

# **MINUTES - SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

## **MEETING HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2002, AT 8:00 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor McLean, in the Chair (in his capacity as Chair of the Human Resources & Finance Standing Committee), Mayor Lowe and Councillors Fleming, Holland, Hughes, Lunt, McLean, Savoie, and Vanden Berg.

Mr. Joe Martignago, City Manager, attended for the entire meeting and Messrs. Basey, Colantonio, Daly, Dowdall, Furtado, Koch, McCliggott, O'Reilly, Robertson, Silvester, Timms, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Fowler, Ms. Masters, Ms. Thompson, Deputy Chief Couch, and Chief Thoresen attended for portions of the meeting.

Recording Secretary: Linda Johnson

### **2002 BUDGET**

02/

The Comptroller reviewed 2001 Expenditures for capital projects. Committee discussed the projects that have not been completed, and received explanations regarding their status. The variance between the amount budgeted for the projects, and the amounts actually expended in 2001 was also discussed.

The 2002 Capital Budget was reviewed, beginning with Capital Budget Reductions. Committee discussed removal of the seismic upgrade project for City Hall and a reduction in the amount budgeted for the Burnside Gorge Community Centre. The latter led to a review of Infrastructure Grant requests.

Committee requested that Mayor Lowe send a letter to the appropriate ministry, emphasizing the City's priorities regarding its infrastructure grant requests, focusing on the top three projects: Victoria Harbour Environmental Protection Program; Storm Sewer Main Rehabilitation Program; and Burnside Gorge Community Place.

The City Manager and Directors reviewed adjustments made to the 2002 Capital Budget Program. Committee requested the following changes:

- Additional \$25,000 to Bicycle Master Plan Implementation, funded from casino revenue.
- Additional \$25,000 to Neighbourhood Transportation Management Plans Implementation, funded from casino revenue.
- Remove \$56,000 for the Crystal Pool Feasibility Study and \$10,000 for the Royal Athletic Park Feasibility Study. These studies will be considered for inclusion in the 2003 Capital Budget, pending receipt of a staff report providing recommendations for Crystal Pool and Royal Athletic Park, after reviewing the PERCs (Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants) study.
- Move \$30,000 from Beacon Hill Park - Water Spray Park to Banfield Park - Security and Safety Issues.

Mayor Lowe requested that lighting in parks be included in the Parks Master Plan.

Councillor Savoie requested that Committee consider reinstating in the capital budget the Midblock Walkway Connection project for the Burnside neighbourhood. The Manager, Planning Division advised that this project will be included in the Greenways Plan review in 2002.

Committee reviewed the 2002 Operating Budget Summary, and the Summary of 2002 Grants.

Additional 2002 Grant Requests were reviewed, with the following recommendations:

- \$1,820.00 be added to the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust grant.
- \$7,000.00 be added to the Heritage House Assistance grant.
- \$12,500.00 be added to the Adult Outreach Workers grant.
- Requests for grants, or additions to grants, from the following organizations, be declined:
  - Fernwood Community Centre
  - Oaklands Community Association
  - Community/Seniors Centres & Community Recreation Review
  - ViaTec
  - Victoria Film Commission

Committee reviewed the 2002 Supplementary Budget Requests, and agreed to include the following items in the budget:

- Increase Bylaw Enforcement Officer to Full-time	\$ 18,124
- Auxiliary staff - Inspections Administration	6,000
- Auxiliary staff - Building Inspections	12,000
- First Responder Program and Career Development & Succession Management System (Fire Dept.)	7,000
- Catchment Management I & I Service Purchase	40,000
- Banner Installation and Removal	1,250
- Survey and Register Easements - CPR Crossings	12,500
- Royal Visit - City Services - October 2002	13,000

Committee agreed that the next budget meeting will be held February 28, 2002, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. with the following information available for consideration:

- a list of changes made at the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 budget meeting.
- a report on outstanding issues.
- reports from individual departments on grant requests.
- a report from Chief Thoresen on fire department supplementary budget requests, especially the recruitment expenses increase.
- a report from the Director of Planning & Development regarding a supplementary budget request for consulting services.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Councillor McLean, Chair