



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

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

Special Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 6 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Ken Armour
Councillor Duncan Cavens
Councillor Jacob Helliwell
Councillor Tim Morrison
Councillor Darlene Rotchford

Regrets 1 - Councillor Andrea Boardman

Councillor Armour attended the meeting via conference call.

Staff: Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer
Deb Hopkins, Director of Corporate Services/Corporate Officer
Ian Irvine, Director of Financial Services & IT
Sarah Holloway, Deputy Corporate Officer/Recording Secretary

Others: Keith Taylor , perrivale+taylor Consulting
Robert Taylor , perrivale+taylor Consulting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the Special Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councillor Rotchford asked that we be mindful of the potential implications that our decisions have over indigenous peoples and to consider the common interests that we have with neighbouring First Nations governments who are also making decisions and passing laws that support this sustainable region.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

1) [24-133](#) Late Correspondence

1) Item 5.1 - Policing Models Option Analysis and Way Ahead, Staff Report No. ADM-24-011

- Sue and Dan Bruyere - received February 24, 2024
- Councillor Ken Armour - received February 27, 2024

- Mayor Barb Desjardins - received February 27, 2024
- Doug Wilson - received February 27, 2024

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. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEM 5

Lyndon Chisholm, resident, spoke on the history of the Police force, when it joined the City of Victoria, and is against an amalgamated police force.

5. SPECIAL MEETING MATTERS

- 1) [24-119](#) Policing Models Options Analysis and Way Ahead, Staff Report No. ADM-24-011

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) introduced the report which presents the Perrivale+Taylor Consulting Policing Service Delivery Model Review report publicly and offers options and analysis of the optimization of Policing in Esquimalt. The CAO, Keith Taylor and Robert Taylor responded to questions from Council.

Council comments included the following:

- Since the province's amalgamation of the Esquimalt Police Department with the Victoria Police Department (VicPD) the Township has been working towards autonomy, as the current governance model does not meet the needs of the municipality and the costs are disproportionate to the services required.
- The VicPD officers and leaders provide good service but the structural governance does not meet the Township's needs.
- There have been budget appeals for the past two years due to the City of Victoria and the Township's differing priorities on policing.
- A framework agreement is a less risk averse option.
- Exploring options for a stand alone Esquimalt Police Department with contracted services comes with a lot of uncertainty, will cost money and require resources, but enabling fail safe timelines that allow Council to reconsider the options along the investigative path is supportable.
- A regional police force was preferred and was assumed to be the end result when the Esquimalt Police Department was amalgamated with VicPD.
- The decision to explore a dedicated police department is an important show of leadership and the trigger mechanisms which allow for Council reconsideration is a comfort.
- The exploration will allow for Council to better understand the costs.

- There should be clear communication to the public to allow for a better understanding of Council's direction on policing.
- Council has a greater understanding of the Township's policing needs due to the past experiences with developing the framework agreement, requesting data measurements and having access to the crime severity index.
- This decision is not a reflection on VicPd, as they are an extraordinary police service and Council respects the time and effort that they have made with their outreach in the community.

Moved by Councillor Helliwell, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That it be recommended to Council that staff be directed to continue to explore an Esquimalt Police Department with contracted out specific services similar to other regional municipal community policing models. Carried Unanimously.

Council discussion continued with the following clarification to staff:

- The option of an RCMP is not available to the Township, so should not be explored.
- The option of a full-service contract model with another municipal police service would be similar to the current framework agreement and lack of control over the Township's community policing, so should not be explored.

Moved by Councillor Armour, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That it be recommended to Council that the options of the RCMP and the full-service contract model with another municipal police service be removed from consideration in Esquimalt. Carried Unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Rotchford, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the Special Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:27 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS

THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2024

DEB HOPKINS,
CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT