



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

August 1, 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 Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Caradonna

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, P. Rantucci - Director of Strategic Real Estate, T. Soulliere - Deputy City Manager, J. O'Connor - Deputy Director of Finance, K. Hoese - Director of Planning and Development, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, D. Newman - Director, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, A. Johnston - Assistant Director of Development Services, J. Handy - Manager, Planning and Regulatory Services, W. Doyle - Active Director, Engineering and Public Works, K. House - Manager of Real Estate Revenue, K. Jones - Advisor to the City Manager, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator, B. Roder - Senior Legislative Coordinator

B. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation, and offered thanks for the willingness of the Nations to work with the City.

C. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

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.

E.1 Stephanie Baragon: Stephanie Baragon: Third safety petition for Vic West Park (In-person)

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

E.2 Brian Ogilvie: Brian Ogilvie: Third Safety Petition For Vic West Park (In-person)

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

E.3 Janie Rollins, Victoria Committee to End Homelessness: Homeless issues (In-person)

Shared concerns related to housing and commercial housing and that rents are so high that if something goes wrong, people can end up homeless. She suggested that commercial rents should be tied to a metric such as low-income rents, so people have some security. She also shared concerns that young people are leaving the city due to affordability challenges.

E.4 Nicholas Olson: Parks Regulation Bylaw (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding how recent City decisions have impacted the community sheltering in parks, and that these policies reflect modern colonial practices. He shared that ending sheltering in Vic West and Irving parks puts the City at risk for litigation regarding Charter freedoms, and that the City could be held liable for passing potentially unconstitutional laws.

E.5 Shea Smith: Parks Regulation Bylaw, Streets and Traffic Bylaw (In-person)

Shared that recent amendments to the Parks Regulation Bylaw are unconstitutional, were made without consultation, and that they violate Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and that the August 1st date is arbitrary. He also shared concerns regarding the treatment of people sheltering by Bylaw, and how moving people from these parks could have unintended consequences as they will be further from necessary services.

E.6 Michael Delday: Parks Regulation Bylaw Amendments (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding the Residential Tenancy Act and that there is little accountability for landlords. He provided an example of how the RTA states that it is illegal for a landlord to lock tenants out of their home, but there is no criminal charge possible for the landlord.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and Seconded:

That the Council meeting adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT