



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**
Minutes - Final
Council

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

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:00 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present: 6 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Ken Armour
Councillor Andrea Boardman
Councillor Duncan Cavens
Councillor Jacob Helliwell
Councillor Tim Morrison

Councillor Cavens attended via conference call.

Staff: Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer
Deb Hopkins, Director of Corporate Services/Corporate Officer
Bill Brown, Director of Development Services
Sarah Holloway, Deputy Corporate Officer/Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the Regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councillor Armour asked that we be mindful of the potential implications that our decisions have over 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

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Councillor Armour: That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1) [24-531](#) Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on November 18, 2024.

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Councillor Armour: That

the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on November 18, 2024 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS 6, 7, 8 AND 9

There was no public input.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [24-497](#) Development Permit Application – 847 Colville Road, Staff Report No. DEV-24-056

The Director of Development Services introduced the report and clarified that the Development Permit is not for form and character but is subject to the Development Permit area guidelines on the protection of the natural environment, energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and water conservation. Evaluation of the application to build a new childcare centre on the parcel that contains Esquimalt Secondary School should focus on the issues relating to those guidelines. The Director outlined the recommendation from the Design Review Committee as listed in the staff report and highlighted that the applicant has agreed to include a rain garden to the plan.

The applicant, Mark Peaty, Manager of Minor Capital with the Greater Victoria School District No. 61, spoke to Council on the challenges and limitations of working within the funding provided by the Ministry of Education and responded to questions from Council.

Council comments included the following:

- The inclusion of a heat pump with an integrated cooling system and electric heaters meets the net zero carbon building perspective for the application, regardless of it not being a Step 3 build.
- The shade structure for the modular units is commonly used and the applicant is making the best of the situation. Feedback about similar shade structures at Vic West Elementary has been positive.
- A letter of support from the Township to the Ministry of Education may help the School District to access further funds to improve the landscaping.
- The one size fits all funding model by the Ministry of Education does not work for a location like the Esquimalt Secondary School property that has no previous landscaping.
- In response to the pressure from higher levels of government to tackle climate change, municipalities put in place Development Permit Area requirements.
- The Development Permit approval process is pointless if the financial limitations set by the Ministry of Education won't allow for the Township to dictate acceptable landscaping.
- The shade wall is not appealing and the lack of landscaping is inadequate.

- Daycare spaces in the Township are desperately needed, but children's health and natural environment needs are of greater importance.

The applicant clarified that the shade wall design incorporates chalkboards for the children to draw on, and made assurances that they would inform the Ministry of Education of the recommendations made by the Design Review Committee and Council to improve landscaping on the site.

Moved by Councillor Helliwell, seconded by Councillor Armour: That Council approve Development Permit No. DP000238. Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Ministry of Education expressing concerns with the funding envelope that precludes the Greater Victoria School District from providing adequate landscaping to protect children from climate change and also in providing a positive natural learning environment. Carried Unanimously.

2) [24-525](#) Township of Esquimalt Accessibility Plan, Staff Memorandum No. ADM-24-079

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report and stated that starting in 2025 the full membership of the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee will be community members with lived experience and that staff are looking forward to the community-based membership beginning the committee's work, providing valuable feedback to Esquimalt, and strengthening our relationship with the broader accessibility community, both of which will be instrumental in making progress to be a barrier-free community.

Council thanked the Director of Corporate Services, and the staff who were involved, for the hard work and commented that it is an exciting first step and they are looking forward to receiving feedback from the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Boardman: That Council approve the Accessibility Plan as attached to Staff Report ADM-24-079. Carried Unanimously.

7. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

1) [24-526](#) Attendance at Local Government Leadership Academy 2025 Leadership Forum - Councillors Helliwell, Boardman and Cavens

The Mayor introduced the report to Council.

Council comments included the following:

- All three Councillors will not be attending Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention next year, so there will be no increase to the Council conference budget with the exception of the transportation costs.
- The Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) Leadership Forum is a valuable learning opportunity and those not attending look forward to the information being shared upon their return.
- The LGLA should be added to the list of regularly attended conferences.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Armour: That Council approves Councillors Helliwell, Boardman, and Cavens' attendance at the Local Government Leadership Academy 2025 Leadership Forum to be held in Richmond in March 2025, and that the Township pays all expenses of such attendance. Carried Unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

For Council's Consideration

- 1) [24-527](#) Letter from the Mayor of Victoria dated November 19, 2024 Re: Emergency Warming Centres for the Un Housed.

The Mayor introduced the correspondence and informed Council of her intent to meet with the local social service providers and non profit community groups to understand their mandates and services, what the gaps in services may be and if warming centres fall within those services.

Council discussion included the following:

- The idea is supportable as long as there is an understanding that the provision of these services may fall within the Provinces' authority, and that expectations of what the Township can provide are understood.
- The local Provincial MLA should be involved in the discussions to allow them to bring the information gathered to the appropriate ministries.
- The intent of connecting with the service providers is not to take over another level of government's responsibility.
- This will assist in the connection of service providers and community groups to each other as well.
- There is interest in discussing with partner municipalities the forming of a regional emergency response group.
- Meeting with service providers and non profits to establish a baseline of services is supportable and a great first step to gain knowledge which will also support the work to be done by the community advisory group in the primary care network who are also looking at what services are provided through non profits.

For Council's Information

- 2) [24-529](#) Letter from Mayor of Village of Nakusp to Minister of Health dated November 21, 2024 Re: BC Alert-Ready Program to include Health Services for notification of Emergency Room Closures

The letter was received for information.

9. RISE AND REPORT (FROM IN CAMERA)

- 1) [24-532](#) Rise and Report from the In Camera meeting of November 25, 2024.

Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee Appointment Interviews

That Council appoint Johanne Hemond as the Esquimalt Representative to the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two-year term from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026

10. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public input.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That the Regular Council meeting be adjourned at 8:12 PM. Carried unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS

THIS 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024

SARAH HOLLOWAY

DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT