



## MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

September 12, 2024, 9:03 A.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 / Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, S. Johnson - Director of Communications and Engagement, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, L. Monk – Manager of Revenue, T. Soulliere - Deputy City Manager, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, K. Hoese – Director of Planning and Development, D. Newman - Director, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, K. Jones - Adviser to the City Manager, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator, A. Heimbürger - Legislative Coordinator

GUESTS: D. Manek – Chief Constable - Victoria Police Department, E. Cull – Chair - Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board Finance Committee

### A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, taking a moment to remind themselves that the opportunity to do work and make decisions regarding the City is due to the thousands of years of stewardship, governance and decision making of the Nations, and thanked them for allowing us to live, work and play on their lands.

### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

Committee requested that the following item be removed from the Consent Agenda:

- F.1 - Property Tax Write-Off

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

**H.1 Council Member Motion: Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention (September 16-20, 2024) Expenses**

Committee received a Council Member Motion from Councillor Kim dated September 6, 2024 requesting reimbursement for changes to the associated costs for travel and attendance at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention, September 16-20, 2024 in Vancouver.

1. That Council authorize change in associated costs for Councillor Kim to attend the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference held Vancouver BC, on September 16-20, 2024; and
2. That the motion be forwarded to September 12, 2024 daytime Council for consideration.

The approximate cost for attending is:

Conference Registration Fee (+GST)	\$982.80
Accommodations (4 nights)	\$858
Transportation to/from Vancouver	\$285
Meals and Incidentals	\$300

Estimated total cost = \$2,425.80

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. PRESENTATIONS**

**E.1 Victoria Police Department 2024 Quarter 2 Report**

Committee received a presentation from Chief Constable Manak from the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) regarding the 2024 Quarter 2 report.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Responsibility and enforcement strategy for redirecting drug consumption in the public sphere*
- *Communication & partnership between VicPD and other entities, including City of Victoria Bylaw Enforcement Department and City of Victoria business owners and retail partners*
- *Effectiveness of Block Watch and similar community monitoring programs and the quality of reported data points*
- *Local, regional and provincial challenges with recruitment and training of new officers*

*Committee recessed at 10:31 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m.*

## **E.2 Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board - 2025 Budget Consultation**

Committee engaged in consultation with E. Cull, Chair of the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board Finance Committee, regarding Council's priorities for public safety.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Release of details and launch of five-year Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan*
- *Cultivating a sense of safety and improving livability in the City across public spaces*
- *Prioritization and allocation of officers between community engagement and presence in at-risk areas*
- *Breakdown of specific services and how they are allocated and deployed between Esquimalt and Victoria*

## **F. STAFF REPORTS**

### **F.1 Property Tax Write-Off**

Committee received a report dated August 26, 2024 from the Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer seeking Council direction to request approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to write-off overcharged 2023 and 2024 property taxes.

*Committee discussed the following:*

- *Clarification on responsibility for process and contact with organizations*

Moved and Seconded:

That Council:

1. Direct staff to request a Minister's Order pursuant to section 781 of the Local Government Act authorizing the write-off of the 2023 and 2024 property taxes including penalties levied in error totalling \$30,916.31 on the properties identified in Table 1.
2. Forward this recommendation to the September 12, 2024 daytime Council meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **F.2 Permissive Tax Exemptions 2025**

*Councillor Hammond noted his current involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria Capital Region in a non-decision-making capacity.*

Committee received a report dated August 26, 2024 from the Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer regarding applications from non-profit organizations requesting permissive property tax exemptions for 2025 for Council's consideration and recommending that Council direct staff to bring forward a 2025 permissive tax exemption bylaw.

Councillor Coleman recused himself at 11:23 a.m. due to a perceived conflict of interest regarding proximity to Maplewood Gospel Hall.

Councillor Loughton left the meeting at 11:27 a.m. to attend to her role as appointee to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

Committee discussed the following:

- Eligibility criteria for permissive tax exemptions
- Application of Permissive Tax Exemption Policy on exempt organizations that are tenants of City-owned properties

Moved and Seconded:

That Council:

1. Direct staff to bring forward a 2025 permissive tax exemption bylaw for all properties detailed in Table 1.
2. Forward these recommendations to the September 12, 2024, daytime Council meeting.

ABSENT (1): Councillor Loughton

CONFLICT (1): Councillor Coleman

**CARRIED (7 to 0)**

Councillor Coleman returned to the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

**G. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**G.1 Notice of Motion from Councillor Gardiner**

That Council

1. Direct staff to report on the full costs to the City for hosting Touchdown Pacific 2024.
  - a. Costs to include but not be limited to any city resources associated with:
    - i. Grounds and facility preparation including turf, media connects for television etc.
    - ii. All set-up not carried out by CFL (temporary stands) including security
    - iii. Staff administrative work regarding contracts
  - b. The report to be completed before discussion of the parks or special events portions of the 2025 budget.
2. Forward these recommendations to the September 26, 2024 daytime Council meeting.

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**I. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED**

There was no closed meeting.

**J. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ABSENT (1): Councillor Loughton

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

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CITY CLERK

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MAYOR