

**MINUTES**  
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING  
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC  
MONDAY, 2023-MAR-13, AT 11:00 A.M.

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Present: Councillor Armstrong, Chair  
Mayor L. Krog  
Councillor H. Eastmure  
Councillor B. Geselbracht  
Councillor E. Hemmens  
Councillor P. Manly  
Councillor J. Perrino  
Councillor I. Thorpe

Absent: Councillor T. Brown

Staff: J. Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer  
R. Harding, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
B. Sims, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works  
L. Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development  
J. Holm, Director, Development Approvals  
L. Mercer, Director, Finance  
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services  
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor  
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. PROCEDURAL MOTION TO PROCEED IN CAMERA:

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the *Community Charter*:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality; and,

*Community Charter* Section 90(2):

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Governance and Priorities Committee moved In Camera at 11:02 a.m.  
The Governance and Priorities Committee moved out of In Camera at 1:00 p.m.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda Item 6(a)(1) Council Priorities Workshop – Add workshop documents.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting held in the Shaw Auditorium, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 80 Commercial Street, on Monday, 2023-FEB-13, at 1:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS:

(a) GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE:

1. Council Priorities Workshop

Allison Habkirk, Registered Professional Planner, facilitated a workshop on the 2023-2026 City of Nanaimo Council Priorities. She highlighted the following:

- A previous Council priorities workshop took place on 2023-FEB-24 and a draft “City of Nanaimo Strategic Priorities 2023-2026” document is provided for feedback; and,
- Seeking Committee direction for feedback on the content and on the preference for either a high level document or a more comprehensive document.

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Using goal language in each of the topic areas;
- The purpose of the document is to communicate what Council is going to be focusing on;
- Preference to have a document that is fairly brief and high level;
- There are going to be financial challenges to achieving some of the key capital projects;
- Support for the following topic areas identified in the document:
  1. Maintaining and Growing Current Services;

2. Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges;
  3. Capital Projects;
  4. Implementing City Plan Action Plans and Key City Management Plans; and,
  5. Communicating with the Community.
- Preference for timelines within the document;
  - Opportunity to apply for government grants to help fund capital projects;
  - The City is a growing community and there is an increasing demand for services, amenities and infrastructure;
  - Request that the Waterfront Walkway project and 1 Port Drive project be included in the document as key capital projects;
  - Working with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) to ensure that their significant sites are recognized as part of the waterfront infrastructure;
  - Acknowledging the need for large projects such as a new fire hall, RCMP detachment and the Nanaimo Operations Centre (NOC), to accommodate the growing community;
  - Removing the “We commit to:” section from the topic areas of the document;
  - Reordering the topic area “Implementing City Plan Action Plans and Key City Management Plans” to be the first on the list of priorities;
  - Concern regarding adding the Waterfront Walkway and 1 Port Drive to the list of key capital projects;
  - Necessity for the RCMP detachment and NOC, and importance of communicating that to the public; and,
  - The NOC is not an exciting project; however, it is necessary, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, informed the Committee that a Special Finance and Audit Committee meeting will be held 2023-MAR-29 to discuss debt and unfunded projects.

Committee and Staff discussion continued. Highlights included:

- Aligning capital projects with the Official Community Plan (OCP);
- Action Plans will begin to be discussed at the next Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting scheduled for 2023-MAR-27;
- Identifying smaller capital improvements that can be completed within Council’s term;
- Recognizing the financial implications and the challenges faced to accomplish large projects;
- Moving away from the terminology of active transportation and focusing on connectivity;
- Including a land acknowledgment as well as wording around climate change/adaptation in the “Message from Mayor & Council” section of the document;
- Considerations for areas of Nanaimo, other than downtown, that also need improvements, such as the south end neighbourhood;
- The topic area of “Maintaining and Growing Current Services” is an important priority as it is the City’s core responsibility;

- Increase in community expectation to not only maintain services, but also to improve them; and,
- Need to find a way to narrow down specific topics that Council wants to focus on.

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services spoke regarding the schedule for the upcoming GPC meetings that will be covering the goals of the OCP.

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, spoke regarding the next steps in the process. The draft document will be updated with the feedback received today. Once the Committee approves the document, it will be presented to the public in the format of a presentation to Council in an open meeting.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 2:02 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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CORPORATE OFFICER