



MINUTES - VICTORIA CITY COUNCIL

April 11, 2024, 6:32 P.M.

Council Chambers, City Hall, 1 Centennial Square

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations

PRESENT: Mayor Alto in the Chair, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Hammond, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Dell

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, C. Anderson - Deputy City Clerk, D. Atkinson - Fire Chief, T. Zworski - City Solicitor, D. Newman - Acting Director, Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, A. Bronee - Manager, Communications and Engagement, G. Diamond - Senior Legislative Coordinator, B. Roder - Senior Legislative Coordinator

A. MUSIC (to begin at 6:15 p.m.)

Music performance by the Moondog Trio from the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

B. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Council acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Esquimalt First Nation communities, and reflected on the remarkable opportunity we have to do our business, live our lives, and raise our families on the traditional and contemporary lands of the Lekwungen People, and noted that we cherish the relationship we have with the Esquimalt Nation and the Songhees Nation.

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E.1 Niki Ottosen, The Backpack project Victoria BC: Homelessness, Human Rights and Bylaw (In-person)

Outlined concerns around a lack of information on the City website regarding services for unhoused people, and a lack of information on how individuals can retrieve belongings from Bylaw, and that there is also little information on extreme weather services. She requested that Council commit to the Federal Housing Advocate's recommendations.

E.2 Tammy Cardinal: Bylaw treatment of unhoused people sheltering in parks (In-person)

Outlined experiences as an unhoused person living in Vic West Park and expressed concerns regarding the treatment of unhoused people by Bylaw, and that her belongings were taken, and items were damaged. Outlined how people could come to her tent to be warm, but Bylaw continues to take her things, and throw them in the garbage.

E.3 Helen Smith: The Homeless crisis (In-person)

Outlined concerns regarding the homelessness crisis and that people are living without the right to adequate housing. She referenced the Memorandum of Understanding and report that was signed by the province and the City, and that the job of politicians is to implement solutions for unhoused neighbours and constituents.

E.4 Bernice Kamano: homelessness (In-person)

Outlined the gesture "to share the air together" and explained that it means to look at where we are today. She outlined her morning experiences on Pandora Avenue and suggested that we need to work together and have the unhoused communities' and people in the tents' voices heard.

E.5 Susan Z. Martin: Human Rights and Homelessness (In-person)

Outlined that the best way to address homelessness is housing, and that BC Housing's recent projects have been a year late in opening, and that the six sites only represent 280 spaces which is inadequate. She suggested that most Victorians want a compassionate and humane solution which could include multiple encampments, and that unhoused people should be included in the selection and operation of the sites.

E.6 Diana Smardon, The Committee to End Homelessness: Homelessness (In-person)

Outlined concerns related to homelessness and suggested that luxury housing needs to stop being approved as it is displacing people. She outlined the situation on Pandora, and suggested that there needs to be a wartime effort in

building housing and that tents could be built as long as they are monitored for safety and cleanliness.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded.

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR