



## MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

June 27, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Council Chambers, City Hall, 1 Centennial Square

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation

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 and Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, S. Webb - Assistant Director of Corporate Planning and Project Support, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator

### A. POETRY

Eva Haas, Youth Poet Laureate, read two poems.

### B. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation, and reflected on their stewardship over millennia, of the lands on which the city sits.

### 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 Susan Sheehy: Issues and Resolutions necessary before a ratification on removal of 3 sheltering parks (In-person)**

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

**E.2 Tanya Dodd: Restrictions on primary residence license for short term rentals (In-person)**

Outlined to Council challenges she faced following the purchase of her condo in 2018, as she was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune condition and could not work and decided to offer her home as a short term rental to supplement help to support her. She expressed that the provision in the STR bylaw that prohibits more than four rentals in a year has made her situation more difficult and that she cannot apply for the non-conforming license as the province has eliminated it.

**E.3 Aneri Garg, Stand.Earth: Cruise ship pollution measures (Audio/Video)**

Outlined Canada's Cruise Ship policies and the impacts cruise ships have on coastal communities. She presented recommendations on how to improve the cruise ship industry and requested a letter of support from Council.

**E.4 Kaitlyn Chewka, Oak Bay Summer Swim Club: Crystal Pool Replacement Project - Community Impact (In-person)**

Outlined concerns that the Crystal Pool Replacement Project report to Council did not address the impact of its closure during construction. She noted the benefits of aquatic facilities and their impacts on physical and mental health of the community. She expressed concerns that aquatic programs do not take place during closures because neighbouring pools do not have the capacity to run Crystal Pool's programs, and also suggested Council consider the state of neighbouring facilities which are at risk of closure. She also urged Council to explore other funding options.

**E.5 Kevin Stuart, Pedicab Operator: Amendments to Alternative Vehicle Bylaw: 500W -> 750W, tandem carriage -> 6 people (3 per carriage) provided safely seated (Audio/Video)**

Suggested potential amendments to the pedicab bylaw to allow six people in pedicabs to provide more flexibility for larger groups, and better value.

**E.6 Steven Ross: Short term rental regulation (In-person)**

Outlined concerns regarding recent changes to Short Term Rental Regulations and the impacts of Schedule D, Section 12, which allows owners to only rent their space four times a year. This has restricted his ability to utilize his property as intended. He suggested that people in his position can accommodate tourists and working professionals, and suggested an exemption for individuals like himself who live in their homes and would like to occasionally rent them.

**F. PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS**

**F.1 2023 Annual Report**

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

Sarah Webb (Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Project Support): Provided a background of the 2023 Annual Report

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

Steve Smith (Fairfield): Expressed concerns regarding the accumulated surplus in the Annual Report and suggested that Victoria's property taxes are the highest of similar municipalities in BC.

*The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer provided a clarification of the accumulated surplus numbers in the Annual Report as indicated in note 11, and stated that the majority of the accumulated surplus pertains to equity in tangible capital assets and reserves, and that the Public Sector Accounting Board's terminology is sometimes not consistent with the Community Charter explanation of surplus.*

*Council recessed from 7:03 p.m. until 7:08 p.m. to provide an opportunity for members of the public to call to speak live.*

*No persons called in to speak to the 2023 Annual Report.*

*Mayor Alto closed the opportunity for public comment at 7:08 p.m.*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council receive the 2023 Annual Report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

---

CITY CLERK

---

MAYOR