



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 16, 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 recess for a lunch break between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

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, 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, K. Moore - Head of Business and Community Relations, C. Mycroft - Manager of Executive Operations

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Councillor Coleman
Seconded By Councillor Loughton

That the agenda be approved.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That items **H.1 Council Member Motion - AVICC in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023 for Councillor Kim, H.2 Council Member Motion - AVICC in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023 for Councillor Loughton, and H.3. Council Member Motion: Approval for Travel Expenses – UBCM – Housing Summit – Housing BC Together Vancouver April 4th, 2023 for Mayor Alto** be added to the consent agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the agenda as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Mayor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That the following items be approved without further debate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1 Council Member Motion - AVICC in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023 for Councillor Kim

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated March 12, 2023 from Councillor Kim regarding the attendance and associated costs for Councillor Kim to attend the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023.

Moved By Mayor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That Council authorize the attendance and associated costs for Councillor Kim to attend the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023.

The approximate cost per person for attending is:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Conference Registration Fee | \$480.00 |
| Travel to/from Nanaimo | \$400.00 |
| Rental car | \$300.00 |
| Gas | \$100.00 |
| Accommodation (2 nights) | \$400.00 |
| Food & Incidentals (1 lunch, 2 dinners 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch provided) | \$110.00 |

Estimated total cost = \$1,390.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.2 Council Member Motion - AVICC in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023 for Councillor Loughton

Committee received a Council Member Motion dated March 13, 2023 from Councillor Loughton regarding the attendance and associated costs for Councillor Loughton to attend the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023.

Moved By Mayor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That Council authorize the attendance and associated costs for Councillor Loughton to attend the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities AGM and Convention in Nanaimo from April 14-16, 2023.

The approximate cost for attending is:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Conference registration fee | \$480.00 |
| Travel to/from Nanaimo | \$160.00 |
| Accommodations (2 nights) | \$400.00 |
| Food & Incidentals (1 lunch, 2 dinners) | \$110.00 |
| Estimated total cost = | \$1,150.00 |

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H.3 Late Items

H.3.1 **Council Member Motion: Approval for Travel Expenses – UBCM – Housing Summit – Housing BC Together Vancouver April 4th, 2023 for Mayor Alto**

Committee received a report regarding a Council Member Motion dated March 16, 2023 from Mayor Alto regarding the approval of expenses associated with Mayor Alto attending the UBCM Housing Summit – Housing BC Together Conference being held April 4, 2023 in Vancouver.

Moved By Mayor Alto
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That Council authorize expenses related to Mayor Alto attending UBCM – Housing Summit – Housing BC Together Vancouver April 4th 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Accommodation: | \$301 |
| Flight: | \$506 |
| Misc: | \$300 (food, etc.) |
| Transportation: | \$100 (cabs etc) |
| Estimated Total Cost: | \$1207 |

And that this motion be forwarded to the March 16th 2023 daytime meeting of Council for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. STAFF REPORTS

F.1 2023 Draft Budget/Core Services and Programs - Public Engagement Summary

Committee received a report dated March 10, 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager and Director of Communications and Engagement providing Council with public feedback and correspondence received during the consultation period for the 2023 Draft Budget and City core services and programs.

Council discussed the following:

- *Methods of outreach that were conducted for the survey*
- *Potentially conducting survey efforts earlier for next year*
- *Accessible forms of outreach*
- *Responses and reactions to the survey from the public*

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Kim

That Council receive the 2023 Draft Budget/Core Services and Programs - Public Engagement Summary report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2 2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan

F.2.1 2023 – 2027 Draft Financial Plan – Additional Motion Report-Backs

Committee received a report dated March 9, 2023 from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer regarding Additional Motion Report-Backs on five topics for the 2023 – 2027 Draft Financial Plan.

Committee discussed the following:

- *That certain items may come from the contingency budget, which is included in the Draft Financial Plan*

Moved By Councillor Caradonna

Seconded By Councillor Kim

That Council allocate a \$150,000 grant to activate the Victoria Music Strategy funded from contingency.

Committee discussed the following:

- *The fact that Victoria's music scene as well as the general public would benefit from this investment*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved By Councillor Caradonna

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That Council direct staff to implement 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.

Committee discussed the following:

- *The desire to build a downtown core that people want to live/work/visit, and how this will support Victoria's economy and small businesses*
- *Concerns that increased parking costs could potentially deter people from driving downtown, and therefore visiting downtown*

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Hammond
Seconded By Councillor Loughton

That Council direct staff to implement 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, **and investigate programs to support downtown safety.**

Amendment to the amendment:

Moved By Councillor Gardiner
Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That Council direct staff to implement 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**, **and investigate programs to support downtown safety.**

Committee discussed the following:

- *Safety concerns in the downtown core*
- *The desire to support more cultural opportunities in the downtown core*

FOR (1): Councillor Gardiner

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

DEFEATED (1 TO 8)

On the amendment:

That Council direct staff to implement 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, **and investigate programs to support downtown safety.**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee discussed the following:

- *Support for increasing safety in the downtown core*
- *Support for the fact that this motion speaks to the comprehensive nature of the changes and improvements that need to happen in the downtown core*
- *Downtown Victoria Business Association motions that are related to this topic*

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff to implement 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, new public parks and amenities, and investigate programs to support downtown safety.

FOR (7): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson
OPPOSED (2): Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (7 TO 2)

Recessed at 10:18 a.m. and reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

Moved By Councillor Loughton
Seconded By Councillor Kim

That Council direct staff to allocate funds to help mitigate the harm to housed and unhoused people living, or operating businesses, in and around outdoor 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.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Coleman
Seconded By Councillor Loughton

That Council direct staff to allocate funds to help **a pilot project** to mitigate the harm to housed and unhoused people living, or operating businesses, in and around outdoor 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That Council direct staff to allocate funds to help a pilot project to mitigate the harm to housed and unhoused people living, or operating businesses, in and around outdoor 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 (8): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

OPPOSED (1): Councillor Gardiner

CARRIED (8 TO 1)

Moved By Councillor Coleman

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from the Parking Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 from the Debt Reduction Reserve, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase.

Committee discussed the following:

- *The desire to keep a forward-focused lens on budget discussions so as to remain prepared for future City expenditures*

Amendment:

Moved By Mayor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Coleman

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from **the 2023 contributions** to the Parking Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 from **the 2023 contributions** to the Debt Reduction Reserve, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the main motion as amended:

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Parking Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Debt Reduction Reserve, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Concern regarding the potential reduction of debt servicing, especially with upcoming investments and upgrades that will be needed in the City*

- *How reducing the property tax increase could help support Victoria's residents and businesses*

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Caradonna

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Parking Reserve Fund ~~and \$1,000,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Debt Reduction Reserve~~, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase.

FOR (3): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Thompson
OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

DEFEATED (6 TO 3)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Parking Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Debt Reduction Reserve, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase, **and that Council direct staff to restore these funds for the 2024 draft budget.**

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

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 TO 2)

On the main motion as amended:

That staff look to remove \$500,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Parking Reserve Fund and \$1,000,000 from the 2023 contributions to the Debt Reduction Reserve, and those monies be directed to reducing the property tax increase, and that Council direct staff to restore these funds for the 2024 draft budget.

FOR (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

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

CARRIED (6 TO 3)

Councillor Thompson recused himself at 11:44 a.m. due to a potential conflict of interest, due to the fact that he is associated with the Greater Victoria Community Social Planning Council.

Moved By Councillor Kim

Seconded By Councillor Loughton

That Council allocate 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:

- *Specifications of the function of the Rent Bank Program*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.2.2 Financial Plan Remaining Recommendations

Committee recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Councillor Thompson rejoined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Councillor Kim declared a potential conflict of interest due to the fact that her other place of employment is being considered for a community grant, and left the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Committee received a report dated March 8, 2023 from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer regarding the remaining steps in this year's budget process for the 2023-2027 Draft Financial Plan.

Moved By Mayor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

That Council:

1. Approve the direct-award grants as outlined in Appendix A to this report
2. Approve other grants as outlined in Appendix B to this report
3. Approve allocating any remaining new property tax revenue from new development to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve
4. Direct staff to bring forward the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2023 to the April 27, 2023 daytime Council meeting
5. Forward these recommendations to the March 16, 2023 daytime Council meeting

Council voted on number 1 separately.

Moved By Mayor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

That Council:

1. Approve the direct-award grants as outlined in Appendix A to this report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Kim rejoined to the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Moved By Mayor Alto

Seconded By Councillor Thompson

That Council:

2. Approve other grants as outlined in Appendix B to this report
3. Approve allocating any remaining new property tax revenue from new development to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve
4. Direct staff to bring forward the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2023 to the April 27, 2023 daytime Council meeting
5. Forward these recommendations to the March 16, 2023 daytime Council meeting

Council voted on number 2 separately.

Committee discussed the following:

- *Whether or not there are conditions given to certain grants distributed by Council*

On number 2:

2. Approve other grants as outlined in Appendix B to this report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council, by unanimous consent tabled number 3-5 of the main motion.

Motion arising:

Moved By Councillor Dell

Seconded By Councillor Caradonna

That Council allocate an additional \$1,500,000 to the Parks, Recreation and Facilities department budget for 2023.

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Thompson

Seconded By Councillor Dell

That Council allocate an additional \$1,350,000 to the Parks, Recreation and Facilities department budget for 2023, **and 200,000 allocated to climate action and acceleration of housing policy changes aimed at boosting the supply of affordable housing and housing generally.**

Moved By Councillor Gardiner
Seconded by unanimous consent

That Council call the question.

FOR (5): Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

OPPOSED (4): Mayor Alto, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Thompson

CARRIED (5-4)

On the amendment:

FOR (4): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Thompson

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

DEFEATED (4-5)

Amendment:

Moved By Councillor Caradonna
Seconded By Councillor Dell

That Council allocate an additional **\$750,000** ~~\$1,500,000~~ to the Parks, Recreation and Facilities department budget for 2023.

Motion to extend:

Moved By Councillor Caradonna
Seconded By Councillor Thompson

That the meeting be extended to 2:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On the amendment:

FOR (4): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Kim, Councillor Thompson

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

DEFEATED (4-5)

On the main motion:

That Council allocate an additional \$1,500,000 to the Parks, Recreation and Facilities department budget for 2023.

FOR (3): Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Dell, Councillor Thompson
OPPOSED (6): Mayor Alto, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton

DEFEATED (3-6)

Council lifted number 3-5 of the remaining motion from the table.

On the motion:

That Council:

3. Approve allocating any remaining new property tax revenue from new development to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve
4. Direct staff to bring forward the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2023 to the April 27, 2023 daytime Council meeting
5. Forward these recommendations to the March 16, 2023 daytime Council meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved By Councillor Dell
Seconded By Councillor Thompson

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR