

MINUTES
GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
SHAW AUDITORIUM, VANCOUVER ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE,
80 COMMERCIAL STREET, NANAIMO, BC
MONDAY, 2023-JUN-26, AT 1:00 P.M.

Present: Councillor J. Perrino, Chair
Mayor L. Krog
Councillor S. Armstrong (joined electronically)
Councillor T. Brown (joined electronically, disconnected 2:16 p.m.)
Councillor H. Eastmure
Councillor B. Geselbracht
Councillor E. Hemmens
Councillor P. Manly
Councillor I. Thorpe

Staff: 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. Brinkman, Manager, Community Planning
T. Webb, Manager, Communications
K. Biegun, Planner
S. Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services
K. Robertson, Deputy City Clerk
N. Sponaugle, Communications Advisor
A. Chanakos, Recording Secretary

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

The Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

3. AGENDA PLANNING:

1. Upcoming Topics and Initiatives

Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services, spoke regarding topics and initiatives scheduled for upcoming Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings. Highlights included:

- 2023-JUL-17 GPC meeting will tentatively include the City of Nanaimo Communications and Engagement Plan, Systems Planning Organization Strategy, Downtown Parking, Transit Stop Amenities, Pedestrian Unallocated Fund, and Extension Road Traffic Calming;

- 2023-JUL-26 Special GPC meeting will tentatively include the Public Safety Committee Terms of Reference, City Plan Monitoring Committee and BC Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code Implementation; and,
- No meetings are scheduled in August or September, and the next scheduled meeting is 2023-OCT-23.

4. REPORTS:

a. EMPOWERED NANAIMO:

(1) Ethics Commissioner Options and Proposed Selection Criteria

Introduced by Sheila Gurrie, Director, Legislative Services.

Karen Robertson, Deputy City Clerk, spoke regarding “Ethics Commissioner Establishment Bylaw 2022 No. 7349” and options regarding establishing an Ethics Commissioner position. Highlights included:

- “Ethics Commissioner Establishment Bylaw 2022 No. 7349” is a companion bylaw to “Code of Conduct Bylaw 2022 No. 7348”, wherein any complaints regarding violations to the Code of Conduct Bylaw would be investigated by an Ethics Commissioner;
- Under the Bylaw, the Ethics Commissioner position can either be formally appointed by Council, or if an individual is not appointed, it defaults to an ad-hoc Commissioner, also known as a third-party investigator.
- In either instance, the individual would either be a lawyer or senior investigator with the necessary municipal, legal and judicial experience to investigate any claims brought forward;
- The City’s legal budget was reduced by \$50,000 for 2023, leaving few options should a complaint arise in the future;
- It was suggested that Council consider allocating funds to the legal budget in the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan in the event a complaint arises and requires investigating;
- Staff provided three options to the Committee for consideration;
- The first option would be the status quo whereby the services of an ad-hoc Ethics Commissioner would be used on an as-needed basis. That individual would be selected by the CAO from a pre-determined list;
- This option would also provide for four, one-hour digital seminars with Council on matters such as governance or conflicts of interest;
- The second option would see Council formally appoint an Ethics Commissioner to investigate any informal or formal complaints, and conduct the training sessions;
- This option would also provide the opportunity for Council members to contact the Ethics Commissioner up to three times per month to enquire about conflict of interest matters or ethical concerns;

- The third option would be a more enhanced month-to-month Ethics Commissioner model where five, half hour phone calls per month would be provided. The Ethics Commissioner would also conduct training sessions in person, rather than digitally;
- Currently, Surrey and Vancouver are the only two municipalities in BC that have formally appointed Ethics Commissioners.

Committee and Staff discussion took place regarding the various options.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council:

1. Retain the status quo of utilizing an ad-hoc Commissioner to investigate any informal and formal complaints; and
2. Direct staff to establish an Ethics Commissioner line item within the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for \$107,000 to cover the costs associated with complaint and investigation processing and four one-hour digital seminars on governance matters with Council.

The motion carried.

Opposed: *Councillors Brown, Geselbracht and Manly*

Councillor Brown disconnected from the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

b. PROSPEROUS NANAIMO:

(2) Revised Integrated Action Plan

Introduced by Dale Lindsay, General Manager, Development Services/Deputy CAO.

Lisa Bhopalsingh, Director, Community Development, noted this was the final draft of the Integrated Action Plan, and that it would provide Staff with a framework to help implement the City Plan.

Presentation:

1. Kasia Biegun, Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:
 - The Integrated Action Plan (IAP) is a supporting document to the City Plan, and communicates all actions the City may consider undertaking in the short and long term;
 - Actions from all City departments are now housed in one document;
 - Between March and May 2023, Staff presented the draft IAP to the Committee for feedback on the draft priority actions for the five City Plan goals and City structure;
 - The 2023 Neighbourhood Association Priority List was brought forward to the Committee for consideration and inclusion in the IAP;

- A total of 203 priority actions were identified for the IAP;
- The IAP is intended to be a living document that can be updated on an ongoing basis, taking into account new knowledge and direction from Council and planning processes; and,
- Next steps are to bring forward the key indicators' assessment and metric development, and provide a draft Monitoring Strategy in fall 2023.

It was moved and seconded that the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse the revised Integrated Action Plan as presented in Attachment A of the report titled "Revised Integrated Action Plan", dated 2023-JUN-26, and recommend that Council use the information to guide and inform annual budget considerations.

It was moved and seconded that the words "that Staff integrate the language around the Doughnut Economic Framework in Actions 173 through 175" be added after the words "dated 2023-JUN-26".

The vote was taken on the amendment. The motion carried.
Opposed: Councillor Armstrong and Thorpe

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

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend that Council endorse the revised Integrated Action Plan as presented in Attachment A of the report titled "Revised Integrated Action Plan", dated 2023-JUN-26, that Staff integrate the language around the Doughnut Economic Framework in Actions 173 through 175, and recommend that Council use the information to guide and inform annual budget considerations.

The motion carried.
Opposed: Councillor Armstrong and Thorpe

5. QUESTION PERIOD:

No one was in attendance to ask questions.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 2:29 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER