



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Minutes - Final

Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1

Committee of the Whole

Monday, October 23, 2023

6:00 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 7 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins

Councillor Ken Armour

Councillor Darlene Rotchford

Councillor Andrea Boardman

Councillor Duncan Cavens

Councillor Jacob Helliwell

Councillor Tim Morrison

Staff:

Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer

Bill Brown, Director of Development Services

Vicki Gannon, Director of HR & Community Relations

Terése Finegan, Manager of Economic Development

Sarah Holloway, Deputy Corporate Officer

Jonah Ross, Recording Secretary

Others:

Chief Constable Manak, Victoria Police Department (VicPD)

Deputy Chief Cst. Jason Laidman, VicPD

Inspector Mike Brown, VicPD Esquimalt Division

Steve Hurcombe, Controller, VicPD

Elizabeth Cull, Finance Chair, Victoria Esquimalt Police Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Desjardins reminded those in attendance that as we look over our agenda for the day, let us be mindful of the potential implications that our decisions have on Indigenous peoples and to consider the common interests we have with neighbouring First Nations governments who are also making decisions and passing laws that support a sustainable region.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

1) [23-518](#) Late Correspondence

1) Item No. 6.2 - Creatively United for the Planet Society, Item No. 6.3 - Esquimalt Climate Organizers

• Katherine Maas - received October 20, 2023

- Ben Salvatore - received October 22, 2023
- Carol Brown - received October 22, 2023
- Jasmine Philip - received October 22, 2023
- Linda Jeurond - received October 22, 2023
- Kate Lawes - received October 23, 2023

2) Item No. 6.4 - Lavinia Rojas - Fireworks

- Lavinia Rojas - received October 19, 2023
- Lavinia Rojas - delivered by hand at meeting on October 23, 2023

3) Item No. 7.2 - Community Volunteer Attraction and Recognition, Staff Report No. ADM-023-035

- Meagan Brame - received October 21, 2023

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Rotchford: That the agenda be approved as circulated with the inclusion of the late items. Carried Unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 1) [23-505](#) Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole held on June 22, 2023
- 2) [23-504](#) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 21, 2023
- 3) [23-491](#) Minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on August 28, 2023

Moved by Councillor Rotchford, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole held on June 22, 2023, the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 21, 2023, and the minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 28, 2023, be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS 6 AND 7

Francois Brassard, non-resident and co-leader of Esquimalt Climate Organizers (ECO), highlighted ECO's support for the gasifier project and willingness to lobby other municipalities to follow Esquimalt's lead, should Council choose to move forward. He also noted the gasifier as an opportunity to divert blue-box and other materials from Hartland Landfill, helping to prevent further expansion of the facility.

Graham Tarling, resident, spoke in support of the presentations on the

gasifier, emphasizing his hope that the information provided will help Council move forward in this process.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Presentations

- 1) [23-499](#) Victoria Police Department Consultation - Elizabeth Cull, Police Board Finance Committee Chair

Elizabeth Cull, Chair of the Victoria Esquimalt Police Board Finance Committee and Chief Del Manak presented updates on actions taken following previous consultations with Council regarding budget deliberations and community safety. Chief Del Manak, Steve Hurcombe, Controller, Deputy Chief Jason Laidman, and Inspector Mike Brown were in attendance to respond to questions.

The Committee of the Whole comments included:

- Further collaboration with the Township's Bylaw Officer is requested to increase understanding for after hours police inquiries.
- A list of options to decrease the Police Board budget with applicable implications was requested.
- Clarification was made that the listed number of police officers attributed to Esquimalt on presentation slide 12 includes Vic West officers.

- 2) [23-493](#) Creatively United for the Planet Society - Frances Litman, Communications Director

Frances Litman, Communications Director for the Creatively United for the Planet Society, gave an overview of the environmental and economic benefits of gasification and integrated resource management, and proposed strategies to manage its associated risks.

- 3) [23-494](#) Esquimalt Climate Organizers - Jonathan O'Riordan, Board Member, Eleanor Calder, Leader; Francois Brassard, Co-Leader; and, Susan Gage

Francois Brassard, co-leader of Esquimalt Climate Organizers (ECO), introduced Jonathan O'Riordan to present on integrated resource management, and the potential benefits of the Township's procurement of a gasifier. The presenters outlined cost-recovery solutions and recommendations to manage risks. They proposed that a Councillor be appointed to lead analysis of the project, and that Council consider facilitating a public workshop engaging experts and potential partners on the question of a gasifier in the Township. Further, they proposed that this workshop could produce directions for any necessary studies to be conducted, and advocated for public-private partnerships as an opportunity to mitigate financial risk.

Delegations

4) [23-492](#) Delegation - Lavinia Rojas - Fireworks

Delegates Lavinia Rojas and Karin Nelson presented on the impacts of fireworks on people experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, animals, and the environment. They also suggested drone light shows as a less disruptive alternative which could be purchased by the Township, and rented out for special events within and beyond the community.

7. STAFF REPORTS

1) [23-487](#) Development Capacity Study - Review of Variables to be Analyzed, Staff Report No. DEV-23-072

The Director of Development Services presented an overview of the proposed Development Capacity Study, and responded to questions from the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee of the Whole comments included:

- There is a desire to include park space under the "functional natural systems" variable to determine the optimal amounts of park space across different levels of growth.
- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of distinction between variables which establish "hard" limits to growth, and those which establish thresholds for increased expenditure/investment.
- The breadth of the proposed study, which seeks to consider any variable which could have implications for growth, could undermine the depth of understanding produced by considering too many variables; there is interest in leaving out variables which are beyond the Township's control.
- Given that air quality, sewage treatment, and waste management demand a regional approach, they do not need to be included in this study; rather, it may be beneficial to understand the Township's output levels and extrapolate their changes across various growth levels.
- The impacts of growth on police, fire and other public safety services, as well as family and medical services, should be reflected in the study, possibly under the umbrella of "social cohesion."
- In light of the ongoing rework of the OCP and land-use map, the study should be tied to future land-use plans rather than the current OCP in determining the amount of land for redevelopment.
- Economic opportunities are noted as important, but also a regional matter that is not critical to the scope of this study.
- "Social cohesion" was highlighted as a variable that is challenging to define and measure as a limit on growth, and does not need to be included in the study.
- The ongoing prioritization of climate change through other policies may be

sufficient, and could justify its exclusion from this study.

- BC Hydro is responsible for monitoring and managing the capacity of the electrical transmission and distribution system, so this variable was noted for exclusion from the study.
- Arterial roads and transportation systems may be challenging to effectively consider as they vary greatly depending on mode-splits and the influence of events like the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Reference to the Parking Study and Strategy would be of value.
- It was proposed to modify the study to exclusively consider those amenities and services which are completely funded by, and within the control of the Township.
- Medical service providers are generally accessed at a regional level, and do not need to be included in this study.
- The Committee has heard from developers that there are significant delays in engaging BC Hydro for their projects, which could justify its consideration as a potential constraint on development in the study or further engagement with BC Hydro.
- Access to a variety of local amenities and services is valued, so including the variable of "economic opportunities" could help establish what options the Township has to ensure staffing levels are adequately maintained at these amenities and service-providers.
- Public transportation is an important variable to consider in order to ensure traffic pressures are reduced, and that service is effective beyond the current levels.
- Land-use and zoning are highlighted as other priorities for consideration, as there is desire to ensure that infrastructure can keep up with the demands of growth throughout the community.

Moved by Councillor Rotchford, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to report back with a revised Request for Proposal for the Development Capacity Study based on feedback received from the Committee of the Whole. Carried Unanimously.

2) [23-482](#) Community Volunteer Attraction and Recognition, Staff Report No. ADM-023-035

The Director of Human Resources and Community Relations introduced the report and asked the Committee of the Whole for feedback and further direction regarding the attraction and recognition of volunteers in the Township. The Director noted that there has been interest expressed by some community members in shifting the Township's support towards volunteer attraction, where it has historically been focused on recognition.

The Committee of the Whole comments included:

- Numerous smaller, sometimes less formalized, gestures of volunteer

attraction and recognition may be of more value to volunteers.

- The Township's volunteer organizations should be consulted regarding their preferences for recognition.
- Further deliberation is needed to determine which organizations should be included in the event, as there are a variety of organizations providing valuable contributions to the Community through their work, but are not officially affiliated with the Township and therefore not recognized under the current model.
- A volunteer fair would be of significant benefit given the current need for additional volunteers across a number of local groups and organizations.
- Social media and newsletter shout-outs, commemorative plaques listing Spirit Award recipients, and a webpage dedicated to volunteer opportunities and related resources could be effective options for supporting and recognizing volunteers.
- Leadership on recognition or attraction events should be from the Township to ensure that it is not a burden to volunteer groups and organizations.
- Educating residents on the benefits of volunteering, and broadening understanding about the range of roles and commitment-levels available, could be beneficial.

Moved by Councillor Rotchford, seconded by Councillor Cavens: that the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:

1. Direct staff to circulate a letter to volunteer organizations requesting feedback on preferred volunteer recognition methods; and
2. Direct staff to report back with the resource and budget implications on the options for volunteer attraction and recognition, and a draft revised policy based on the feedback received from the Committee of the Whole. Carried Unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 8:21 PM and reconvened at 8:24 PM with all members of the Committee present.

- 3) [23-501](#) 2023-2025 Economic Development Action Plan, Staff Report No. ADM-23-036**

The Manager of Economic Development introduced the report, and responded to questions from the Committee of the Whole:

The Committee of the Whole comments included:

- A priority list with applicable resources required should be provided during the budget process.
- The operating and implementation budget request should include high, medium and low options.
- Consideration may be given to early budget approvals.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Rotchford: "That it be recommended to Council that:

1. Staff Report ADM-23-036 be received;
2. The draft Economic Development Action Plan be endorsed as attached to Staff Report ADM-23-036; and
3. Staff be directed to request any additional resources required through the annual budget process or early budget approvals. Carried Unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was received.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Rotchford: That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:41 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS

SARAH HOLLOWAY,
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT

THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2023