

DATE OF MEETING JULY 13, 2020

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**SUBJECT COVID Recovery Plan**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To articulate the City's plan to move from the Response to Recovery phase of our operations impacted by COVID-19, and obtain Council approval of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

### **Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Approve the COVID-19 Recovery Plan to support the resumption of services, programs and activities where possible and that are in alignment with recommendations, advice, and guidelines that are issued by WorkSafeBC, Island Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and the BC Ministry of Health;
2. Acknowledge and support that any reopening of services, programs and activities will be informed by safety plans, safe work procedures, signage, and internal and external communication to promote public safety and responsible operations; and,
3. Continue to support and remain responsive to changing conditions associated with COVID-19 such that future closures occur where required.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City of Nanaimo (the "City") closed its facilities to the public in mid-March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ("COVID-19") and the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer. City staff worked with the City's union leadership and the Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committees to develop response plans that would enable us to continue to provide essential City services while protecting the health and safety of our employees and the public.

The Provincial government introduced BC's Restart Plan, which outlined the timeline to begin reopening various sectors of the economy which were closed due to COVID-19. Since then, municipalities have continued to receive guidance through Ministerial Orders, and from the Provincial Health Officer, WorkSafe BC, the BC Municipal Safety Association and a host of other regulatory bodies to help guide the eventual reopening of facilities and resumption of curtailed services.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff have developed the attached COVID-19 Recovery Plan (the “Plan”) which outlines the anticipated timeline for resuming in-person services, re-introducing recreational programs and reopening facilities to the public. It also outlines the Financial impact to the City as a result of COVID-19.

Staff, again working with union leadership and the City’s Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committees, have developed more detailed departmental operations plans and site safety procedures to ensure that each step of the Plan can be carried out safely.

In conjunction with the Plan, the proposed motion identifies the criteria upon which the City must rely in progressing through the steps toward the resumption of all curtailed services. The Municipal Insurance Association of BC has recommended that Boards and Councils approve reopening plans developed by staff.

Staff are seeking Council’s approval of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan, as an endorsement of the work done to date and as a further demonstration to the public and the City’s employees that their health and safety has been duly considered in considering this multi-stepped resumption of services.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That Council:
  - a. Approve the COVID-19 Recovery Plan to support the resumption of services, programs and activities where possible and that are in alignment with recommendations, advice, and guidelines that are issued by WorkSafe BC, Island Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control, and the BC Ministry of Health;
  - b. Acknowledge and support that any reopening of services, programs and activities will be informed by safety plans, safe work procedures, signage, and internal and external communication to promote public safety and responsible operations; and,
  - c. Continue to support and remain responsive to changing conditions associated with COVID-19 such that future closures occur where required.

The advantages of this option: Demonstrates Council’s belief that the Plan addresses health and safety concerns, enabling City facilities to reopen to the public and additional programs and services to resume.

- The disadvantages of this option: If the Plan is approved by Council, any deviations from the Plan due to changing circumstances or recommendations must be approved by Council, unless this authority is delegated to staff.
- Financial Implications: With an approved Plan, staff can resume a number of revenue-generating services, and Finance staff can project potential year-end financial outcomes with greater certainty.

2. That Council provide further direction to staff regarding the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

- The advantages of this option: Allows Council the additional time to modify aspects of the Plan.
  - The disadvantages of this option: Providing further direction will slow down the resumption of services, and can potentially place Council in the position of making operational as opposed to policy decisions.
  - Financial Implications: Delays the resumption of revenue-generating services and the ability of Finance staff to project potential year-end financial outcomes.
3. That Council not approve the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.
- The advantages of this option: Allows additional time for the City to take a “wait-and-see” approach to resuming services, and gather information from other local governments that are re-opening.
  - The disadvantages of this option: Puts additional pressure on staff and Council to address public demand for the resumption of services and programs.
  - Financial Implications: Delays the resumption of revenue-generating services and the ability of Finance staff to project potential year-end financial outcomes.

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The Plan has been developed through the efforts of staff, union representatives and the City’s Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committees and adheres to Ministerial Orders and guidelines produced by the Provincial Health Officer and WorkSafe BC.
- The motion outlines the criteria the City must use in reopening City facilities and resuming services.
- Council’s approval of the Plan demonstrates its confidence in the Plan, and the measures taken to protect the health and safety of staff and the public.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: City of Nanaimo COVID-19 Recovery Plan: A Planning Framework for Municipal Operations

#### **Submitted by:**

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Director of Human Resources