

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 5, 2023

For the Council meeting of October 19, 2023, the Committee recommends the following:

F. LAND USE MATTERS

F.1 919 Douglas Street: Application for a Liquor Primary Licence Structural Change (Capacity Increase) for Strathcona Hotel (Downtown)

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 Strathcona Hotel, located at 919 Douglas Street, to increase the liquor primary capacity by 117 people, from 183 to 300, with no overall change to the occupant load through the conversion of 117 existing food primary seats.
The following comments are provided regarding the prescribed considerations:
The impact of noise on the community near the business was considered in relation to the request, and the proposed liquor primary capacity is compatible with the area.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 431 owners and occupiers, the City received 15 letters of correspondence. Of these letters, 14 expressed opposition, and one expressed support for the proposed structural change. A letter from the Downtown Residents Association (DRA) indicates that they cannot endorse the application.
 - c. Council recommends to the Province that the liquor primary licence be approved as recommended.

G. STAFF REPORTS

G.1 2022 General Local Election - Lessons Learned

That Council:

1. Approve the Election Policy Guidelines.
2. Direct staff to reserve the Victoria Conference Centre, or a similar facility, for the 2026 general local election for advance voting and general voting day.
3. Direct staff to report back on options to enhance privacy concerns with electronic access of candidate nomination papers.

I. NEW BUSINESS

I.1 Council Member Motion: Continued Actions on Unsheltered Homelessness

That Council direct staff to:

1. work in collaboration with the province to create seasonal shelters throughout the region which would operate annually from approximately November 1st until March 31st.
2. and allocate, at the discretion of the City Manager, a portion of available funds set aside for homelessness in the 2023 budget towards extending the contract of the Parks Relocation Coordinators to continue their work in all parks.

I.2 Council Member Motion: Grant for the Gorge View Society

That Council direct staff to pay a grant to the Gorge View Society for \$168,560, by reallocating a portion of the annual contribution to the Housing Reserve Fund, to help cover the costs of GVS's 2024 and 2025 annual property taxes with 50% of the grant paid in 2024 and 50% in 2025.