public Works, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, D. Atkinson - Acting Fire Chief, G. Diamond - Council Secretary, S. Stoltz - Committee Secretary

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The City Clerk outlined amendments to the agenda.

Moved By Councillor Dell

Seconded By Councillor Caradonna

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. POETRY

A reading by Eli Mushumanski, the Youth Poet Laureate

A reading by John Barton, the Poet Laureate

The Mayor presented John Barton and Eli Muchumanski with flowers on behalf of Council to mark the end of their terms as Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate.

D. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Moved By Councillor Caradonna

Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That the following speakers be permitted to address Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D.1 Heather Murphy: Support Including 24/7 Access to Bathrooms on the 900 Block Pandora and Support for People Unhoused Living There

Outlined issues on Pandora Ave and suggested a City-owned building be utilized to house washrooms and described the overall sanitation situation.

D.2 Alison Acker: Staff Person to Liaise with Homeless Population

Outlined the homeless situation in the City and suggested the City assign a staff person to liaise with the homeless population and suggested a shelter organizer to work to find more shelter space.

D.3 Leslie Robinson: When Densification Becomes Gentrification - Protecting Tenants and Preserving Affordable Rental Housing

Outlined densification and gentrification of housing and then spoke in regard to the homelessness situation and suggested the City do more to provide more housing for homeless people.

D.6 Lavinia Rojas: Fireworks Ban

Outlined the use of fireworks in cities and suggested that Council pass a resolution banning the use and described the health impacts of fireworks use.

D.7 Jen Dobell: Ban Fireworks for Animals, Environment, People with PTSD

Outlined the impact of fireworks on wildlife and pets and provided examples of the impacts on various species including domestic animals.

D.8 Shon Shum: Banning of Fireworks

Outlined a proposal to ban the use of fireworks and provided examples of jurisdictions that have banned fireworks due to pollutants emitted by the use.

D.9 Teri Millis: Fireworks

Outlined a ban on fireworks use in cities across BC and provided examples of the impacts of them on wildlife, domesticated animals, and people.

F. PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS

F.1 700 Government Street: Rezoning Application No. 00813 and Development Permit Application No. 000616

F.1.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval

Miko Betanzo (Planner): *Advised that the application is to rezone a portion of the land known as 700 Government Street in the IHSS Zone,*

Inner Harbour Ship Point South District, to create a new zone to allow “recreational facility” uses and to remove parking requirements.

Mayor Alto opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Nicholas Van Buren (Applicant): Provided information regarding the application.

Jaime McCallum (1192 Muir Street): Expressed support for the application.

Ray Zimmerman (Victoria Resident): Expressed concerns for the application due to the height of the vessel.

Eric Garrickson (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application due to the imagination and creativity of the design and concept and suggested it would bring vibrancy to the city.

Andre Whitaker (Lorraine Road): Expressed support for the application and suggested it would contribute to the process of revitalization of the harbour and would help Victoria reconnect with the water.

Unknown Name (member of the floating home community): Expressed support for the application because it is inspired by the west coast and health and is in-line with the community plan.

Ashley Valley (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application, particularly after the pandemic when the population has been inside and not as active and suggested this would benefit the health of the community.

Natalie Pike (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it would provide an alternative social opportunity for the community and would provide a place of wellness in the city.

Dr. Elizabeth Lang (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it would contribute to inclusion, accessibility, and safety in the community and would contribute to the economy and celebrate and protect the ecology of the CRD area.

Brad Jazling (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it is an innovative project that would support wellness in the community.

Silas Lickey (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it would rehabilitate something old (the barge) and contribute something to the community.

Robert Arson (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it is using reclaimed wood from the community.

Rita (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it would support the local community after the construction of facilities that cater to boat owners.

Kerri (Saanich Resident): Expressed support for the application due to the workmanship, quality, care, and attention that the applicant has put into the construction of the facility and noted these facilities are a growing trend in many cities.

Jordan (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application due to the nature of the project as it is constructed from salvaged material.

Michael Massoud (955 Dinglydell): Expressed support for the application as it would provide the opportunity for business growth and community growth.

Ian Robertson (CEO of the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority): Expressed support for the application as it would bring life and activity to the Inner Harbour throughout the year and suggested the project was reflective of where the GVHA wants to go as a harbour.

Paul Burke (50 Songhees Road): Expressed concerns for the application as the project is already under construction and had concerns about its current appearance.

Kelsey McDougal (Owner of an interior design business): Expressed support for the application due to its appearance and the community involved and its contribution to placemaking.

Eveline Zadan (Dellwood St): Expressed support for the application as its location would contribute to the hospitality community and noted that the hospitality industry is lacking access to activities such as these.

Lorraine Master-Mateo (Resident of the Inner Harbour): Expressed concerns about the application due to the current appearance of the boat agrees with the concept of health and wellness in the Inner Harbour.

Council recessed from 8:15pm until 8:22pm to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

Bob June (Manor Road): Expressed concerns about the proposal as the city has a working harbour and was concerned about the use of mooring space for a facility that will be immobile. He also suggested the vessel has an unattractive appearance and pointed to different examples in Montreal and Oslo.

Dave H. (Douglas Street): Expressed support for the application and suggested it is a healthy way of building community and referenced examples of such facilities in eastern Europe.

Kelly Vincent (Resident of the Capital Park region): Expressed that he was not opposed to the idea of the facility but expressed concerns about the application due to the aesthetics of the barge.

Maggy Murphy (unknown): Expressed concerns about the application due to the size and appearance of the barge and because the project is already under construction.

Pat McGuire (Victoria Resident): Expressed concerns about the application due to some inaccessible aspects of the project such as the gangway and potential of clutter by the waterfront.

Jessica Udal (Landscape Architect): Expressed support for the project and highlighted that the barge is unfinished and that there are trees and plants that are proposed and pointed out that the current site is a vacant parking lot.

Khadoni Pitt-Chambers (Victoria Resident): Expressed concerns about the application as it is a luxury amenity and suggested alternatives to rehabilitate the harbour such as focusing on the current vacant parking lots situated at the site.

Brad Anderson (Victoria Resident): Expressed support for the application as it would provide community and could offer discounted rates to community members.

Mayor Alto closed the public hearing at 8:43 p.m.

Council discussed the following:

- *That the water lot is owned by the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority and that the contract would be a license to occupy*
- *That the cost to use the facility will be less than other activities in the harbour such as whale watching and discounts would be offered to low-income people*
- *That the applicant has worked with one of the authors for the Ship Point Master Plan to ensure it will be viable as the Master Plan is implemented*
- *That the vessel would be entirely electric and plans to be carbon neutral within 24 months*
- *That the vessel would be connected to the municipal sewage system*
- *That the applicant is ready to make the vessel more accessible once the GVHA and federal government address accessibility concerns on the pier*
- *That the Downtown Residents' Association declined to hold a community meeting in relation to this application*

Moved By Councillor Caradonna

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That the following bylaw **be given third reading:**

1. Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1290) No. 22-094

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Kim

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That the following bylaw **be adopted:**

1. Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1290) No. 22-094

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Kim

Seconded By Councillor Dell

Development Permit Application No. 000616

1. That Council authorize the issuance of Development Permit Application No. 000616 for 700 Government Street, in accordance with:
 - a. Plans date stamped June 3, 2022
 - b. Development meeting all Zoning Regulation Bylaw requirements.
2. That the Development Permit, if issued, lapses in two years from the date of this resolution.

That Council request that the applicant strongly considers inclusion of people with disabilities to ensure full accessibility to the structure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2 680 Montreal Street: Rezoning Application No. 00792

F.2.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval:

Michael Angrove (Planner): *Advised that the application is to rezone the land known as 680 Montreal Street from the C-4H Zone, Harbour Activity District, the M-2 Zone, Light Industrial District and the IH-Park Zone, Inner Harbour Parks and Causeway District, to the T-26 Zone, Laurel Point District, to allow the existing hotel use to continue once the provincially-legislated expiration of the Land Use Contract on the property occurs on June 30, 2024. The proposal would also increase the density and site coverage, which would allow for a redevelopment of the north wing of the building in the future. Although a portion of the property is being rezoned from the IH-Park Zone, Inner Harbour Parks and Causeway District, there is no existing City park land being removed as part of this application.*

Mayor Alto opened the public hearing at 9:50pm

John Graham (Applicant): Provided information regarding the application.

Council recessed from 10:07pm until 10:14pm to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons spoke to the proposed bylaw.

Mayor Alto closed the public hearing at 10:14pm

Council discussed the following:

- *That there are 45 land use contracts in the City and this one is set to expire in 2024*

Moved By Councillor Coleman

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That the following bylaw **be given third reading:**

1. Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1285) No. 22-077

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Coleman

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That the following bylaw **be adopted:**

1. Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1285) No. 22-077

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That the Council meeting adjourn at 10:21pm

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR