

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2020-DEC-14, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor L. Krog, Chair
Councillor S. D. Armstrong
Councillor D. Bonner
Councillor T. Brown
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor Z. Maartman (arrived 1:02 p.m.)
Councillor I. W. Thorpe
Councillor J. Turley

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture
S. Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
K. Fry, Fire Chief
B. Corsan, Director, Community Development
L. Mercer, Director, Finance
J. Van Horne, Director, Human Resources
T. Loewen, Communications and Marketing Specialist
K. Kronstal, Social Planner
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 6(e)(1) Economic Development Strategy – Add PowerPoint slide titled “Implementation Time Frame”.
- (b) Add Agenda Item 7(b) – Report Titled “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Housekeeping Amendment Bylaw”.
- (c) Add Agenda Item 7(c) – Report Titled “2021 Preliminary Non-Market Change (Growth) Revenue”.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. CONSENT ITEMS:

Councillor Armstrong requested that Consent Items 5(b)(2),(5) and (14) be removed to be voted on under Separately Addressed Consent Items.

Councillor Brown requested consent Item 5(b)(15) be removed to be voted on under Separately Addressed Consent Items.

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

(a) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2020-NOV-30

1. Curbside Collection Post Implementation Review - 2021 Recommendations

That Council direct Staff to:

1. Create a 0.5 Full Time Equivalent cart administrator position;
2. Incorporate an additional non-collection day in the annual calendar for training; and,
3. Purchase and install an additional on-board computer.

2. Residential Waste Collection Optimization Plan

That Council endorse the Ten-Zone Waste Collection Optimization Plan for implementation in January 2021.

(b) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2020-DEC-04

1. Business Cases Not Included in Draft Plan

That Council add a Corporate Asset Management System to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan starting in 2021. Implementation to be funded by \$2.15 million in funding from the Community Works Fund and \$660,900 in funding from the Special Initiatives Reserve. Annual operating costs to be funded from General Revenue.

2. Police Services

That Council add a Digital Forensic Technician position and a Major Case File Specialist position to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan effective January 1, 2021.

3. Annual Community Watercourse Restoration Grant

That Council add an Annual Community Watercourse Restoration Grant program to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan, to be funded from the Special Initiatives Reserve in 2021 and 2022.

4. Municipal Enforcement Officers (MEOs) Change of Hours

That Council increase the hours of the Municipal Enforcement Officers from a 35 to a 40-hour workweek in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan effective January 1, 2021.

5. Community Clean Team

That Council extend the Community Clean Team pilot to December 31, 2021, to be funded from the Special Initiatives Reserve.

6. Project Engineer

That Council add the position of Project Engineer, to be funded from the Special Initiatives Reserve in 2021 and 2022.

7. Art Gallery Next Phase

That Council allocate \$25,000 in 2021 for the development of a feasibility report on the concept of an Arts Centre and Nanaimo Art Gallery Phase 3 facility project funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve.

8. Start Date of New Positions Delayed

That Council reinstate a January 01, 2021, start date for the following positions, to be funded from the Special Initiatives Reserve:

- a. Manager, Facility Assets
- b. Junior Financial Analyst
- c. Assistant Accountant

9. Reinstate Projects

That Council reinstate the following 2021 projects with funding to be allocated from the Special Initiatives Reserve:

Fire Services: Emergency Pre-Emption Devices \$ 55,080
Integrated Survey Control Monuments \$5,000
Drainage: Infrastructure Condition Assessment Program \$100,000
ENGPW Contingency: Projects \$50,000
ENGPW Contingency: Developer Cost Shares \$50,000
ENGPW Contingency: Transportation Projects \$50,000
Railway Crossing Repairs \$34,000
PW Yard: Paving \$25,680
Bowen Corridor Traffic Signal management Hardware Upgrade \$250,000
Bowen Park Trail way Lighting \$100,000
Civic Facilities: Condition Assessment Program \$100,000
Bleacher Replacement Program – Portable \$18,360
Park Amenities Condition Assessment Program \$10,000
Park Amenities: Investigation/Pre-Design \$10,000

Parks/Facility Accessibility \$25,000
Total \$883,120

10. Community Connect Pilot Extension

That Council allocate \$147,000 from the Special Initiatives Reserve to Community Connect to allow for the continuation of an enhanced neighbourhood safety program between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

11. COVID Internal Order

That Council allocate \$500,000 from the Special Initiatives Reserve to a 2021 COVID Internal Order to cover continuing and potential new costs related to the pandemic.

(c) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2020-DEC-09

1. Follow up on 2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan Items

That Council fund the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Training from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve for the years 2021 and 2022.

That Council fund the \$84,000 Parking Reserve shortfall from the Special Initiatives Reserve for the 2021 draft budget.

That Council reduce projected property tax increase by allocating up to \$400,000 of additional funds from the Special Initiatives Reserve for the year 2021 to achieve a target of 2% in General Property Tax increase and 1% in the General Asset Management Reserve.

The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Separately Addressed Consent Items

By unanimous consent, Council agreed to consider Separately Addressed Consent Items before Agenda Item 7(c) – “2021 Preliminary Non-Market Change (Growth) Revenue”.

5. REPORTS:

(a) GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

1. Health and Housing Action Plan Update

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, introduced Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, Helpseeker.

Presentation:

1. Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, Helpseeker, provided a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom. Highlights included:
 - Overview of the Health and Housing Action plan (Action Plan) development process
 - Currently in final phase of the Action Plan development which includes Council approval, governance implementation and resourcing
 - The immediate demand estimate is approximately 1,800 individuals in and out of homelessness, which is a significant difference from the Point in Time Count of 433 individuals
 - Outlined the framework for action and the impact these actions will have if implemented
 - Each identified priority area has associated clear actions
 - Financial modeling tool was used to quantify funding needs
 - \$18.5M strategic investment to be shared between senior levels of government
 - Five year funding needs estimated at \$62.1M to support 4,300 people in 635 new programs and housing spaces and support essential system coordination measures
 - The proposed costs in comparison to the costs associated with alternatives (a night in hospital or jail)

Council discussion took place regarding the financial modelling tool used to assess figures for funding needs.

Dr. Alina Turner, CEO, Helpseeker, continued her presentation. Highlights included:

- The next steps for the Action Plan include:
 - Formally call key partners to action
 - Create a Council of Champions
 - Health and Housing Systems Planner entity to be incubated with United Way for the next two year until it can stand alone as its own entity
 - Expand implementation of the Integrated Coordinated Access model
 - Launch Health and Housing intervention teams
 - Secure permanent Supportive Housing

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The Health and Housing Intervention Teams
- Requested reference source for statement regarding Housing unaffordability (page 14 of the draft Action Plan)
- Clarification regarding the target of 51% indigenous members at the following tables: Council of Champions, the Coalition, and the Funders' Table
- Request to change the term "Council of Champions"

- Would like to see advocacy to recruit medical doctors, psychologist and psychiatrics
- Accountability and brand identity
- Clarification between Council of Champions and arms length entity
- Discussion needed regarding a short term response to the acute pressures of the current situation

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding dedicating a Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting in February to further discuss the health and housing topic.

Council discussion continued and it was requested that members of the Health and Housing task Force be present at a health and housing dedicated GPC meeting.

Councillor Brown vacated the Shaw Auditorium at 1:58 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that Council extend the mandate of the Health and Housing Task Force until 2021-FEB-28 to allow time for Task Force members to engage their respective organizations on their role in implementing the Health and Housing Action Plan before returning to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to return to Council with a final Health and Housing Action Plan for endorsement along with recommendations regarding any additional investment by the City towards implementing the Health and Housing Action Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) REIMAGINE NANAIMO:

1. REIMAGINE NANAIMO and the Doughnut Economics Framework

Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services, introduced and noted that the report was in response to a motion from Council on 2020-NOV-16 requesting a Staff report regarding amending the Strategic Plan, adopting the Doughnut Economic Framework Model, and refocussing the efforts of the Environment Committee.

Councillor Brown returned to the Shaw Auditorium at 1:59 p.m.

Presentation:

1. Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Overview of the Doughnut Economic Framework Model and how the indicators can be adapted to a municipality scale
 - Model seems to be a great fit for the City of Nanaimo's REIMAGINE NANAIMO process
 - Identifying tracking indicators that are within the City's control, as well as having an understanding of indicators that are outside the City's control

- Examples of existing indicators from the Capital Regional District
- City Portrait Methodology

It was moved and seconded that the City of Nanaimo adopt the Doughnut Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes; and that a city portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the doughnut economics framework, that the city portrait be blended with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and that appropriate measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress.

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability
- Benefits to adopting a more commonly used model as opposed to one that is newly developed
- The need to develop shared connections and the ability to not only track indicators, but also communicate those indicators to the community
- Sound methodology for implementing this model at a city level (City Portrait)
- The simplicity of the term “doughnut” may not be a great marketing tool
- Concerns for this model in regards to its balance with economic development
- Deferred motion to the Economic Development Task Force for their input
- Number of discussions previously held regarding the Doughnut Economic Framework Model

It was moved and seconded that the following motion be referred to the Economic Development Task Force for their input on the Doughnut Economic Model:

“That the City of Nanaimo adopt the Doughnut Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes; and that a city portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the doughnut economics framework, that the city portrait be blended with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and that appropriate measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress.”

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Councillors Bonner, Brown, Geselbracht, Hemmens and Maartman*

Council discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Explanation for the reason behind the circle shape of the doughnut and potential opportunity to rename the model
- Whether a Staff member would be required to oversee implementation
- Potentially changing the name from “doughnut” to “circular economy”
- Keeping the name the same for the purposes of clarity and ease of discussion

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended to replace the word “doughnut” with the word “circular economy” as follows:

“That the City of Nanaimo adopt the Circular Economy Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes; and that a city portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the circular economy economics framework, that the city portrait be blended with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and that appropriate measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress.”

The motion was defeated.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Bonner, Brown, Geselbracht, Hemmens, Maartman and Thorpe*

Council discussion continued. Highlights included:

- The importance of building an economy for the future
- Model being misunderstood as being anti-development and recommend further reading of the work of economist Kate Raworth
- Model being too one sided and too all-encompassing
- Model addresses environmental considerations, social foundations and economic considerations
- The desire to attract specific types of businesses to the community

The vote was taken on the main motion as follows:

That the City of Nanaimo adopt the Doughnut Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes; and that a city portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the doughnut economics framework, that the city portrait be blended with the REIMAGINE NANAIMO process and that appropriate measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

The Special Council Meeting recessed at 3:01 p.m.

The Special Council Meeting reconvened the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

2. REIMAGINE NANAIMO Update

To be introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Karin Kronstal, Social Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Overview of key REIMAGINE NANAIMO updates as of November 30, 2020
 - Presented a video submitted to the Creative Community Contest for REIMAGINE NANAIMO (video was submitted by Lucy and Linnea Wiggers regarding Bike Lanes in Nanaimo)
 - Next steps include a phase one engagement summary to be presented at a GPC meeting in January or February 2021

(c) ECONOMIC HEALTH

1. Economic Development Strategy

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services.

Presentation:

1. Bill Corsan, Director, Community Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - Presented the draft Economic Development Strategy
 - Areas of focus are broader than what is normally seen in an economic development strategy
 - Key theme of reconciliation
 - The Economic Development Task Force mandate and members
 - Recommendation of a hybrid delivery model to deliver economic development with both in-house staff and an external agency
 - Timeline of the Economic Development Strategy process
 - Strategy included a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) analysis
 - Business and community goals and priorities
 - Guiding principles focus on local, authenticity, long-term outcomes, equity and reconciliation, and a circular economy
 - Overview of strategies and actions: Economic Capital, Business Development, Human Capital, Innovation and Technology, Social and Environmental Capital and Place Making and Attraction
 - Implementation time frame over the next three years
 - In House budget of \$250,000 for 2021 (for Economic Development Officer and Economic Development Manager positions) and external agency budget of \$269,000 (carry forward) and \$300,000 for 2021
 - Next steps include feedback from Council and partners, with a meeting planned in January to solidify the report for final feedback

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Acknowledging that economic development is more than just branding and marketing, it is also about creating conditions where people can come and grow
- Infrastructure in the technology sector such as fiber optic connection
- Analysis of what jobs are in demand and ensuring the appropriately trained workforce
- Growing community awareness of the attractiveness of Nanaimo
- Collaborative efforts between Health and Housing Task Force and Economic Development Task Force

It was moved and seconded that Council:

1. Extend the mandate of the Economic Development Task Force until 2021-FEB-28 to allow time for the Task Force members to engage their respective organizations on their role in implementing the Economic Development Strategy before returning to Council; and
2. Direct Staff to return to Council with a final Economic Development Strategy for endorsement along with recommendations regarding any additional investment by the City towards implementing the Economic Development Strategy.

The motion carried unanimously.

(d) AGENDA PLANNING

1. Governance and Priorities Committee Agenda Planning

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

- Clarification regarding GPC meetings scheduled for February 2021
- Overview of topics slated for the 2021-JAN-11 GPC meeting and 2021-JAN-25 GPC meeting

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding the Health and Housing Task Force and Economic Development Task Force recommendations potentially returning in February. He noted that the January and February GPC meetings are becoming full.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Public engagement report for the Animal Responsibility Bylaw
- The need to prioritize topics

6. BYLAWS:

(a) Amendments to Rates and Charges for Municipal Solid Waste Collection

Introduced by Laura Mercer, Director, Finance.

It was moved and seconded that “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7128.12” (To update the bylaw to set rates for 2020) pass first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7128.12” pass second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that “Municipal Solid Waste Collection Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7128.12” pass third reading. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Bylaw Notice Enforcement Housekeeping Amendment Bylaw

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

It was moved and seconded that “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7159.09” (Housekeeping amendment to correct reference to section 6.9 within the Building Bylaw section of Schedule “A”) pass first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7159.09” pass second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that “Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw 2020 No. 7159.09” pass third reading. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSENT ITEMS (continued):

(d) Separately Addressed Consent Items (continued):

(a) Special Finance and Audit Committee Meeting 2020-DEC-04

1. Recommendation re: Buyer

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Reconsideration on whether this position is needed
- The importance of the Buyer position in implementing the Sustainable Procurement Policy

It was moved and seconded that Council add a Buyer position to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan effective July 1, 2021. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

2. Recommendation re: Manager, Sustainability

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- The importance of this position in regards to the climate change crisis and consideration for this to be a director position
- Current reporting structure of this position
- Expertise needed for this position

It was moved and seconded that Council add a Manager, Sustainability, to the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan effective July 1, 2021 and apply to the BC Hydro Community Energy Manager Offer program to fund a portion of the position. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

3. Recommendation re: Active Transportation

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Suggestion that money be better allocated to pedestrian safety including flashing pedestrian cross walks
- Community uptake on switching transportation modes from vehicle to bike
- Importance of funding infrastructure to drive change

Bill Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, clarified the main cost drivers for the Albert Street project.

Council discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Feedback from the community
- Supporting eBikes as an alternative mode of transportation by building infrastructure
- Prioritizing pedestrians and the need for sidewalks
- Whether the funds are guaranteed to cover the costs

It was moved and seconded that Council allocate an additional \$700,000 (for a total of \$1 million) in the 2021 Budget for pedestrian infrastructure and improvements to be funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve. The motion carried. Opposed: *Councillor Thorpe*

It was moved and seconded that Council add the Albert Street Project (from Milton Street to Pine Street) to the 2021 Budget with \$300,000 funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve and \$1 million funded from the Special Initiative Reserve, for project delivery in 2021 - 2022. The motion carried Opposed: *Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

4. Recommendation re: Other Business

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Allocating funds from Growth Revenue to health and housing initiatives
- Clarification on projected tax increase as growth numbers are preliminary

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer advised that the proposed cost presented in the Health and Housing Action Report is aspired to be shared between the City and other service providers.

Council discussion continued. Highlights included:

- More information needed before making a commitment
- Importance of sending a signal to the community that the City is committed to addressing health and housing issues

It was moved and seconded that Council reserve \$400,000 from the Special Initiative Reserve and \$100,000 from the Daytime Resource Centre, to be allocated in the 2021 Budget, for the recommendations coming from the Health and Housing Task Force. The motion carried unanimously.

5 REPORTS (continued):

(e) 2021 Preliminary Non-Market Change (Growth) Revenue

Introduced by Shelley Legin, General Manager, Corporate Services.

- The preliminary non market (growth) estimate from BC Assessment
- Staff looking for direction on how to proceed with the information from the BC Assessment report and additional funds

It was moved and seconded that Council:

1. Confirm the Provisional 2021-2025 Financial Plan Year 2021 tax increase target as 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management)
2. Incorporate Non-Market Change (growth) revenue information into the Final 2021 - 2025 Financial Plan and retain the target 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management). For Final:
 - a. Use the growth to replace additional funding from the Special Initiatives Reserve that was used to reduce the property tax rate increase.
 - b. Return required funding used to reduce property taxes to the General Financial Stability Reserve.

Council discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Amending the recommendation to allocate funds to health and housing initiatives
- Clarification on the Economic Development Task Force funding
- Prematurely allocating funds before receiving the final Health and Housing Action Plan
- The potential return on investment as described in the Action Plan
- The current health and housing crisis

It was moved and seconded that the motion be amended as follows:

“That Council:

1. Confirm the Provisional 2021-2025 Financial Plan Year 2021 tax increase target as 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management)
2. Incorporate Non-Market Change (growth) revenue information into the Final 2021-2025 Financial Plan and retain the target 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management). For Final:

- a. That \$380,000 be added to the 2021-2025 Financial Plan for Health and Housing Initiatives; and that \$100,000 allocated for the day time drop-in center be reallocated to Health and Housing initiatives in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.
- b. Use remaining growth revenue to replace additional funding from the Special Initiatives reserve that was used to reduce property tax increase.”

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

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

That Council:

1. Confirm the Provisional 2021-2025 Financial Plan Year 2021 tax increase target as 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management)
2. Incorporate Non-Market Change (growth) revenue information into the Final 2021-2025 Financial Plan and retain the target 2% tax increase (plus 1% for Asset Management). For Final:
 - a. That \$380,000 be added to the 2021-2025 Financial Plan for Health and Housing Initiatives; and that \$100,000 allocated for the day time drop-in center be reallocated to Health and Housing initiatives in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.
 - b. Use remaining growth revenue to replace additional funding from the Special Initiatives Reserve that was used to reduce property tax increase.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Mayor Krog, Councillors Armstrong, Thorpe and Turley*

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Update on Wesley Street

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a brief update regarding the closure of Wesley Street and the displacement of individuals after the fire on Wesley Street on 2020-DEC-03.

It was moved and seconded that the statement from Dave LaBerge, Manager, Bylaw Services, regarding the Wesley Street encampment fire response, be made public. The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Bonner and Brown*

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:44 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER