



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

May 23, 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 Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, D. Atkinson - Fire Chief, B. Stark - Acting Assistant Director of Parks and Open Spaces, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator, B. Roder - Senior Legislative Coordinator

A. POETRY

Marie Metaphor Specht, Poet Laureate, read a poem entitled Wolf Path.

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 encouraged everyone to take a moment each day to look around and see the tremendous gifts they have given us through their stewardship of these lands.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Moved and Seconded:

That the following speakers be permitted to address Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E.1 Ingrid Taggart: Short term rental of principal residence by-law (In-person)

Shared her experience with the Short Term Rental application process, and expressed concerns about the four booking limit for principal residences, which has resulted in her not being able to use her license past June 10 of this year. She expressed concerns that this restriction will not add to the rental stock in the city, and that enforcement of this policy is time consuming for staff. She urged Council to review this policy at their earliest convenience, and suggested a 180 day limit to match national policy and insurance limits.

Councillor Coleman withdrew from the meeting at 6:41 p.m. due to a non-pecuniary conflict of interest with the following item as he lives near the subject property of the next agenda item.

E.2 Sue Goldsack, Maplewood Gospel Hall: Taxation of church parking lots (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding the permissive tax exemption for the Gospel Hall parking lot which has been removed, and shared that this impacted their contributions to charitable organizations. She expressed concerns regarding how this impacted the situation on Pandora as they could not make their normal contribution to Our Place.

Councillor Coleman rejoined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

E.3 Carl Cachia, Residents of Amphion Street: Repairs on Amphion Street (Sidewalk, lines, road) (In-person)

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

E.4 Stephanie Baragon and Brian Ogilvie: Neighbourhood Safety Concerns regarding Vic West Park and it being an overnight sheltering park. We need help! (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding safety at Vic West Park and the inability for families to use Vic West Park due to various paraphernalia and other safety issues. Ms. Baragon shared an experience where an individual tried to break into her house with a shovel, who then fled to their tent when the police arrived and the negative impact this had on her well-being. Mr. Ogilvie shared that Bylaw enforcement is not sufficient and that bylaws are not being enforced which is leading to further safety issues for the community.

E.5 Ted Smith, Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club: International Medical Marijuana Day (In-person)

Shared a history of the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club and invited Council to visit the new location. He thanked Council for a proclamation for International Medical Marijuana Day and their support. He reflected on the upcoming court case regarding an injunction but was confident they have constitutional arguments in their favour. He suggested that the medical marijuana program needs storefront

access as this is more accessible and easier to administer than using pharmacies.

E.6 Emmanuel Ronse: History between the Community of North Gonzales and Glenyon Norfolk School (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding the growth of Glenlyon Norfolk School and the impacts on traffic on residential streets such as Madison, and shared that the City installed bus stops on Richmond Road but the school does not use them. He estimated that the campus will continue to grow which will bring more students to the neighbourhood. He shared that the neighbours desire a walkable neighbourhood, but the traffic conflicts with this.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR