

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of The City of Victoria
Thursday, January 29, 2004

Committee Present: Acting Mayor C. Coleman - Chair; and Councillors Fleming, Fortin, Holland, Hughes, Madoff, Savoie, and Thornton-Joe.

Staff Present: J. Martignago – City Manager; and M.B. MacKenzie - Recording Secretary

Staff Present for a Portion of the Meeting: D. Atkinson – Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Development; J. Basey – City Solicitor/Director, Planning and Development; R. Dennis - Director, Human Resources; M. Gorman – IPM Co-ordinator; D. Koch – Manager, Planning Division; C. Higgins – Coordinator, Corporate Communications; M. Leskiw - Manager, Parks Division; J. Matanowitsch - Planner; S. Masters – Manager, Administration; M. McCiggott – Comptroller; K. Neilson – Deputy Emergency Co-ordinator; S. Norton – Manager of Information Services; P. O'Reilly - Director of Engineering; T. Phillips – Manager, Accounting Services; B. Sikstrom – Planner; N. Taylor – Executive Assistant to Mayor; B. Wiffen – Property Manager; R. Woodland – Corporate Administrator; and W. Zink – Manager, Community Development

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Acting Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, JANUARY 22, 2004

Action: Councillor Hughes moved that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 22, 2004, be adopted.

CARRIED. 04/73

3. FINANCE

3.1 Telephone System

At the June 25, 2003 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff was asked to provide recommendations on addressing problems with the City's current telephone system, including the addition of personal attendant service to answer the City's main incoming telephone line.

Committee reviewed a report dated January 26, 2004 from the Manager, Information Technology and the Revenue Manager outlining several options. Option 2 was highlighted as the preferred course of action, which would move an existing employee, when available, to the position of telephone operator. The cost to install a workstation and telephone lines for the rehabilitation operator position would be approximately \$2,000.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that for the City's telephone system, as outlined in the report dated January 26, 2004 from the Manager, Information Technology and the Revenue Manager, Council approve:

(a) Option 2 as, for the implementation of a rehabilitation employee as primary operator, with the Public Service Centre as the secondary operator, supplemented by the existing voice tree technology for a six month trial period; and

(b) a review of the implementation at the end of the six month trial period.

CARRIED. 04/72

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Alston-Bay-Tyee Land Use Policy Update – Proposed Process (SC #3-04)

In a report dated January 22, 2004, the Senior Planner reviewed the Alston-Tyee-Bay Land Use Policy Update. Two alternative processes for undertaking the update were identified in the report: the Stakeholder/Focus Group Approach; and the Discussion Paper Approach.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that, as outlined in the report dated January 22, 2004 from the Senior Planner, Council endorse the Stakeholders/Focus Group Approach as the process for the Alston-Bay-Tyee Land Use Policy Update.

CARRIED. 04/71

4.2 Rezoning Application #03-39 - 2010 Stanley Avenue

In a report dated January 13, 2004, the Planner reviewed an application to rezone 2010 Stanley Avenue from R1-B Zone to a new zone that would permit two detached single family dwellings on one lot.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that rezoning application #03-39 for 2010 Stanley Avenue be tabled, pending submission of a completed application by the applicant.

CARRIED. 04/70

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Regional Housing and Affordability Strategy (RHAS) – Municipal Comments on Consultant's Final Report and Housing Trust Fund Discussion Paper

Committee received a report dated January 21, 2004 from the Senior Planner, reviewing the seven strategic directions outlined in the Consultants Final Report.

The Manager, Community Development, reviewed the strategic actions, noting that the following items need to be given top priority:

(a) establishment of a regional housing trust;

- (b) establishment of a regional housing resource center and housing facilitator; and
- (c) lobbying of senior governments for programs and funding to improve housing affordability.

Discussion ensued, and Committee members re-emphasized the need for affordable housing for all age groups and the importance of ensuring adequate supports are in place for special needs housing. Committee members stressed that all lobbying activities must address housing sustainability.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that Council approve the following recommendations:

- (a) the City of Victoria endorse the targets, monitoring and the seven strategic directions presented in the Final Consultant's Report on the Regional Housing and Affordability Strategy (RHAS);
- (b) the City of Victoria support the concept and establishment of a regional housing trust fund (recommendation #1.1);
- (b) recommendations #2.1 (Housing Resource Centre) and #2.2 (Housing Facilitator) be shifted to Strategic Directions #1 and be supported by the City of Victoria;
- (d) recommendation #6.2 (Actively Lobby Senior Governments) be elevated to the "highest" priority and be acted upon within the next three months;
- (e) these recommendations and comments be forwarded to the Capital Regional District Board of Directors before January 31, 2004; and
- (f) the Planning and Development Department, in conjunction with the Finance, and Parks, Recreation and Community Development Departments, review the creation of a tax incentive program for the development of affordable housing, both rental and ownership tenure.

CARRIED. 04/69

5.2 Advisory Housing Committee Recommendations

Committee reviewed a report dated January 21, 2004 from the Advisory Housing Committee Recording Secretary, reviewing recommendations from the Advisory Housing Committee.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that:

- (a) the Advisory Housing Committee's recommendations be circulated to the staff in all departments as they develop their 2004 work programs; and
- (b) staff explore collapsing the City's Housing Trust Fund into the Capital Regional District's Housing Trust Fund.

CARRIED. 04/68

The Committee asked that staff report on the 2004 work plans after the 2004 budget has been finalized.

5.3 Neighbourhood and Community Association Contact Lists

In a report dated January 21, 2004, the Senior Planner outlined the City's Public Consultation Guidelines that requires the City maintain a registry of community associations as part of the public consultation process. The Development Application Consultation List identifies groups to be contacted to review rezoning proposals and provide feedback. The Communication Association Contact Information List is used primarily to distribute information on the Division's and Community Development's initiatives to community associations.

Action: Councillor Hughes moved that the report dated January 21, 2004 from the Senior Planner and the Neighbourhood and Community Association Contact List, be received for information.

CARRIED. 04/67

6. PARKS

6.1 Provincial Funding – West Nile Virus Strategy

In a report dated January 16, 2004, the IPM Co-ordinator provided information on funding assistance provided by the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services for the planning and implementation of West Nile control initiatives that address the level of local risk regarding the West Nile virus.

Action: Councillor Holland moved that Council:

- (a) support the City's grant application to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services for West Nile virus funding; and
- (b) through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities:
 - (i) express the need for a co-ordinated municipal response that reinforces West Nile virus as a health issue, not a property service; and
 - (ii) request that Provincial revenues provide financial compensation for 100% of the costs associated with controlling West Nile virus.

CARRIED. 04/66

6.2 Request for Removal from Boulevard Maintenance Tax – Vining Street

In a report dated January 13, 2004, the Manager, Parks, advised Committee of the procedure to be followed by property owners if they wish to be removed from, or included in, the Boulevard Grass Service Program. Withdrawal of one or both sides of a block from this service requires presenting Council with a petition signed by 66% of the property owners representing 66% of the assessed property value of both sides of the block.

Action: Councillor Madoff moved that Council endorse the petition from Vining Street residents between Belmont and Begbie Streets requesting removal from the taxed boulevard program.

CARRIED. 04/65

Staff was asked to review the City's policy regarding requests for removal from boulevard maintenance tax, and prepare a report outlining the City's cost savings.

7. EMERGENCY SERVICES

7.1 New Emergency Program Bylaw

The Committee reviewed a report dated January 16, 2004, from the Deputy Emergency Co-ordinator reviewing proposed changes to Bylaw 96-23, "Emergency Program Bylaw". The changes include housekeeping updates, and reflect current provincial standards under the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System.

Action: Councillor Hughes moved that Council:

- (a) consider the proposed new Victoria Emergency Program Bylaw for three readings and adoption; and
- (b) repeal Bylaw 96-23, "Emergency Program Bylaw", upon adoption of the new bylaw.

CARRIED. 04/64

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8.1 Disposition of Communications

Committee received a memorandum dated January 23, 2004, from the Manager, Administration, reporting that certain communications received in the Legislative Services Division have been dealt with on the date and in the manner indicated.

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that the Disposition of Communications dated January 23, 2004 from the Manager, Administration, be received for information and filed.

CARRIED. 04/63

9. COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES

9.1 Mayor's Task Force on the Impacts of Provincial Government Restructuring

Councillor Savoie received confirmation that minutes of the Mayor's Task Force on the Impacts of Provincial Government Restructuring meetings were available for viewing on the City's website.

10. CLOSED MEETING - 11:05 A.M.

Action: Councillor Hughes 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.

CARRIED. 04/62

10.1 Legal/Land – Lease, 950 Wharf Street

The Committee reviewed a report dated November 24, 2003, regarding a lease renewal for the Victoria Marine Adventure Centre.

Action: Councillor Fleming moved that Council approve the recommendations in the report dated November 24, 2003, from the Property Manager.

CARRIED. 04/61

10.2 Legal/Land – Lease, Victoria Conference Centre – Unit 16

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that Council approve Recommendation #1, in the report dated January 26, 2004, from the Property Manager, subject to an agreement in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

CARRIED. 04/60

10.3 Legal/Land – Lease, Victoria Conference Centre – Units 11 and 15

Action: Councillor Fortin moved that the report dated January 26, 2004, from the Property Manager be received for information, and this item be tabled, pending the receipt of additional information from the City Solicitor.

CARRIED. 04/59

10.4 Land/Legal - Central Library

The Corporate Administrator provided a verbal update on property negotiation issues.

11. COUNCILLOR INQUIRIES

11.1 Legal – Land Use

Responding to a question from the Committee, the City Solicitor provided information regarding the process to be followed for land use applications.

12. COUNCILLOR INFORMATION SHARING

12.1 Labour – Personnel Changes

The Committee was updated on recent personnel changes at a community facility.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Mayor Lowe, Chair