

# **MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

## **MEETING HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2002, AT 8:30 A.M.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor McLean, in the Chair, Mayor Lowe and Councillors Fleming, Hughes, Lunt, Madoff, and Savoie. (Councillor Vanden Berg arrived at 8:40 a.m. and Councillor Holland arrived at 8:45 a.m.)

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Joe Martignago, City Manager, and Ms Sheryl Masters, Manager, Administration, attended for the entire meeting. Ms Atkinson, Ms Thompson, Messrs. Dellebuur, Basey, McCliggott, Thoresen, Wiffen, and Woodland attended for a portion of the meeting.

Messrs. Lorne Whyte (Tourism Victoria), John Luton (Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition) and Brian Hobson (Cycle Tourism Advisory Committee, and Chair, Oak Bay Tourism Commission) also attended a portion of the meeting.

**Recording Secretary:** Ming Moodrey

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

02/163

The Agenda of February 27, 2002 meeting was circulated.

The City Manager requested that Item 13, Officer Appointment – Comptroller be moved to the open portion of the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

The Manager, Administration, outlined the changes in the numbering of the Items plus an addition of Item 15A, Victoria Centre Facility, to the closed portion of the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Councillor Lunt that the Agenda be approved as amended.

***Carried***

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

02/162

The Minutes of the February 21, 2002 meeting was circulated.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Councillor Hughes that the Minutes be approved as circulated.

***Carried***

## **2002 BUDGET**

### **FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM**

02/161

Committee received a memorandum dated February 21, 2002 from the Deputy Fire Chief regarding the First Responder Program, which was established to enhance the deliver of pre-hospital patient care in the province by simultaneously sending appropriate resources to medical emergencies. Fire departments have taken on the responsibility of being First Responders due to their ability to respond quickly to emergencies.

The four main issues that stem from the high number of First Responder calls are:

- 1) Simultaneous Incidents - where more than one emergency occurs in the same time period. This impacts on the Fire Department's ability to perform other emergency functions.
- 2) Training - The effectiveness of the Training Program have been impacted because of the constant interruption by First Responder calls.
- 3) Increased Costs – The cost of providing this service has increased to the point that the First Responder's First Aid supplies budget was overspent by \$12,000. Unless this budget is increased by 2002, it will be overspent again as First Responder calls are expected to increase in the future.
- 4) Higher Risk of Vehicle Accidents – There is a higher risk of accidents when fire trucks are responding to so many incidents in emergency mode. Furthermore, these large vehicles are hard to maneuver through traffic, especially in congested periods.

**ACTION:** Mayor Lowe moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) The Victoria Fire Department continue to participate in the First Responder Program; and that:
- 2) The City of Victoria reopen negotiations with the Ambulance Service British Columbia and the Ministry of Attorney General to determine how these services should be provided.

***Carried***

### **COST OF DEVELOPING HIRING POOL**

02/160

Committee received a memorandum dated February 19, 2002 from the Fire Chief regarding the creation by the Victoria Fire Department of a Succession Management Program to, in part, develop and plan to recruit sufficient individuals to replace expected position vacancies. This process keeps track of expected retirements and maintains a group of entry level candidates needed to fill these vacancies while minimizing the resultant disruption to the Fire Department.

The past practice has seen the cost of this recruitment process paid from the corporate recruitment budget of Human Resources. In 1996, this funding was removed and at present, there is no funding in either Human Resources or the Fire Department operational budget to cover these costs. This item is a 2002 Supplementary Budget Request.

**ACTION:** Councillor Hughes moved that it be recommended to Council that Council agree to add \$10,000.00 to the Human Resources Recruitment Budget to cover the cost of the creation of a fire fighter hiring pool.

***Carried***

Councillor Holland asked Mayor Lowe for a report regarding the size and coordination of the Human Resources Department and the Fire Department

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY CONSULTANT BUDGET**

02/159

Committee received a memorandum dated February 23, 2002, from the Director of Planning & Development, regarding the Planning & Development Department Supplementary Consultants Budget.

Due to specialized skills required, work cannot be carried on without a consultant for the Noise Bylaw @\$25,000 and Aerial Photos @ \$6000 (to augment last set shot in 1996). For most projects, the consequences of not providing a consulting budget means this work can still be initiated but will take longer to complete. (A work program will be presented to the March 7, 2002 Committee of the Whole.) That would apply to:

- Dockside portion of Vic West Plan update @\$20,000
- Greenways planning @ \$10,000 (supplements of \$15,000 PCC grant)
- Rock Bay portion of Burnside Plan update @ \$35,000
- Broad Street installation of \$50,000 worth of public art @ \$20,000
- Neighbourhood plans implementation, (e.g. zoning and design controls) @ \$20,000
- Oak Bay Avenue design guidelines @ \$20,000
- Downtown street profile photo montages @\$4,000

Tax incentive program – land conservation on the Gorge @ \$15,000 could provide “seed money” to leverage senior government assistance if it becomes available.

Centennial Square @ \$60,000 would be needed to advance planning for public space renewal if the Federal Infrastructure Grant Application of \$2,000,000 is approved.

**ACTION:** Councillor Hughes moved that it be recommended to Council that Council fund consultant services for new Noise Bylaw in the amount of \$25,000.

***Carried***

**ACTION:** Councillor Savoie moved that it be recommended to Council that Council allocate one-half of the City general consulting budget of \$66,000.00 to the Department of Planning and Development.

***Carried***

## **BELFRY THEATRE, GRANT REQUEST**

02/158

Committee received a letter dated February 19, 2002 from the Belfry Theatre regarding a grant request for \$19,300, in support of the Belfry Theatre's Heritage Restoration Project – Phase 5, which features two components – Construction/Renovation and Specialized Equipment. The Construction/Renovation component will focus on installing a furnace, replacing the roof, seismically upgrading the Studio Theatre, building a loading bay, and installing an air-conditioning unit for the Mainstage Theatre. The Specialized Equipment component will focus on a technical upgrade to the Mainstage and Studio Theatres so they meet acceptable industry standards.

Ms Mary Desprez, General Manager, of the Belfry Theatre will be making a presentation at the February 28, 2002 Council Meeting.

## **COUNCIL BUDGET PRESENTATION**

02/157

The Comptroller outlined the February 28, 2002 Council Budget Presentation, which included the following:

1. 2002 Operation Budget Summary, including Police. This summary indicated that the Operating and Capital Property Tax Increase is 3.74%
2. Budget Initiatives - – Adjusted Budget Shortfall (Including Police) is 3.74%
3. Summary of Budget Adjustments – Property Tax Increase (Including Police) is 4.74%.
4. Information for Council, as requested:
  - the Fire Department's First Responder Program and Funding for Recruitment Program
  - Planning & Development's request for additional consulting services
  - Surplus of \$585,000, subject to audit.
5. New Grant Request - Belfry Capital Grant;
6. 2002 Supplementary Budget Requests
7. Next Steps:
  - Presentation of the Five Year Financial Plan to Committee of the Whole at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.
  - Final Assessment Data – Finalize Tax Rates & Ratios and Finalize new construction Revenue on April 11, 2002
  - Finalize Budget Bylaws on May 9, 2002.

**ACTION:** Councillor Holland moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) The 2002 Budget be approved in principle; and that:
- 2) Council provide direction to City staff to proceed with the proposed Operating and Capital Property Tax Increase of 4.74%, as outlined in the 2002 Operating Budget Summary.

***Carried***

## **PARKS**

### **ALL NATIVE TOTEM SOCCER TOURNAMENT**

02/156

Committee received a memorandum dated February 11, 2002 from the Acting Manager, Parks Division, regarding an All Native Totem Soccer Tournament. The organizers of the annual All Native Totem Soccer Tournament have applied to the Parks Division for permission to sell souvenirs to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Totem Soccer Organization during their annual event held at Topaz Park on March 29 and 30, 2002. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help youths during the coming year.

**ACTION:** Mayor Lowe moved that it be recommended to Council that Council approve the request from the All Native Totem Soccer Organization to sell souvenirs for the event scheduled for March 29 and 30, 2002 at Topaz Park.

*Carried*

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **PLAQUE TO HONOUR VICTORIA CHINESE CANADIAN VETERANS**

02/155

Committee received a memorandum dated February 13, 2002 from the Victoria Chinese Canadian Veteran's Association (VCVA) regarding installation of a plaque in honour of the Victoria Chinese Veterans. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) had recently decided to have a plaque made to honour all the Victoria Chinese Canadian veterans that served and fought in The Armed Services during World War II. Both the CCBA and VCVA feel that the most appropriate place to install the plaque is on The Gate of Harmonious Interest in China Town. The size of the plaque will be 20 by 12 inches.

**ACTION:** Councillor Madoff moved that it be recommended to Council that Council approve the request from the Victoria Chinese Canadian Veteran's Association to install a plaque in honour of the Victoria Chinese Veterans on The Gate of Harmonious Interest in Chinatown, to the satisfaction of the Victoria City Staff.

*Carried*

### **CLOSED MEETING - 10:00 A.M.**

Mayor Lowe moved that Committee of the Whole convene a closed meeting that excludes the public under Section 10(6) of the Council Bylaw for the reason that the following agenda items deal with matters specified in Section 10 (3) of the Council Bylaw.

## **LAND/LEASE - VIA TRAIN STATION AND PARKING LOT LEASE**

02/154

Committee received a memorandum dated February 21, 2002 from the Property Manager regarding the terms of the VIA Train Station and Parking Lot Lease and Sublease. Staff recommend acceptance of the terms and conditions of the agreements.

**ACTION:** Councillor Fleming moved that it be recommended to Council that Council approve the Lease for that portion of the VIA Train Station on City property and the Sublease for that portion of the parking lot owned by CPR (leased to VIA Rail) and Operated by the City of Victoria.

***Carried***

## **LEGAL/LAND - VICTORIA MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

02/153

Committee received a draft of *The Memorandum of Understanding in Respect of a Partnering Agreement for sharing of National High Performance Athletic Services and Sports Entertainment Facilities* (MOU) between The Corporation of the District of Saanich, City of Victoria, and Pacific Sport National Sport Centre Greater Victoria, from the Director of Parks & Community Services. The terms and conditions of the Agreement plus the financial issues of this project were discussed.

The Corporation of the District of Saanich will be holding an open session for discussion regarding this matter on Monday, March 11, 2002, at which time they will provide their decision.

**ACTION:** Mayor Lowe moved that it be recommended to Council that:

- 1) *The Memorandum of Understanding in Respect of a Partnering Agreement for sharing of National High Performance Athletic Services and Sports Entertainment Facilities* between The Corporation of the District of Saanich, City of Victoria, and Pacific Sport National Sport Centre Greater Victoria be executed once the Memorandum of Understanding is approved by The Corporation of the District of Saanich.
- 2) That this matter be brought forward to the Council meeting of February 28, 2002.

***Carried***

## **LEGAL - VICTORIA MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY – REFERENDUM QUESTION**

02/152

Committee received a memorandum dated February 27, 2002 from the City Solicitor regarding the Victoria Centre Facility and the recommended Referendum Question, which asks the electors to approve two proposed bylaws with a simple yes or no. The two bylaws enable the partnering agreement and authorize a \$30,000,000 loan to construct the facility as prescribed by the partnering agreement.

- ACTION:** Mayor Lowe moved that it be recommended to Council that:
- 1) City Solicitor redraft Schedule A - Referendum Question, regarding the Partnering Agreement between City of Victoria and RG Group, in accordance with the changes discussed at the February 28, 2002 Committee of the Whole Meeting;
  - 2) The second draft of Schedule A - Referendum Question, be brought forward to the February 28, 2002 Council meeting.

***Carried***

**[Mayor Lowe advised that he has a potential conflict of interest with issues regarding litigation for building envelope failures. He excused himself from the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 10:45 a.m.]**

## **LEGAL – CITY LIABILITY**

02/151

Committee received a *February 2002 Report to the Board of The Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia*, from the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIA), regarding:

1. The Canadian Insurance Market Overview 2001
2. The British Columbia Impact 2002

The City Solicitor provided advice regarding municipal strategy to address liability arising from premature building envelope failures.

- ACTION:** Councillor Holland moved that the City Solicitor prepare a report to Council regarding the implication of the MIA report with respect to the issues discussed.

***Carried***

**[Mayor Lowe returned to the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:00 a.m.]**

The Chair adjourned the Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting at 11:00 a.m. until 11:35 a.m. for the Mayor's press conference regarding the Victoria Centre Facility.

### **LEGAL - VICTORIA MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY – LEASE ISSUE**

02/150

The City Solicitor provided advice regarding the Lease of the Victoria Multipurpose Facility to RG Properties.

**ACTION:** The Committee instructed the City Solicitor to resolve this matter, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

### **OPEN MEETING**

*Councillor Holland moved that Committee of the Whole reconvene an open meeting at 11:45 a.m.*

### **DELEGATION**

#### **CYCLE VICTORIA – SEASIDE CYCLE ROUTE SIGNAGE**

02/149

Committee received a letter dated February 4, 2002, from the Brian Hobson, Chair, Cycle Tourism Advisory Committee, and Chair, Oak Bay Tourism Commission, regarding the project of signing the first bicycle touring route in the region. The purpose of signing the route is to make it visible and continuous for users and to allow anyone to take a self-guided tour of the capital region. Brian Hobson, Chair, Cycle Tourism Advisor Committee, and Chair, Oak Bay Tourism Commission, Lorne Whyte of Tourism Victoria, and John Luton of the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition, presented this matter.

The route, known as the Seaside Route, runs from downtown Victoria to the Seaside, continues along the shoreline into Oak Bay, and then loops into Saanich connecting the existing cycling routes in these areas. The 30+ kilometre Seaside Route will add significantly to the cycle tourism infrastructure in our area.

Installing signs for the Seaside Route is the final step. Cycle Victoria is asking the regions that are hosting the routes, the District of Saanich, the District of Oak Bay and the City of Victoria, to have staff review the project and project costing of sign installation with a report back to Council. Also, Cycle Victoria will be seeking approval of the proposed capital contribution from each Council.

The District of Saanich and the District of Oak Bay have approved of this project in principle. The approximate costs of installing the signs plus the uniformity of the signs throughout the host municipalities were discussed. The City Transportation Planner indicated that City staff

would prefer to do this project, in house, rather than contract out, and that we could install these signs without adding new posts.

- ACTION:** Councillor Savoie recommended to Council that
- (a) the project of installing signs on the Seaside Cycle Route be approved in principle; and that:
  - (b) City Staff review the project and report back to Committee of the Whole.

***Carried***

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **MULTIPURPOSE FACILITY FINANCING**

02/148

Committee received a memorandum dated February 27, 2002, from the Comptroller regarding the funding of the Multipurpose Facility.

On November 24, 1988, City council authorized repayment of the Conference Center debt through a business licence fee increase. Basic business licence fees were increased from \$30 to \$100 per annum, which generated additional annual revenue of \$600,000. This revenue used to offset the annual Conference Centre debt cost of \$643,178. The Conference Centre debt was fully repaid in 1999.

On September 24, 1998, City Council approved the principal of allocating this portion of the business licence revenues into a reserve account for Economic Development Projects. The original intention of this reserve account was to provide a source of funds for projects, like the Multipurpose Facility, that would support Economic Development within the City of Victoria. The reserve account balance is approximately \$1,000,000 and the City is still contributing \$600,000 annually.

In order to minimize the impact on the City of Victoria taxpayers, is proposed that \$300,000 of the annual funding of \$600,000 be allocated to pay the financing costs of the Multipurpose Facility.

- ACTION:** Councillor Holland moved that it be recommended to Council that \$300,000 of the annual contribution to the Economic Development Reserve Account be directed towards the funding of the Multipurpose Facility.

***Carried***

## **DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

02/147

Committee received a memorandum dated February 22, 2002, from the Corporate Administrator reporting that certain communications received in the Legislative Services Division have been dealt with on the date and in the manner indicated.

**ACTION:** Councillor Savoie moved that the Disposition of Communications dated February 22, 2002 received from the Corporate Administrator, be received for information and filed.

*Carried*

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

02/146

**ACTION:** Councillor Madoff moved that the following proclamation be approved and forwarded to the appropriate Council meeting:

- Capital Region Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth Awareness Week – March 10 – 16, 2002

*Carried*

### **OFFICER APPOINTMENT - COMPTROLLER**

02/145

Committee received a memorandum dated February 22, 2002 from the City Manager regarding the appointment of the officer position of Comptroller. On December 13, 2001, City Council amended the City Employees Bylaw by creating the officer position of Comptroller defined as the alternate officer position responsible for financial administration under Section 199 of the Local Government Act in the absence of the Director of Finance.

**ACTION:** Councillor Lunt moved that it be recommended to Council that Victoria City Council appoint Mr. Mike McCliggott to the officer position of Comptroller as of February 28, 2002.

*Carried*

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **DEPOSIT FOR CIVIC ELECTIONS**

02/144

Councillor McLean advised that he will be bringing forward his motion regarding deposits for civic election candidates to the March 7, 2002, Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### **ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF EDUCATION FOR VICTORIA POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS**

02/143

Committee received a memorandum dated February 22, 2002 from Councillor Fleming regarding the issue of access and affordability of education for Victoria post-secondary students. On February 11, 2002, Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond announced that tuition fees at all British Columbia public colleges and universities would be “deregulated.” Councillor Fleming noted that in every jurisdiction that has deregulated tuition fees, massive

fee increases have followed. UBCM President indicated that the Province's actions on post-secondary education will threaten good jobs in the British Columbia communities and future learning opportunities for youths.

Councillor Fleming moved that Council adopt and communicate to Minister Bond and Victoria MLAs, the following motion:

WHEREAS over 20,000 students attend public post-secondary institutions in Victoria, namely Camosun College and the University of Victoria;

AND WHEREAS Victoria's post-secondary institutions attract students, staff and faculty to reside and participate in Victoria's economy and UVic alone sustains 10,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributes \$290 million to the regional economy (1998 figures);

AND WHEREAS 73 per cent of new jobs will require some level of post-secondary education by 2008; and British Columbia currently lags behind other provinces in degrees and diplomas granted;

AND WHEREAS many students require government support to finance their education;

AND WHEREAS the elimination of student assistance like the first year grants program and employment programs such as Youth Community Action, Training Assistance Benefits, Student Summer Works (incl. Youth E-Teams), and Work Study will eliminate over 1,000 student employment positions in Victoria and make it harder for students to afford the high costs of post-secondary education;

AND WHEREAS Bill 28 (Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act) passed by the Provincial Legislature on January 28 threatens the quality of education through increasing class sizes and mandating on-line delivery of courses in place of face-to-face instruction;

AND WHEREAS an increase in tuition fees will negatively affect access to post-secondary education for Victoria's students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ask the Provincial government to:

- (i) reinstate student employment and financial assistance programs;
- (ii) maintain the tuition fee freeze to ensure access to post-secondary education; and
- (iii) repeal Bill 28-Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act.

**Lost**

## **COUNCILLOR INFORMATION SHARING**

### **REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY**

02/142

Councillor Savoie provided information regarding the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). Two municipalities voted against the process, so there will be a statutory public hearing held by the Capital Regional District (CRD) prior to further consideration of the RGS Bylaw. The date for

the Public Hearing is not set at this time. The RGS Bylaw approval process also requires a 120-day referral period for municipalities.

**ACTION:** Councillor Savoie moved that it be recommended to Council that a non-statutory public hearing for the residents of the City of Victoria be held after the CRD's statutory public hearing for the RGS Bylaw, subject to, City staff providing to Council, a report on the Regional Growth Strategy during the 120-day referral period for municipalities.

**Carried**

### **PROVINCIAL CONGRESS MEETING**

02/141

Mayor Lowe shared some information regarding the Provincial Congress Meeting that he attended in Vancouver on Tuesday, February 26, 2002. He reported that this meeting was well attended by all levels of government. He also indicated that the material on *the Progress Board Report – Benchmarking on British Columbia Municipalities* may be available on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

---

Councillor David McLean, Chair