



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**
Minutes - Final
Special Meeting of Council

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

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

5:15 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 7 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins
 Councillor Meagan Brame
 Councillor Beth Burton-Krahn
 Councillor Lynda Hundleby
 Councillor Olga Liberchuk
 Councillor Susan Low
 Councillor Tim Morrison

Staff: Laurie Hurst, Chief Administrative Officer
 Anja Nurvo, Director of Corporate Services
 Rachel Dumas, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the Special Council meeting to order at 5:15 PM with Councillor Burton-Krahn absent.

Mayor Desjardins acknowledged with respect that we are within the Traditional Territories of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

2. LATE ITEMS

The following late item was added to the agenda:

Pertaining to Agenda Item 6. STAFF REPORTS (1) Draft Capital Re Amalgamation Study Guidelines and Process, Staff Report ADM-16-007

* Email from Leila Muldrew dated April 4, 2016 re: Special meeting re amalgamation issues

To include a PUBLIC INPUT opportunity after Item 5.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Hundleby: That the agenda be approved as amended. Carried Unanimously.

4. MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

Moved by Councillor Liberchuk, seconded by Councillor Hundleby: That Council convene In Camera pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter to discuss:

- Personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;
- In accordance with Section 90 (1) (a) of the Community Charter, and that

the general public be excluded. Carried Unanimously.

The Special Council Meeting recessed at 5:19 PM.

5. RECONVENE THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL AT 7:00 PM.

The Special Council meeting reconvened at 7:05 PM with all members of Council present.

Mayor Desjardins acknowledged Public attendance, provided an overview of meeting procedure and advised that each speaker would have 5 minutes to provide comments based on the following two questions from the non-binding referendum questions included with the 2014 Election:

1. Are you in favour of the Township of Esquimalt exploring options to achieve efficiencies by further sharing some services with other Municipalities?
2. Are you in favour of exploring the reduction of the number of Municipalities within Greater Victoria through amalgamation?

**6. PUBLIC INPUT (On items listed on the Agenda)
Excluding items which are or have been the subject of a Public Hearing.**

Darwin Robinson, *resident*, commented on previous proposed Emergency Services collaboration within Greater Victoria and increased costs if amalgamated.

Doug Bancroft, *resident*, commented on the impact of amalgamation in Ottawa and encouraged Council to consider all information including costs, before supporting amalgamation and to explore all options re: servicing.

Sherri Robinson, *resident*, in opposition of amalgamation, acknowledged historical events in comparison to present day facilities and events within the Township and encouraged Council to keep Esquimalt as a unique sustainable community.

John Hopewell, *resident*, in support of amalgamation study to consider the collaborative options in moving forward as a community.

Kim Bellefontaine, *resident*, in opposition of amalgamation, suggested more information should have been available during the election, expressed concerns regarding the cost and who will conduct the study in an unobjective manner, however supports sharing opportunities and collaboration.

Noel Burton-Krahn, *resident*, advised he has not found any evidence that amalgamation is productive, effective and cost saving for a community.

Steve Lebel, *resident*, expressed concerns regarding advance voting and amalgamation may work if the number of municipalities were fewer or provide options for alternate collaboration.

Krisna Phosy, *resident*, expressed concerns with proposed amalgamation given

past history with CRD and reflected on previous partnerships and recent research from UVIC.

Sean MacUisdin, *resident*, expressed concerns regarding leadership, servicing, operating costs and impact to level of service received if resources are stretched with amalgamation.

Lorne Newson, *resident*, expressed concerns regarding CRD process and encouraged Council to consider options for a study.

Carole Witter, *resident*, answered the questions in good faith with the information available at the time and expressed concern with amalgamation and the impact on the community and loss of autonomy over land use.

George Godwin, *resident*, encouraged Council to respect public input and move forward with the study.

Roger Wheelock, *resident*, in favour of efficiency for the community, however in opposition to amalgamation simply to evaluate costs and encouraged Council to disregard his previous answer in support of that question.

Lorne Argyle, *resident*, in opposition to amalgamation and Esquimalt should continue with Regional Emergency Services.

Will Sharp, *resident*, encouraged Council to consider a study to explore options for amalgamation and opportunities to save costs.

Norma Brown, *resident*, originally voted in favour to both questions, however now has reconsidered her answer to question two and feels that amalgamation is not the answer for the community, but is in support of shared services selectively where there is common interest.

Maureen Godwin, *resident*, encouraged Council to explore options with a study for amalgamation and expressed concerns with CRD process and domination over community decisions.

Graham Hill, *non-resident and former Mayor of View Royal*, advised that the Town of View Royal decided not to address the questions during the 2014 election due to lack of knowledge and awareness for amalgamation.

Marilyn Day, *resident*, in opposition to amalgamation, however in favour of consideration of shared community services and acknowledged Esquimalt first responder.

Marv Ringham, *resident*, in favour of amalgamation and provided examples of Government collaboration.

Darwin Robinson, *resident*, provided an overview of Esquimalt's Mill Rate and the inclusion of community services and lack of community representation on School Boards.

Doug Bancroft, *resident*, expressed leadership concerns with amalgamation.

Sherri Robinson, *resident*, clarified that she voted yes to options for exploring efficiencies by sharing services and no to amalgamation.

Krisna Phosy, *resident*, expressed concerns regarding options for exploring efficiencies by sharing services.

Sean MacUisdin, *resident*, acknowledged Council representation in the community and believes this relationship will be lost with amalgamation.

Steve Lebel, *resident*, acknowledged process was non-binding votes and encouraged Council to provide an opportunity for further public input and move forward with the process.

Lorne Newson, *resident*, encouraged Council to consider the previous speakers comments.

Mayor Desjardins called three times for further public input and there was none.

Mayor Desjardins acknowledged the attendance of Councillor Colin Plant, District of Saanich.

Meeting went into recess at 8:25 PM and reconvened at 8:32 PM.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Administration

- 1) [16-105](#) Draft Capital Region Amalgamation Study Guidelines and Process, Staff Report ADM-16-007

.

Mayor Desjardins provided an update on recent meetings with Minister Fassbender and recent Regional initiatives at collaboration.

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Liberchuk: That Council defer Draft Capital Region Amalgamation Study Guidelines and Process to a future Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. Carried.

In Favour: 4 - Mayor Desjardins, Councillor Hundleby, Councillor Liberchuk, and Councillor Morrison

Opposed: 3 - Councillor Brame, Councillor Burton-Krahn, and Councillor Low

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) [16-143](#) Email from Robert L Bish, dated March 30, 2016, Re: Governing Greater Victoria Study

Moved by Councillor Low, seconded by Councillor Hundleby: That the Email from Robert L. Bish, dated March 30, 2016, Re: Governing Greater Victoria Study be received. Carried Unanimously.

9. 16-147 9. PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Desjardins called three times and there was no Public Input.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Brame: That the Special Council meeting be adjourned at 9:00 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS
THIS 18TH DAY OF APRIL, 2016

ANJA NURVO, CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT