



## MINUTES – SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 6, 2023, 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  
Meeting will convene between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Alto in the Chair, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

ABSENT: Councillor Hammond

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, T. Soulliere - Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, K. Hoese - Director of Sustainable Planning and Community Development, A. Meyer - Assistant Director of Development Services, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, K. Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, Q. Anglin - Manager of Economic Development, M. Palmer - Chief Information Officer, R. Kenny - Assistant Director of Transportation, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations, N. Reddington - Senior Cultural Planner, Kevin House - Manager, Real Estate Revenue, G. Diamond - Council Secretary, S. Stoltz - Committee Secretary, S. Johnson - Director of Communications and Engagement

### A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved By** Councillor Caradonna  
**Seconded By** Councillor Loughton

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### D.1 2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan

**Motion arising:**

**Moved By** Councillor Caradonna  
**Seconded By** Councillor Dell

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of the creation of a \$150,000 grant to activate the Victoria Music Strategy.

*Council discussed the following:*

- *The desire to support the music community in Victoria*

**On the main motion:**

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of the creation of a \$150,000 grant to activate the Victoria Music Strategy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion arising:**

**Moved By** Councillor Dell

**Seconded By** Councillor Caradonna

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

*Council discussed the following:*

- *The need to support Victoria's downtown businesses and residents by investing in downtown*
- *The desire to improve downtown Victoria's curbside appeal and vibrancy*
- *The fact that the majority of people expect to pay for parking when driving downtown, and therefore the additional paid hours will not likely be a deterrent*

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Caradonna

**Seconded By** Councillor Dell

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**In addition, that Council direct staff to investigate ways of permitting for longer parking stays in the evening hours.**

*Council discussed the following:*

- *The fact that longer parking stays would reduce the hassle for downtown commuters and visitors*

**Amendment to the amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Kim

**Seconded By** Councillor Gardiner

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**In addition, that Council direct staff to investigate and suggest a variety of options for downtown residents parking and ways of permitting for longer parking stays in the evening hours.**

FOR (1): Councillor Gardiner

OPPOSED (7): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED (1 TO 7)**

**Amendment to the amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Caradonna

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**In addition, and related to the content above, that staff implement policies that reduce any unintended inconvenience engendered by the extension of paid parking. that Council direct staff to investigate ways of permitting for longer parking stays in the evening hours.**

*Councillor Caradonna withdrew the amendment to the amendment.*

**Amendment to the amendment:**

**Moved By** Mayor Alto

**Seconded By** Councillor Thompson

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**In addition, that Council direct staff to investigate ways of permitting for longer parking stays for residents and other users in the evening hours.**

FOR (2): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Gardiner

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED (2 TO 6)**

**On the amendment:**

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**In addition, that Council direct staff to investigate ways of permitting for longer parking stays in the evening hours.**

OPPOSED (8): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Gardiner

**Seconded By** Councillor Coleman

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at a rate to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**That staff investigate a way of permitting the general public to have complimentary parking at the Fisgard parking lot in the half hour before and during public hearings.**

*Council discussed the following:*

- *The fact that this could reduce barriers and increase accessibility and interest in the public attending public hearings*

FOR (2): Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner

OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED (2 TO 6)**

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Thompson  
**Seconded By** Councillor Caradonna

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at ~~a rate~~ **rates** to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**On the main motion as amended:**

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of implementing paid on-street and parkade parking from 8am - 9am and 7pm - 8pm, at rates to be determined by staff, with all funds to be re-invested in the downtown core towards beautification and maintenance, cultural opportunities, and new public parks and amenities.

FOR (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
OPPOSED (2): Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner

**CARRIED (6 TO 2)**

**Motion arising:**

**Moved By** Councillor Loughton  
**Seconded By** Councillor Kim

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of creating a pilot project to provide storage for people sheltering in parks. The suggested initial cost allocation of \$50,000 would come from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency funds, or the Housing Reserve Fund.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Concerns regarding the fact that this could potentially support entrenchment in parks*

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Kim  
**Seconded By** Councillor Loughton

That Council direct staff to comment on the financial implications of creating a pilot project to provide storage for people sheltering ~~in parks~~. The suggested initial cost allocation of \$50,000 would come from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency funds, or the Housing Reserve Fund.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *The fact that this would make the storage applicable to a wider amount of people*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Potential liability issues for the City if this program were to go ahead*

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Thompson  
**Seconded By** Councillor Coleman

Direct staff to comment on the financial **and operational** implications of creating a pilot project to provide storage for people sheltering. The suggested initial cost allocation of \$50,000 would come from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency funds, or the Housing Reserve Fund.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Coleman  
**Seconded By** Councillor Gardiner

Direct staff to comment on the financial and operational implications of creating a pilot project to provide storage for people sheltering. The suggested initial cost allocation of \$50,000 would come from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency funds. ~~or the Housing Reserve Fund.~~

FOR (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
OPPOSED (2): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell

**CARRIED (6 TO 2)**

**On the main motion as amended:**

Direct staff to comment on the financial and operational implications of creating a pilot project to provide storage for people sheltering. The suggested initial cost allocation of \$50,000 would come from an application to the provincial government, or if unsuccessful, then from surplus and/or contingency funds.

FOR (7): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

**CARRIED (7 TO 1)**

*Committee recessed at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened at 10:46 a.m.*

**Moved By** Councillor Coleman  
**Seconded By** Councillor Kim

To direct staff to comment on the possible reduction of City allocations to three reserve funds; the Parking Reserve Fund, the Development Stabilization Reserve, and the Debt Reduction Reserve, with the goal of lowering the tax lift in 2023.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *The opportunity to reduce the tax lift on the general population*

**Amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Caradonna  
**Seconded By** Councillor Kim

To direct staff to comment on the possible reduction of City allocations to three reserve funds; the Parking Reserve Fund, the Development Stabilization Reserve, and the Debt Reduction Reserve, ~~with the goal of lowering the tax lift in 2023.~~

**Amendment to the amendment:**

**Moved By** Councillor Thompson  
**Seconded By** Councillor Caradonna

To direct staff to comment on the ~~possible reduction of~~ City's allocations ~~among to~~ three reserve funds; the Parking Reserve Fund, the Development Stabilization Reserve, and the Debt Reduction Reserve, ~~with the goal of lowering the tax lift in 2023.~~

FOR (5): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson  
OPPOSED (3): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner

**CARRIED (5 TO 3)**

**On the amendment:**

To direct staff to comment on the City's allocations among three reserve funds; the Parking Reserve Fund, the Development Stabilization Reserve, and the Debt Reduction Reserve, ~~with the goal of lowering the tax lift in 2023.~~

FOR (3): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Thompson

OPPOSED (5): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

**DEFEATED (3 TO 5)**

**On the main motion as amended:**

To direct staff to comment on the City's allocations among three reserve funds; the Parking Reserve Fund, the Development Stabilization Reserve, and the Debt Reduction Reserve, with the goal of lowering the tax lift in 2023.

FOR (5): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

OPPOSED (3): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Thompson

**CARRIED (5 TO 3)**

*Councillor Thompson recused himself at 11:20 a.m. due to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, as he has a family member that works for one of the related organizations.*

**Motion arising:**

**Moved By** Councillor Loughton

**Seconded By** Councillor Kim

Direct staff to investigate allocating sustaining funds of \$110,000 annually for 2023-27 to the Greater Victoria Community Social Planning Council to support the Greater Victoria Rent Bank from surplus and/or the contingency funds or the Housing Reserve Fund.

AND THAT the Community Social Planning Council be requested to provide annual reports on the performance of the Rent Bank Program prior to the following year's annual City budget deliberations.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *The fact that the housing crisis is not an issue that the City of Victoria can solve on its own, but that this is a good step in proving that the City is taking all the steps to obtain the necessary information to tackle the issue*

**On the main motion:**



**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Councillor Thompson rejoined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.*

**Motion arising:**

**Moved By** Mayor Alto

**Seconded By** Councillor Loughton

That staff be directed to comment upon the financial and operational implications of reducing the 2023 City budget by three quarters of one percent (.75 per cent).

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *The fact that the additional tax revenue could be reinvested into the City*

FOR (4): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim

OPPOSED (4): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

**DEFEATED (4 TO 4)**

**I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Moved By** Councillor Coleman

**Seconded By** Councillor Gardiner

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 11:52 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR