



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

Minutes - Final

Committee of the Whole

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

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 7 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins
Councillor Ken Armour
Councillor Andrea Boardman
Councillor Meagan Brame
Councillor Duncan Cavens
Councillor Jacob Helliwell
Councillor Tim Morrison

VicPD: Chief Constable Fiona Wilson
Deputy Chief Constable Mike Brown
Inspector Conor King

Staff: Dan Horan, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Brown, Director of Development Services
Sarah Holloway, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy
Corporate Officer
Jakub Lisowski, Planner II Policy
Victoria McKean, Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Brame called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, and acknowledged with respect the Songhees and Xw̓sepsəm Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

2. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Mayor Desjardins: That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1) [25-241](#) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 16, 2025

Moved by Mayor Desjardins, seconded by Councillor Cavens: That the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 16, 2025 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS 6 AND 7

There was no public input.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS***Presentations***

- 1) [25-324](#) Victoria Police Department - 2025 Quarter Two Community Safety Report Card

Deputy Chief Constable Mike Brown presented the 2025 Q2 Community Safety Report Card and responded to questions from the Committee.

Committee of the Whole comments included the following:

- Appreciation was expressed for VicPD's response to concerns about loitering at bus stops;
- Concern was expressed to VicPD about the speeds that e-bikes travel, and instances of overnight camping at Saxe Point;
- Inspector Mike Brown was thanked for their years of service to the Township;
- Esquimalt Together against Graffiti (ETAG) was recognized for their work.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [25-310](#) Official Community Plan Project – Council Workshop, Staff Report No. DEV-25-041

Staff presented a PowerPoint and responded to questions from the Committee.

Committee of the Whole comments included the following:

- A change to the vision, mission, and values statements may be outside the scope of this small recalibration and it may be better to wait for the full Official Community Plan review before making changes to these areas to allow for full community engagement;

There was consensus to add the following changes to the proposed Official Community Plan amendments, in addition to the amendments outlined in the Staff Report:

- That a statement to reflect the growth Esquimalt has experienced in the past five years should be added to Section 2;
- That all instances of "affordable housing" be changed to "non-market housing";
- That a clear definition of "accessible housing" be included in Section 5;

Moved by Mayor Desjardins, seconded by Councillor Morrison: That the

Committee of the Whole recommend that Council restrict the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of townhomes to 0.7 with no density bonusing. Carried with Councillor Helliwell Opposed.

Moved by Councillor Helliwell, seconded by Councillor Morrison: That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council allow commercial development in all residential areas throughout the Township, with appropriate guidelines. Carried Unanimously.

There was consensus to add the following change to the proposed Official Community Plan amendments, in addition to the amendments outlined in the Staff Report:

- That the provision on medical professionals be changed to include all medical services.

Moved by Councillor Armour, seconded by Mayor Desjardins: That the height limit of 12-storeys listed in Section 6.1 Commercial & Commercial Mixed-Use be removed. DEFEATED with Councillors Cavens, Helliwell, Boardman, Morrison, and Brame Opposed.

There was consensus to add the following change to the proposed Official Community Plan amendments, in addition to the amendments outlined in the Staff Report:

- That the language about native bird biodiversity be retained;
- That a description of what a stacked townhouse is be added.

Moved by Councillor Cavens, seconded by Mayor Desjardins: That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to amend the Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2018, No. 2922 based on comments provided by the Committee. Carried Unanimously.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mayor Desjardins, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That the meeting be adjourned at 8:46 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS
THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025

SARAH HOLLOWAY,
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT