



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

April 25, 2024, 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 Nations

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, K. Hoese – Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development, K. Stevenot – Senior Planner of Heritage, B. Roder - Senior Legislative Coordinator

A. POETRY

Council received a poetry reading by Eva Haas, Youth Poet Laureate.

B. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Esquimalt First Nation communities and reminded us to continue to be open to their guidance as stewards of this land.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

E. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Moved and Seconded:

That the following speakers be permitted to address Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E.1 Sanna Pellatt, Property Rights Association of B.C.: Legal non-conforming short term rentals (In-person)

Mayor Alto noted that this speaker was not present to address Council.

E.2 Vanya McDonell and Debbie Banerjee, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association: Community Centres in Victoria (In-person)

Outlined to Council the ten community centres in the Victoria neighbourhoods which provide health and wellness services, including childcare and early years support.

E.3 Tracey Ryan, Silver Threads Service, and Kim Dixon, James Bay New Horizons: Getting to know James Bay Community Centre (In-person)

Outlined to Council the benefits that seniors' centres' provide to the community as a place and purpose for many, including food security and peer-to-peer support services.

E.4 Sandy, Oaklands Community Centre, and Tracey Gibson, James Bay Community Centre: Get to know Burnside Gorge Community Centre (In-person)

Outlined to Council the importance of the community centres' recreation and wellness services for all ages, to provide a safe engaging space where community members feel a sense of belonging.

E.5 John Cameron Scott, Friends of Centennial Square: Love of Victoria, Centennial Square and Old Town (In-person)

Outlined to Council the importance of public art and requested that they respect the history of the City's art and preserve the fountain in Centennial Square.

E.6 Cindy Romphf, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association: School Police Liaison Program (In-person)

Outlined to Council the review and decision-making associated with the removal of School Police Liaison Officers and the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association's support for reallocating School Police Liaison funding to youth services.

F. PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS

F.1 Draft Five Year Financial Plan 2024-2028

Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2024 No. 24-032

The purpose of this bylaw is to adopt the annual financial plan for the year 2024.

Tax Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-029

The purpose of this Bylaw is to impose tax rates and taxes for the year 2024.

Business Improvement Area Rate Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-030

The purpose of this Bylaw is to levy taxes on taxable property located in the Downtown Victoria Business Improvement Area.

Boulevard Tax Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-031

The purpose of this Bylaw is to assess the cost of maintenance of boulevards in the City.

F.1.a Opportunity for Public Comment & Consideration of Approval

Deputy City Manager/ Chief Financial Officer, Susanne Thompson: Advised that the five year financial plan establishes funding priorities for the 2024 annual budget.

Mayor Alto opened the opportunity for public comment at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor Alto called a first time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed draft financial plan.

Steven Russo (Johnson St): Expressed opposition to the bylaw due to the housing promises and strategy outlined in the budget.

Jim Meyer (Vic West): Expressed support for the bylaw due to the public consultation opportunity, including the engagement survey, but noted the large budget allocation for police services.

Mayor Alto called a second time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed draft plan.

Council recessed from 7:05 p.m. until 7:10 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons called in to speak to the draft financial plan.

Mayor Alto called a third and final time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed draft financial plan.

No further persons wished to speak to the draft plan.

Mayor Alto closed the opportunity for public comment at 7:11 p.m.

Council discussed the following:

- *Current tax rates*
- *Yearly review of the five year financial plan bylaw*
- *Balance of City improvements and needs*

- *Importance of police budget*

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaws **be adopted:**

1. Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, 2024 No. 24-032
2. Tax Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-029
3. Business Improvement Area Rate Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-030
4. Boulevard Tax Bylaw, 2024 Bylaw No. 24-031

OPPOSED (2): Councillor Gardiner, and Councillor Hammond

CARRIED (7 to 2)

F.2 557-561 Fisgard Street: Heritage Designation Application No. 000205

Heritage Designation (557-561 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-006

The purpose of this Bylaw is to designate the exterior of the building located at 557-561 Fisgard Street to be protected heritage property.

F.2.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval

Kristal Stevenot (Planner): Advised that the application is to heritage designate the exterior of the heritage-registered property located at 557-561 Fisgard Street.

Mayor Alto opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Alto called a first time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Ken Johnson, Hallmark Heritage Society: Expressed support for the application, and noted that it is a listed national heritage site, that provides a view from the past of what society was and what it could be in the future. He further expressed his support for the heritage designation application for 565 Fisgard Street.

Mayor Alto called a second time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Council recessed from 7:42 p.m. until 7:47 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons called in to speak to the application.

Mayor Alto called a third and final time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

No further persons wished to speak to the application.

Mayor Alto closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Moved and Seconded:

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

1. Heritage Designation (557-561 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-006

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaw **be adopted:**

1. Heritage Designation (557-561 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-006

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.3 565 Fisgard Street: Heritage Designation Application No. 000207

Heritage Designation (565 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-007

The purpose of this Bylaw is to designate the exterior of the building located at 565 Fisgard Street to be protected heritage property.

F.3.a Public Hearing & Consideration of Approval:

Kristal Stevenot (Planner): Advised that the application is to heritage designate the exterior of the heritage-registered property located at 565 Fisgard Street.

Mayor Alto opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Alto called a first time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Mayor Alto called a second time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

Council recessed from 7:51 p.m. until 7:56 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.

No persons called in to speak to the application.

Mayor Alto called a third and final time for members of the public wishing to speak on the proposed application.

No further persons wished to speak to the application.

Mayor Alto closed the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Moved and Seconded:

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

1. Heritage Designation (565 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-007

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded:

That the following bylaw **be adopted:**

1. Heritage Designation (565 Fisgard Street) Bylaw No. 24-007

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

There were no closed items.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR