

MINUTES
SPECIAL FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2019-OCT-21, AT 4:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (arrived 4:32 p.m.)
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht (arrived 4:32 p.m.)
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley

Absent: Councillor Z. Maartman

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. J. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
L. Mercer, Director, Finance
K. Fry, Fire Chief
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development (arrived 4:55 p.m.)
A. Groot, Director, Facilities and Parks Maintenance
P. Rosen, Director, Engineering
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
F. Farohki, Manager, Communications
W. Fulla, Manager, Business, Asset and Financial Planning
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Councillor Armstrong entered the Shaw Auditorium at 4:32 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Councillor Geselbracht entered the Shaw Auditorium at 4:32 p.m.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) 2020 - 2024 Preliminary Project Plan continued from 2019-OCT-16

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided Council with a presentation regarding the Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan Review, which included the following information:

- Review plan is for 2019-2021 and will provide directives for future facility development and upgrades, recommend park acquisition priorities and management directives as well as service delivery options over the next 10 years
- Review will involve background research, GIS analysis, best practices and demographic analysis as services and community priorities change with every 5 year plan
- Parks, Recreation and Culture priority items will come to Council for final approval in 2021, if not sooner
- Examples of facilities, services and structures that are in need of replacement or repairs over the next 5 years, include:
 - Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Play Structure
 - Port Theatre Upholstered Seat Replacement
 - Beban Park Complex Electrical Substation Upgrade; substation is the original from 1974/1975, design will come to Council in 2020, completion in 2023
 - Frank Crane Arena and Beban Park Social Centre Roof Replacements; original roof from 1986, roof replacement will take place over 3 years

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- End of life and how that is determined
- Seating at the Port Theatre

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, continued the presentation regarding the Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan Review:

- Facilities and Park Amenities Condition Assessment Program began this year and will provide a snapshot of the current condition of facilities, structures and amenities, funding required to maintain the current level of service and replacement/renewal timelines

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Determining which projects are a priority and which projects can be postponed
- A risk assessment and priority order of items that need replacing or renewal

Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, continued the presentation regarding the Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan Review:

- The intent of the Assessment Management program is to list all assets, to provide an end of life date and replacement costs
- Examples of upcoming projects and projects already approved are:
 - Harewood Youth Park
 - Gallows Point Dock Replacement
 - Maffeo Sutton Playground – Phase 1 along with Rotary Centennial Garden
 - Neck Point Park Washrooms
 - Serauxmen Stadium Field Lights
- Projects not included in the Master Plan include South End Recreation Facility and Loudon Boathouse

B. Corsan entered the Shaw Auditorium at 4:55 p.m.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Expansion of the RCMP building
- Listing all projects on the report to Council; those approved and not approved
- Working with School District 68 and other organizations to assist with costs and create partnerships
- Accelerating the plan to have an alternative access route to Chase River and put this ahead of the Metral Drive plan
- Assessing the need for a rebuild or renovation of the Public Works Yard

P. Rosen, Director, Engineering, advised that City Staff have been studying the Chase River/Cranberry Connector area, transportation mobility funding has been made available and a study will be completed in 2020 to provide Council with the best opportunity to ease congestion in this area.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Decrease in funding for the Urban Forestry Strategy
- Community programs that are no longer being funded after 2020 include the shower program, downtown clean up program and the toilet rebate program
- Parking and parking equipment, signage along Wallace Street and if vandalized parking meters were being replaced
- What each of the five line items under the Dam heading are specifically pertaining too

L. Mercer, Director, Finance, stated that the shower program was given an end date when created and the urban clean up was a one time endeavour. Any of these programs can be brought back by Council direction.

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, advised that the City owns 10 dams. A dam review is completed every 10 years including a flood study and safety review of each dam.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Core review line items
- Funding of projects through reserves and specifying in the budget which reserves are funding which projects
- Documenting project costs relating to street lighting
- Transit amenities and inclusion of the downtown transit hub

4. REPORTS:

(a) Downtown Priority Projects - Update and Funding Request

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided Council with a presentation regarding the Downtown Priority Projects which included the following information:

- Public Realm Improvement and Beautification included higher additional funding requests such as:
 - Down-Lighting installed at the Great National Land Building, requesting additional funding of \$25,000
 - Improve/refresh way-finding signage in the downtown core, requesting additional funding of \$100,000
 - Diana Krall Plaza redevelopment Plan, requesting additional funding of \$20,000
 - Clean and update public walkway from Robson Street to Fitzwilliam Street, requesting additional funding of \$20,000
- Public Realm Improvement and Beautification included smaller additional funding requests such as:
 - Hoard and place a wrap around excavation at 10 Front Street, funding at developers cost Animate decorative lighting and lasers to the back wall of the Port Theatre, requesting additional funding of \$10,000
 - Complete crosswalk with “the Crescent” for Victoria Crescent, requesting additional funding of \$5,000
 - Create a five-foot tall, 3D Nanaimo sign for Public Events Downtown, requesting additional funding of \$10,000
 - Downtown tree lighting, requesting additional funding of \$10,000
 - Landscape and public realm improvements on Wesley Street, requesting additional funding of \$15,000
- Public Realm Improvement and Beautification items that will be funded through the existing budget included:
 - Paint/repaint street lights on Bastion Bridge and Bastion/Fitzwilliam Street, funded through existing street light budget
 - Reinstate eternal street light adjacent to Cenotaph, funded in existing budget

- Increase frequency of street sweeping, sidewalk sweeping and power washing, funded in existing budget
- Create mural program in downtown area, funded through existing downtown grant and private contributions
- Improve lighting at the City-owned parking lots, 295 and 299 Selby Street, funded in existing budget
- Staff are in the early stages of creating a mural program for downtown and this will be included in the downtown grant program

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Increasing the budget for murals in the downtown area and requesting that property owners of buildings contribute to the murals
- Christmas decorations and hanging plants in the downtown core
- The addition of seating/benches in the downtown area and Diana Krall plaza

Jamie Rose, Manger, Transportation, provided Council with a presentation regarding the Mobility – Front Street/Waterfront Walkway, which included the following information:

- Update intersection at corner of Bastion Street and Commercial Street to enhance pedestrian experience
- Cut-off the slip lane at Front Street and the Cenotaph, funded in existing budget
- Reconfigure pedestrian crosswalk at Commercial Street, Wallace Street, Albert Street and Victoria Crescent, funded in existing budget
- Installation of bi-directional cycle track on Front Street, funding of \$400,000 from the Community Works Fund
- Installation of the cycle track on Front Street includes three main benefits:
 - Allow for more cycle traffic
 - Shortens pedestrian crossings
 - Accommodate a net gain of on-street parking

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Consultation with Service Canada, Pacifica, RCMP, emergencies services and other businesses in the area
- Public engagement sessions and community input
- Transit stops and safety of pedestrians
- Feasibility of moving the bike lanes to the west side of Front Street so parking and loading zones remain outside of Service Canada and Pacifica
- Process of consultation and timeline to see final drawings
- Ensuring that studies and documentation will be provided regarding flow of vehicle traffic and the impact of transit stops in the vehicle lane
- Completing the entire cycle loop for downtown by putting smaller projects aside and allocating that funding to the cycle loop
- Property Tax increase to fund these projects
- Ensuring that Snuneymuxw First Nations are recognized in these projects and that signage will include Hul'q'umin'um

It was moved and seconded that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council allocate \$220,000 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund to implement the Public Realm Improvements identified for the downtown core.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended to include the following:

“Council direct Staff to remove the \$10,000 request for funding for the “Animate decorative lighting/lasers to the back wall of the Port Theatre” from the Public Realm Improvements/Beautification initiatives”.

The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was taken on the main motion as amended, as follows:

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council allocate \$220,000 from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund to implement the Public Realm Improvements identified for the downtown core and that Council direct Staff to remove the \$10,000 request for funding for the “Animate decorative lighting/lasers to the back wall of the Port Theatre” from the Public Realm Improvements/Beautification initiatives. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council accelerate the Front Street bi-directional cycle track portion of the Downtown Cycling Loop project from 2021 to 2020 and direct Staff to return to Council at a future Regular Council Meeting upon completion of the final design of the Installation of the Bi-directional Cycle Track on Front Street. The motion carried unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:38 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER