

GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

For the Council Meeting of October 1, 2015, the Committee recommends the following:

1. 2015 Watermain Replacement Budget Adjustments:

That Council approve adjustments to the 2015 water capital budget including:

1. Increase the project budget for the Rockland Avenue watermain replacement project by \$120,000.
2. Deferral of the Lyall Street watermain project to 2016.

2. Advocacy to End Trophy Hunting:

That Council approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations requesting that the Government of British Columbia introduce legislation in the next legislative session to prohibit trophy hunting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL request that the Mayor write to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of International Trade requesting that the Federal Government introduce legislation in the next parliamentary session to prohibit the transport into or out of Canada of parts of animals killed for the purpose of trophy hunting.

3. Johnson Street Bridge, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Janion Development Interface:

That Council receive the Johnson Street Bridge, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Janion Development Interface report for information.

4. Johnson Street Bridge, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Janion Development Interface:

That Council refer the Johnson Street Bridge, David Foster Harbour Pathway and Janion Development Interface report to the Accessibility Task Force for input.

5. City of Victoria Protocol Program:

That Council receive the City of Victoria Protocol Program report for information.

6. City of Victoria Protocol Program:

That Council direct staff to convene a two hour protocol workshop to consider the City's role in protocol events.

7. Update on Open Government Initiatives:

That Council direct staff to:

1. Create a policy on the use of City Hall, consistent with the Guiding Principles for the Use of Public Space.
2. Adopt a policy for allowing weddings in City Hall, with potential for revenue generated.
3. Create a program for local school groups.
4. Endorse changes to transparency in Council business including posting Council documents as searchable PDFs, and linking between Council documents and webcasting; displaying motions being debated on screens in Council Chamber; exploring additional functionality to webcasting including vote counts and display of motions.

5. Introduce new apps for residents, including request for service, and emergency notification subscriptions.
8. **Options for Developing a Youth Engagement Strategy:**
That Council direct staff to hire up to 10 youth, including Youth Council representatives, Victoria High School youth leadership students, representatives from youth serving agencies, and youth-at-large to engage the community and assist staff in the development of a "designed by youth, for youth" strategy.
9. **Regional Housing First Strategy:**
 1. That Council adopt the following resolution and forward it to the Chairs of the Capital Regional Hospital District Board and Capital Regional District Board:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria places itself on record favouring a Regional Housing First Strategy, with the Capital Regional Hospital District serving as the lead agency, in partnership with the Coalition to End Homelessness, social service providers and local, provincial and federal authorities, to develop and implement a plan for the construction of a sufficient supply of new units of housing with supports to substantially reduce homelessness within the Capital Region by 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Victoria supports efforts by the Capital Regional Hospital District to evaluate options for financing the capital costs of 367 new units of housing with supports, including options for social impact investing, and the mobilization of funds from other levels of government and from philanthropic and/or private sources at a total estimated capital cost of \$50-million and estimated annual servicing costs (after deducting the shelter allowance portion of tenants' social assistance payments) maximum of \$2.08-million, equivalent to \$11.18 per household per year if levied regionally.
 2. That Council request that the Mayor engage stakeholders in the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness and the housing and social services sectors, as well as people in need of housing, to receive input and refine the proposal further between now and the October 14 meeting of the Hospital Board, including options for the preferred operating model of these facilities and specific support requirements for these new units of housing.
 3. That Council requests that the Mayor write to the Prime Minister of Canada after the federal election requesting a Federal commitment toward the capital costs of 367 new units of housing with supports, which would reduce or eliminate the requirement for a regional contribution and reflect the Government of Canada's traditional role supporting the housing needs of Canadians.
 4. That Council requests that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation, and the Minister of Housing, requesting a Provincial commitment toward the annual operating costs of 367 units of housing with supports, estimated at \$21,064 per unit per year or \$7.73-million annually, for these necessary health services to improve health outcomes and wellbeing in our region.
10. **Proposed Amendments to the Financial Sustainability Policy:**
That Council amend the Financial Sustainability Policy as follows:
 1. Growth in Property Tax Base – replace Policy 1.1 as follows:
 - a. To balance infrastructure upgrade needs with ongoing operating funding requirements, the first \$500,000 of assessment growth (non-market change) property tax revenue will be transferred to infrastructure reserves and the remaining balance allocated as determined by Council.
 2. Alternative Revenues and External Funding – add the following to Policy 5.1:

- a. Grants should be sought for known infrastructure needs or identified priorities in the City's Strategic Plan even if they are not included in the financial plan due to limited funding or pending Council decision.
- 3. Infrastructure Maintenance and Replacement – replace Policy 6.2 as follows:
 - a. Each year, Council will consider a property tax increase dedicated to increasing capital infrastructure investment.
- 4. Self-financed Programs
 - a. In the introductory paragraph, add a reference to the Stormwater Utility and remove the reference to the Victoria Conference Centre.
- 5. Debt Management – amend Policy 8.1 as follows:
 - a. Every attempt should be made to keep the debt servicing charges at the current budget level of 7% of the property tax levy by adding new debt only in the years when other debt issues are retired. This will minimize the impact on property taxes as a result of new debt.

AND add Policy 8.3 as follows:

 - b. As an alternative to external borrowing, funds in the City's Debt Reduction Reserve can be borrowed with a maximum repayment term of 15 years at an interest rate equal to the lost investment interest.
- 6. Fees and Charges – add the following to Policy 9.0:
 - a. Fee bylaws should, when appropriate, include an annual increase equivalent to the Consumer Price Index for Victoria.

11. Lessons Learned from Implementing the City's New Grant Process and Direction Regarding Potential Changes to the Policy:

That Council direct staff to bring forward amendments to the grant policy to implement the following changes:

- 1. Require that applicants demonstrate which strategic outcome their project will achieve.
- 2. Redirect all festival applications to the Festival Investment Grant application intake.
- 3. Implement the following limits:
 - a. Only fund one-time projects; provide no ongoing operating funding.
 - b. Only fund projects that primarily benefit City of Victoria residents, not Greater Victoria.
 - c. Reduce the cap for project grants from 75% to 50% of total project cost.
 - d. Implement a maximum award amount of \$25,000.
 - e. Allow only one strategic plan grant application per organization.
- 4. Redirect projects that impact public space to a separate participatory neighbourhood funding stream.
- 5. Improve the application form and asking applicants to:
 - a. Outline who will benefit from the project.
 - b. Outline how much of the project cost is being requested.
 - c. Identify and provide proof whether other funding sources have been confirmed or are pending.
 - d. Outline which strategic outcome the project would achieve
- 6. Establish a process for addressing situations where grant requests exceed available funding:
 - a. Staff will provide options for reducing the cap imposed by the policy to a percentage that will fit the available funding.

12. Lessons Learned from Implementing the City's New Grant Process and Direction Regarding Potential Changes to the Policy:

That Committee recommends that Council refer the following motion to the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria and James Lam, Manager, CRD Arts Development Services for feedback regarding any potential implications the motion would have on those affected arts organizations:

7. "For arts applications, reduce the eligibility to only those organizations that do not fit under the CRD's Art Fund."

13. Lessons Learned from Implementing the City's New Grant Process and Direction Regarding Potential Changes to the Policy:

That Council direct staff to determine which fee-for-service grants could be considered as direct award grants.

14. Lessons Learned from Implementing the City's New Grant Process and Direction Regarding Potential Changes to the Policy:

That Council direct staff to forward the amendments to the City of Victoria grant policy to all affected groups.

15. Liquor Licence Application – Northern Quarter Restaurant – 1724 Douglas Street:

That Council after conducting a review with respect to noise and community impacts regarding the application to add a Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement and Extend Business Hours for the Food Primary liquor licence of the **Northern Quarter**, Liquor Licence No. 306479, located at 1724 Douglas Street, supports the application of the Northern Quarter restaurant to:

1. Amend its Food Primary liquor licence to add a Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement.
2. Amend its Food Primary liquor licence to increase the hours of liquor service on Friday and Saturday nights to 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
3. The Council provides the following comments on the prescribed considerations:
 - a. The location is in the Historic Commercial District of the Downtown Core Area Plan, which encourages the development of tourism, retail and entertainment focused businesses. The property is zoned CA-3, Central Area General Commercial District, which permits theatre, auditorium and restaurant uses. There is significant new residential development occurring immediately to the east of the property, which may support the business' viability. The Food Primary liquor licensed business is compatible with the neighbouring land uses and is within the Intermediate Noise District, which allows for a higher noise threshold.
 - b. These licence amendments are expected to have a minor impact on the neighbourhood, since the restaurant is currently open until 12:00 midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. The restaurant's occupant capacity is 100 people including staff. The restaurant's location on a main arterial road in the downtown core is expected to mitigate the noise impact from the later business hours. The City has not received any bylaw complaints with respect to noise for this restaurant.
 - c. The views of adjacent residents and businesses were solicited via a mailed notice to neighbouring property owners and occupiers within 50 metres of the restaurant and a notice was posted at the restaurant entrance. The City received seven letters in support of the application and four letters opposed to the application. An additional letter opposed to the application misidentified the location of the restaurant as being within The Hudson building.

16. Update on Regulations for Medical Marijuana-Related Businesses:

That Council receive this report for information.

17. 720 Belleville Street – Renewal of Lease:

That Council authorizes the Mayor and Corporate Administrator to execute an agreement with the Canadian Pacific Lawn Bowling Club of Victoria BC to renew a lease of part of 720 Belleville Street for a period of three years commencing September 21, 2015, in a form satisfactory to staff, and subject to the publication of the statutory notices required by the *Community Charter*.

18. Victoria Micro Housing Society Interim Funding:

That Council approve the following motion:

1. That the Victoria Micro Housing Society be allocated interim funding of \$25,000. Such funding to be drawn from the 'additional operating funding of up to \$350,000 from 2015 contingencies' already allocated to 'support specific Action Plan initiatives, subject to final approval by the City Manager', to execute the following actions:
 - a. Develop design/build proposal with architectural drawings.
 - b. Implement ongoing and regular outreach and social inclusion with potential future residents, including a 'resident interest' inventory.
 - c. Implement public engagement and consultation on the design/build concept, including engagement with Community and Neighbourhood Associations, Community Association Land Use Committees and processes, before a site is selected, so neighbours are involved in the conversation at an early and ongoing stage.
 - d. Outreach with social services to introduce the concept to agencies, to plan and build future relationships with the village and villagers.
 - e. Develop intake protocols and a self-management Memorandum of Understanding between residents, VMHS, and other partners.
2. Prior to receiving said funds, Victoria Micro Housing Society will provide to the Director of Finance a detailed budget identifying proposed expenditures.
3. Prior to March 31, 2016, and prior to any further funds being disbursed to Victoria Micro Housing Society, Victoria Micro Housing Society will provide a report to the Director of Finance outlining the details of expenditures from this allocation.