

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017, 9:00 A.M.

1. THE CHAIR CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Helps (Chair); Councillors Alto, Coleman, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, and Young

Absent for a portion of the meeting:

Councillors Isitt and Thornton-Joe

Staff Present:

J. Jenkyns – Deputy City Manager; C. Coates – City Clerk; C. Havelka – Deputy City Clerk; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; D. Manak – Acting Chief Constable, Victoria Police; S. Hurcombe – Controller, Victoria Police; J. Tinney – Director of Sustainable Planning & Community Development; S. Thompson – Director of Finance; A. Neilson – Acting Director of Engagement; N. Sidhu – Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities; J. Weston – Assistant Director of Transportation; J. O'Connor – Manager of Financial Planning; H. Follis – Customer Service Advisor; C. Mycroft – Executive Assistant to the City Manager; A. M. Ferguson – Recording Secretary

Councillors Isitt and Thornton-Joe were not present at the time the meeting was called to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councillor Isitt joined the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Motion: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Agenda of the January 9, 2017, Special Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17/COTW

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 a. Proposed Adjustments to the Draft 2017-2021 Financial Plan

Committee continued discussions from the January 5, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting relating to proposed adjustments to the draft 2017-2021 Financial Plan.

Motion: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Council direct staff to examine and report back on what changes to current policy

would be needed to enable, and the financial and operational impacts that would result from, amending the current permissive tax exemption policy to:

- a) consider broader categories of eligibility, in particular, for applicants providing supportive services to seniors, children, persons with disabilities, and veterans, that are in some way disadvantaged, including long-term care, and
- b) consider narrowing eligibility for parking lots that generate income.

Councillor Thornton-Joe joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Committee discussed:

- Concerns about the implications of expanding the eligibility for tax exemptions.
- Looking into other income generating businesses that are currently receiving tax exemptions.

CARRIED 17/COTW

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, and Thornton-Joe

Against: Councillor Young

3.1 b. Victoria Police Mental Health Strategy

Committee received a presentation from the Acting Chief Constable and the Controller with the Victoria Police regarding the Victoria Mental Health Strategy.

Committee discussed:

- Whether Island Health has been lobbied to fund the supplemental requests.
- Collaboration with Island Health and the benefits of having a police officer as part of the Act Team.

Motion: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Council:

1. Fund added police core budget of \$277,000 through a tax increase of 0.23%.
2. Fund first year of police support for vulnerable population pilot project, \$240,200 from 2016 surplus.
3. Subject to a report from police with regard to pilot project, to the satisfaction of the majority of Council, fund second year of pilot project, \$240,200 from 2017 surplus.
4. Direct staff to work with the police controller and police board to harmonize police and Victoria budgeting timeline for 2018 budget within the context of the signed framework agreement.

Committee discussed:

- Benefits of the Act Team on the community and the individuals involved in the program.
- The growth in police officer salaries and the population growth in the community.
- Concerns about increasing property taxes and desire to fund the officers through the existing budget.

Mayor Helps agreed to separate the motion as follows:

Motion: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Council:

1. Fund added police core budget of \$277,000 through a tax increase of 0.23%.
4. Direct staff to work with the police controller and police board to harmonize police and Victoria budgeting timeline for 2018 budget within the context of the signed framework agreement.

Amendment: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the motion be amended in point one as follows:

That Council:

1. Fund added police core budget of \$277,000 ~~through a tax increase of 0.23%.~~

Committee discussed:

- The pros and cons of funding the request through a tax increase.

Motion: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Committee convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under Sections 90(1) and/or (2) of the *Community Charter*, namely:

- Section 90(1)(c) Employee relations or labour relations.

4. CLOSED MEETING AT 10:06 A.M.

Committee Members Present: Mayor Helps (Chair); Councillors Alto, Coleman, Loveday, Lucas, Isitt, Madoff, Thornton-Joe and Young

Staff Present: J. Jenkyns – Deputy City Manager; C. Coates – City Clerk; P. Bruce – Fire Chief; D. Manak – Acting Chief Constable; C. Havelka – Deputy City Clerk; N. Sidhu – Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities; A. M. Ferguson – Recording Secretary

4.1 Employee Relations

Council discussed an employee relations matter.

The discussion was recorded and kept confidential.

Committee reconvened the Open Meeting in Council Chambers at 10:20 a.m.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONTINUED

5.1 Victoria Police Mental Health Strategy Continued

Amendment to the amendment:

It was moved by Councillor Lucas, seconded by Mayor Helps, that the amendment be amended in point one as follows:

- That Council:
1. Fund added police core budget of \$277,000 ~~through a tax increase of 0.23%~~
through any potential new assessed revenue.

On the amendment to the amendment:

CARRIED 17/COTW

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Isitt, Loveday, Lucas, Madoff, and
Thornton-Joe

Against: Councillor Young

On the amendment:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17/COTW

Mayor Helps agreed to separate the separated motion as follows:

Main motion as amended:

That Council:

1. Fund added police core budget of \$277,000 through any potential new assessed revenue.

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED 17/COTW

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Lucas, Madoff, Thornton-Joe, and
Young

Against: Councillors Isitt and Loveday

Main motion as amended:

That Council:

4. Direct staff to work with the police controller and police board to harmonize police and Victoria budgeting timeline for 2018 budget within the context of the signed framework agreement.

On the main motion as amended:

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17/COTW

Committee discussed:

- The appropriate funding sources for mental health issues and homelessness, and whether or not the City is taking on the Province's role.
- Practices of other municipalities with policing resources aimed towards mental health and homelessness.
- Early intervention with the Act Team and costs savings this has on policing resources, including the evolution of policing.

Councillor Loveday withdrew from the meeting at 10:52 a.m. and returned at 10:53 a.m.

Postpone: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that consideration of the following motion be postponed pending receipt of information from Island Health on their willingness to fund the pilot project:

That Council:

2. Fund first year of police support for vulnerable population pilot project, \$240,200 from 2016 surplus.

3. Subject to a report from police with regard to pilot project, to the satisfaction of the majority of Council, fund second year of pilot project, \$240,200 from 2017 surplus.

On the motion to postpone:
DEFEATED 17/COTW

For: Councillors Isitt, Loveday, and Young
Against: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Lucas, Madoff, and Thornton-Joe

Postpone: It was moved by Councillor Loveday, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that consideration of the following motion be postponed until January 26, 2017, to give the public an opportunity to provide input on the Mental Health Strategy:

That Council:

2. Fund first year of police support for vulnerable population pilot project, \$240,200 from 2016 surplus.
3. Subject to a report from police with regard to pilot project, to the satisfaction of the majority of Council, fund second year of pilot project, \$240,200 from 2017 surplus.

On the motion to postpone:
CARRIED 17/COTW

For: Mayor Helps, Councillors Alto, Isitt, Loveday, and Young
Against: Councillors Coleman, Lucas, Madoff, and Thornton-Joe

3.1 a. Proposed Adjustments to the Draft 2017-2021 Financial Plan Continued...

Committee continued discussions from the January 5, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting relating to proposed adjustments to the draft 2017-2021 Financial Plan.

The Director of Finance advised that the Police budget request could potentially be funded from the surplus.

Motion: It was moved by Mayor Helps, seconded by Councillor Isitt, that Council postpone consideration of the following motion to the January 26, 2017, Council Meeting:

That Council direct staff to allocate any remaining surplus from 2016 to the Buildings and Infrastructure Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17/COTW

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: It was moved by Councillor Alto, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 9, 2017, be adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 17/COTW

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT