

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2020-JUN-22, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. D. Armstrong (vacated 4:32 p.m.)
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens (vacated 4:55 p.m.)
Councillor Z. Maartman
Councillor I. W. Thorpe (vacated 4:44 p.m.)
Councillor J. Turley (joined electronically)

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
L. Mercer, Director, Finance
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals
Supt. C. Miller, Officer in Charge, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment
A. Groot, Director, Facilities and Parks Operations
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
L. Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning
J. Rose, Manager, Transportation
R. Lawrance, Environmental Planner
C. Sholberg, Community Heritage Planner
M. Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Lundgren, Steno, Legislative Services
K. Gerard, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Krog provided Council with an update regarding direction from the Province pertaining to Ministerial Order M192, which replaces M139.

It was moved and seconded that as per Ministerial Order M192, Section (3) and (4), the following rules for all Council and Committee meetings for the period June 22, 2020 through July 13, 2020, be in effect until such time as guidelines and an operational plan can be considered by Council that ensures the health and safety for members of the public to attend open meetings:

- Members of the public are required to observe meetings virtually and not attend in person

- Delegation requests for unrelated Council matters will not be permitted under this order and throughout the duration of the pandemic
- Delegation requests related to agenda matters, such as a developer coming to speak to his/her Development Permit application, or a member of the public to speak to an item on the agenda, will be allowable as physical distancing requirements can be maintained
- Question period will be suspended throughout the duration of this order being in effect
- Council will attend via Zoom or in person at these regular meetings – maintaining physical distancing at all time
- Members of Staff that are partaking in the meeting will be spread out in the auditorium in the marked seating or outside in the lobby area

The motion carried unanimously.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 5(a) – Maffeo Sutton Park Re-Opening – Add presenter Kathy Shaw, Resource Development Coordinator, Child Development Centre.
- (b) Agenda Item 7(d) – Climate Change Resilience Strategy – Add Climate Change Resilience Strategy Document.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Krog spoke regarding:

- Water parks throughout the City are now open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sports fields and courts are open throughout the City. Formal use of sports field must be approved through a booking by calling 250-755-7517 and a safety play plan for use of the fields will be requested by City Staff.
- Indoor recreation facilities including pools, arenas, Harewood covered multi-use courts, lacrosse boxes and City owned venues remain closed but a reopening strategy is being work on by City Staff.
- Annual water quality testing at Departure Bay is taking place weekly from May to September, to ensure the water is clean for beachgoers and wildlife.
- Nanaimo Fire Rescue recognizes Protection Island as a FireSmart Community. Protection Island residents worked to clear 75 tonnes of brush and debris that could cause a wildfire.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Maffeo Sutton Park Re-Opening

Introduced by Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture.

1. Kathy Shaw, Resource Development Coordinator, Child Development Centre (CDC), spoke regarding the grant provided by the CDC, the new inclusive play structures designed for people of all ages and abilities and thanked the City of Nanaimo and the Children's Health Foundations for investing in the project.
2. Richard Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, provided Council with a visual presentation regarding the re-opening of Maffeo Sutton Park.

Mayor Krog announced the official public opening of the new Maffeo Sutton Park to and on behalf of Council thanked Staff and all organizations involved in the planning and funding of the new inclusive Maffeo Sutton Park playground.

6. CONSENT ITEMS:

It was moved and seconded that the following items be adopted by consent:

(a) Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2020-JUN-17

1. Recommendations re: Fire Station No. 1
 1. That Council direct Staff to proceed with the Fire Station No. 1 project.
 2. That Council amend the 2020-2024 Financial Plan to increase the budget in year three (2022) by \$3M from \$3,740,269 to \$6,740,269 with the additional funding from the General Capital Reserve and the General Asset Management Reserve.
2. Recommendation re: Supporting Arts & Culture: Implementation of Nanaimo Art Gallery Phased Development Plan
 1. That Council include the following items in their review process of the 2021-2025 Budget considerations:
 - Allocation of \$50,000 per year in additional operating funding of the Nanaimo Art Gallery in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan;
 - Allocation of \$10,000 per year in funding to the Nanaimo Art Gallery in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan for capital expenditures at the Arts Centre at 150 Commercial Street; and amend the 2014-2023 Co-Management Agreement with an execution date after the Provisional 2021-2025 Financial Plan has been adopted by Council; and

- Allocation of \$25,000 in the 2021 budget for the development of a feasibility report on the concept of an Arts Centre and Nanaimo Art Gallery's Phase 3 facility project.
3. Recommendation re: Community Program Development Grants
 1. That Council approve the request from the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (NS3) for a Community Program Development Grant in the amount of \$1,000 to assist in funding The Great Pumpkin Toss event for children and families; and \$10,000 to the Salish Storm Hockey Association for a low-barrier Intro to Hockey Program for Indigenous Children.
 4. Recommendation re: Province of BC Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant Program
 1. That Council approve submission of an application to the Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant program for \$10,000 for the Water Supply Strategic Plan project.
 5. Recommendation re: Consideration of New Permissive Tax Exemption Application and PTE Cash Grant Funding Request - Clay Tree Society
 1. That Council:
 1. Award a Permissive Tax Exemption for the 2021 tax year to Clay Tree Society at 838 Old Victoria Road; and,
 2. Award a PTE Cash Grant to Clay Tree Society in the amount of \$5,000 for their 2020 Property Taxes for their newly purchased property at 838 Old Victoria Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS:

(a) Municipal Security Issuing Resolution Fire Station No. 1

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services

It was moved and seconded that Council approve borrowing two million (\$2,000,000) from the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, as part of the 2020 fall Borrowing Session and as authorized through "Fire Station #1 Borrowing Bylaw 2018 No. 7257";

And that the Regional District of Nanaimo be requested to consent to the City of Nanaimo borrowing the two million (\$2,000,000) over a 20-year term and include the borrowing in a Security Issuing Bylaw.

The motion carried unanimously.

(b) ReImagine Nanaimo: Demographics and Land Inventory/Capacity Analysis Summary

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Lisa Bhopalsingh, Manager, Community Planning, provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Population, housing and employment projections from 2016 until 2046 include:
 - Population growth rate is expected to be 1.1% to 1.7% per year
 - Housing supply is estimated to grow 38%
 - Job growth expected to increase between 27% to 38%
 - Inventory/capacity and recommendations for current and future residential land use include:
 - The City has an estimated 520 hectares of vacant land permitted for residential development
 - Apartment style units have overtaken single family dwellings as the most common type of housing
 - Expect demand for an additional 253 to 607 hectares of residential land by 2046
 - Recommendations include: partnering with neighbouring municipalities for development of vacant land, greater maximum building heights, increase in maximum allowable density, and additional investments in public transportation
 - Commercial Land Use – Inventory/Capacity and Recommendations include:
 - City has an estimated 60 hectares of vacant, developable land for commercial use and this amount is sufficient based on average growth until 2046
 - Recommendations include identifying a strategy to support the overall health of retail nodes, focus on design of ground floor commercial units, and reusing older vacant buildings with sharing space models for service providers and non-profit groups
 - Industrial land Use – Inventory/Capacity and Recommendations include:
 - The City has a total of 661 hectares of industrial designated land which is in high demand but limited supply
 - The development of the 11 hectares south of the Nanaimo Parkway should be encouraged along with any industrial zoned lots over 2 hectares
 - The City should consider the amalgamation of the 44 hectares of existing industrial lands south of the City boundary along the Nanaimo Parkway
 - Institutional Land Use – Inventory/Capacity and Recommendations include:
 - The City is expected to see a shortfall in terms of staffing and facilities to support an aging/senior population

- School District 68 (SD68) is expected to experience a shortage of space in elementary and secondary schools
- Recommendations include working closely with SD68 to develop long term plans for new or expanded schools and work with Island Health to identify land and vacant buildings as potential sites for seniors and health care facilities
- The ReImagine Nanaimo process will include the SD68 and Nanaimo Regional General Hospital to provide feedback regarding development and the effects of an increase in population on education and health services

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Building policies and how they affect building costs
- Creating a set criteria for developers regarding affordable housing
- Ensuring public engagement and consultation
- Renovating or rebuilding of vacant schools within Nanaimo for use in education or seniors care facilities

The Special Council Meeting recessed at 2:26 p.m.

The Special Council Meeting reconvened at 2:41 p.m.

(c) Plan to Restore Old City Quarter Security and Pride of Place

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided Council with an overview of the proposal from the Old City Quarter Association. Highlights included:

- Framework provided to Council includes:
 - Three safety officers will patrol the Old City Quarter from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., 7 days per week
 - John Howard Society will provide on-call clean up service for public and private properties
 - Summer students will be hired as ambassadors to help re-establish street activity
 - A helpline for residents will be established for non-emergency issues and removal of debris
 - Monthly reviews will take place with Bylaw Services and the RCMP
- The Old City Quarter Association will come back to Council every 2 months with a report on how the plan is working and upgrades that may be needed

Delegation:

1. Darren Moss, Representative and Member of the Old City Quarter Neighbourhood Association, spoke regarding the Downtown Neighbourhood Support Pilot Program. Highlights included:
 - COVID-19 has increased the negative effects of homelessness, drug use and social disorder

- Goal of the program is to ensure residents, business and customer feel heard and supported
- The six month pilot is adjustable and will ensure there is a strong partnership with Bylaw Services and the RCMP
- Most activity happens between 10:00 p.m. and midnight, which is why the safety officers will patrol between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- WorkSafe BC coverage for safety officers
- Pilot program, if successful, could be used in other neighbourhoods across Nanaimo with similar issues
- Contacting outreach and service providers to assist in the pilot program
- Ensuring that funding is available for the recommendations coming forward from the Health and Housing Task Force

Supt. C. Miller, OIC, RCMP, Nanaimo Detachment, spoke regarding the Downtown Neighbourhood Support Pilot Program and noted the following:

- Concern regarding the call centre and if the call takers have sufficient training to deal with callers requesting assistance
- Training of the safety officers and their ability to deal with members of the homeless/vulnerable population
- RCMP does not promote private residents and business owners taking a lead role in social disorder and mental health issues

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to work with the Old City Quarter Business Improvement Association to implement a pilot program for additional security and cleaning in the Old City Quarter until 2020-DEC-31. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Climate Change Resilience Strategy

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

Introduced by Rob Lawrance, Environmental Planner.

1. Lisa Westerhoff, Principle, Integral Group and Tamsin Mills Resilience Consulting, provided Council with a presentation. Highlights included:
 - The strategy focuses on adaptation and resilience strategies in response to climate change
 - The findings in the strategy have been downscaled to look specifically at the City of Nanaimo
 - The process includes collecting impacts statements, framing vulnerability, risk assessments and action planning
 - Scenarios for climate change included freezing conditions, length of growing seasons, extreme heat and extreme summer temperatures

- Recommendations include improving knowledge, awareness and education within the community, prioritize hazardous areas in the Nanaimo, partner with surrounding municipalities to improve resilience, and identify quick wins and long-term goals

It was moved and seconded that Council adopt the Climate Change Resilience Strategy and direct Staff to prioritize actions in this report and begin implementation of the strategy. The motion carried unanimously.

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

(e) Reallocation of Street Space

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works.

Madeleine Koch, Active Transportation Project Specialist, provided Council with preliminary information regarding reallocating of street space. Highlights included:

- Option 1 – temporary cycling lanes on Departure Bay Road between Montrose Avenue and Hammond Bay Road
- Option 2 – creating a slow street on Georgia Avenue from Fifth Street to Eighth Street
- Option 3 – creating a slow street on streets and lanes near Haliburton Street
- Option 4 – Implementing a Neighbourhood Grant program

Councillor Thorpe vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 4:44 p.m.

Councillor Hemmens vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 4:55 p.m.

(f) Departure Bay Road Summer Traffic Calming Update

Introduced by Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works,

Barbara Thomas, Assistant Manager, Transportation, provided Council with an update regarding the plans for traffic calming on Departure Bay Road, near the beach, during the summer. Highlights included:

- Staff recommendation is to install a traffic calming curb on either side of the three crosswalks in the Departure Bay beach area
- Curbs will be left in place until October when Staff will reevaluate the need for the curbs based on effectiveness and public feedback

8. AGENDA PLANNING:

(a) Agenda planning

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding the upcoming agenda topics for the Special Council Meetings to be held on 2020-JUL-13 and 2020-JUL-27.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:08 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER