

GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT
FROM THE MEETING HELD JULY 16, 2015

For the Council Meeting of July 23, 2015, the Committee recommends the following:

1. **Property Use Agreement with Department of National Defence for USAR Training**

That Council authorize the Mayor and the Corporate Administrator to execute the agreement, generally in accordance with *Appendix A – Agreement for Temporary Use of Federal Real Property* with the Minister of National Defence for the use of the CFB Esquimalt Urban Search and Rescue facilities by staff and volunteers of the City of Victoria.

2. **Protection of Biological Diversity of Walbran Valley**

That Council request the Mayor write a letter to the Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations stating support for protecting the Old Growth Forests of Walbran Valley.

3. **Request to Transport Canada – Victoria Inner Harbour Airport**

that Council approve the following motion:

Be it resolved that Council requests Transport Canada send appropriate staff to a Governance and Priorities Committee meeting to make a presentation and answer questions about current and future operations and regulation of the Victoria Inner Harbour Airport (YWH).

4. **Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project Update**

That City Council:

1. Approve an increase to the project budget of \$2.554 million with funding from the Building and Infrastructure Reserve.
2. Direct staff to transfer to the Building and Infrastructure Reserve any costs recovered from other parties.
3. Direct staff to bring forward an amended Financial Plan Bylaw to the July 23, 2015 Council meeting.
4. Direct staff to update Council on public realm options at the August 20, 2015 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

5. **Recommendations from the Mayor’s Task Force on Housing Affordability**

That Council:

1. Receive the suite of recommendations in Appendix A of the report dated July 6, 2015, in its entirety;
2. Direct staff to consider the actions contained therein to form the basis of a comprehensive Municipal Housing Strategy with an aim to supporting implementation during the timeline laid out;
3. That staff report back to Council with a draft Municipal Housing Strategy in September 2015; and
4. Amend page two of the report dated July 6, 2015, by removing the chart and replace it with the City of Victoria Housing Spectrum Chart.

6. **Status Report – Action Plan for Housing, Supports & City Services**

That Council:

1. Receive the July 15, 2015 *Status Report - Action Plan for Housing, Supports and City Services for Sheltering in City Parks*; and

2. Approve the following *Action Plan* recommendations:
 - a. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(a) – Increase Emergency Shelter Spaces
 - i. Adjust the City’s advocacy focus as follows:
 - Request the Province of British Columbia and BC Housing to provide more funding for rent supplements in the City of Victoria to secure permanent housing for people currently housed in emergency shelters or transitional/supportive housing.
 - b. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(b) – Clarifying Roles in Micro-Housing
 - i. The City’s role in the development of a micro-housing village is to:
 - Advise on land use, building construction and fire safety regulations;
 - Advise on municipal servicing requirements and community standards;
 - Process any required applications for land use, building construction or site preparation approvals;
 - Consider any applications for financial support in relation to the development or implementation of the village; and
 - Consider entering into agreements to enable the operation of the village.
 - ii. Micro-Housing Victoria’s Role in developing a micro-housing village is to:
 - Build a community of interest and organizational capacity to support the village project;
 - Develop site plans, housing unit plans and site servicing plans;
 - Develop operational rules and procedures for the village;
 - Identify and acquire a site for the micro-housing village;
 - Apply for land use, building construction or site servicing approvals;
 - Engage in community consultation to support the project, including required CALUC consultations respecting any land use applications;
 - Acquire the necessary funding to support the development and operation of the village; and
 - Operate the village in accordance with Micro-Housing Victoria’s rules and procedures, and any agreements with the City or other parties.
 - c. Temporary Housing Initiative 2(c) – A Designated Sheltering Site in a Park
 - i. The City’s approach to establish a designated sheltering area in a park is to:
 - Seek a service partner who will manage the operation of the site;
 - Develop a service model and budget with the service partner;
 - Confirm the site location and seek public input on the proposed service model and location;
 - Seek final approval of the service model budget from Council.
 - d. Operational Initiative 1 - Storage Project for Homeless Persons’ Belongings
 - i. The City’s approach to establishing a storage facility is to:
 - Continue to work cooperatively with interested service partners to establish the facility in September 2015; and
 - Initiate a proposal call if there is no substantive progress achieved by September 2015.

7. Opening Government Street to Pedestrians – Pilot Project

That Council approve the following motion:

1. Be it resolved that the City of Victoria work in collaboration with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, downtown residents, Downtown Residents Association, the Greater Victoria Placemaking Network and other interested stakeholders to convene a “LoveGov” series of pedestrian only Sundays on Government Street including one Saturday or Sunday in October, one Saturday or Sunday in November, one Saturday or Sunday in January, and that the partners consider a Saturday or Sunday closure in December, culminating in a “LoveGov”

wrap up event on Sunday February 14th 2016.

2. Direct staff, working in partnership with the Downtown Victoria Business Association, Downtown Residents Association, Government Street merchants and other stakeholders, to develop a mechanism to evaluate the success of this pilot project.

8. Socially Responsible Investments and Pension Funds

That Council:

1. Requests that the Mayor write to the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Finance, requesting that the provincial government introduce amendments to the Municipal Finance Authority Act to provide local governments with the autonomy to pursue socially responsible investments and climate action in financial decision-making;
2. Request a report from each of the Municipal Pension Plan and the Municipal Finance Authority detailing the percentage and dollar amount of investments currently held in fossil fuel-related companies or investment products, and options for divesting those assets over the next five, ten and fifteen years;
3. Requests that the Mayor write to the Board of Directors of the Municipal Finance Authority and the BC Investment Management Corporation requesting that these organizations divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in renewable sources of energy, employment and income, in order to give effect to the climate action objectives of the Province of British Columbia and local governments including the City of Victoria.

As per the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan attached as Appendix A, that Council:

1. Refer this item to the next Strategic Plan Quarterly Update on August 20, 2015 and at that time request a report from staff on the implications of adding this Action Item to the strategic plan;
2. Report on the current distribution of the City of Victoria's investment portfolio and pension funds, and consistency with objective 5 of the Investment Policy (Socially Responsible Investing), and in particular, to report on the percentage and dollar amount of investments currently held in fossil fuel-related companies, and provide advice on options for increasing Socially Responsible Investing.

9. Councillors Overview of Current Issues

That Council approve that each Councillor provide a brief overview of current issues (or any matter that might be of interest to Council) arising from each Councillor's liaison neighbourhood and/or City appointments, on a quarterly basis.