



Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, November 26, 2012

Esquimalt Municipal Hall – Council Chambers

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Desjardins (Chair), Councillor Lynda Hundleby, Councillor Robert McKie, Councillor Tim Morrison, Councillor David Schinbein

REGRETS: Councillor Meagan Brame, Councillor Dave Hodgins

STAFF: Laurie Hurst, Chief Administrative Officer
Jeff Miller, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Pat Mulcahy, Human Resources Manager
Anja Nurvo, Manager of Corporate Services
Jeremy Denegar, IT Manager
Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator
Marlene Lagoa, Sustainability Coordinator
Louise Payne, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Desjardins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Councillor McKie/Councillor Hundleby:
That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Desjardins expressed Council's condolences on the passing of Andy Katschor, former Parks Manager for Esquimalt.

4. MINUTES

(1) Regular Committee of the Whole, October 22, 2012

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Hundleby/Councillor McKie:
That the minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole held October 22, 2012 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Administration

- (1) Council Chamber Reconfiguration and Audio/Visual Upgrade, Staff Report No. ADM-12-056

The IT Manager presented Staff Report No. ADM-12-056 regarding options on the preferred orientation, reconfiguration and location of both the Council and staff tables in the Council Chamber as well as information on audio/visual equipment upgrades to allow improved sightlines and Internet video streaming of Council meetings.

Council Comments:

- Need more workspace for each Councillor on Council table(s) with a lockable drawer underneath;
- Need electrical outlets on Council table(s) for charging of electrical devices for longer meetings;
- To improve sightlines to Council from the gallery, suggested an elevated Council table and enhanced visibility of Council name plates;
- Special table designated for Media;
- Display of pictures of past and present Councils in the Council Chamber – part of our heritage; (*Staff to provide clarification on EOC requirements in Council Chamber in their report*)
- Computer screens should be inset into the Council table(s);
- Use of a “clear” podium to avoid blocking sightlines with current wooden podium;
- Better audio equipment for staff table;
- Suggestion for a monitor in the foyer, for “overflow” at meetings;
- Lighting in the Council Chamber needs to be improved;
- Accessibility should be a factor in the final configuration;
- Need to consider other functions in final configuration (i.e. committee meetings, EOC, etc.).

The CAO advised that staff would bring a report to Council with options and costs in January, 2013. At the upcoming December meetings of Council, different configurations would be demonstrated, for Council’s input.

Council requested that staff provide an email to each member of Council attaching the photographs of the optional configurations for Council Chamber.

- (2) Paperless Agendas, Staff Report No. ADM-12-057

The IT Manager presented Staff Report No. ADM-12-057 regarding options for devices to access electronic Agendas by Council, and answered questions from Council.

Council Comments:

- Need paper copies of Agendas for public;
- Need “document” version where Council can add their comments to the electronic Agenda package; *Staff advised that this information would be included in a report to Council as there may be costs involved;*

- Use of a municipally-owned device for a variety of meetings with different groups? *Staff advised that some groups do not use tablets or other devices for Agenda packages; may just need a different user account at a different meeting;*
- One option is that Council members be provided with a \$700 allowance per term of office for the purchase and maintenance of electronic devices to access and use electronic versions of Agendas for Council meetings.

The CAO advised that a report would be brought to Council with options and costs, for their consideration.

- (3) Social Media Update, Online Communications Working Group – Ritchie Morrison, Communications Coordinator

The Communications Coordinator presented an update on social media initiatives for the municipality, including a new Facebook page and Twitter account, and answered questions from Council.

Council Comments:

- Does municipality own a Camcorder? *Staff to purchase – is already in budget;*
- Residents having difficulty finding Council contacts on webpage – suggest “Council Contact” on home page.

- (4) Electric Vehicle Charging Station Investigation, Staff Report No. ADM-12-055

The Sustainability Coordinator presented Staff Report No. ADM-12-055 regarding her investigation into electric vehicle charging stations, and answered questioned from Council. She noted that the provincial funding requires that the charging station be installed and in the ground by March 31st, 2013. She also noted that if the municipality accepts the provincial funding, the charging station must be operated for a minimum five years.

Council Comments:

- Estimated costs are steep for the few electric vehicles in the community; *Funds from the Sustainability Reserve Fund could be used for this project;*
- Need cost recovery for this “service”; suggestion for a “membership fee” to recover costs; *Staff to include cost recovery information in report to Council;*
- Esquimalt was the second municipality in the region to pass a “Zero Emission” bylaw to allow for these electric vehicles;
- Could be an economic driver in the community, for visitors;
- A charging station could be incorporated into the Esquimalt Village Plan;
- Prefer Municipal Hall/Library site for a “double cord” charging station.

Engineering and Public Works

- (5) Petition Request for Removal of Left Hand Turn Restriction on McNaughton Avenue, Staff Report No. EPW-12-027

The Director of Engineering and Public Works presented Staff Report No. EPW-12-027 and answered questions from Council.

Council Comments:

- Need input for the whole area (“more global perspective”);
 - Safety concerns with some drivers finding short cuts through this area;
 - Opportunity for a left-hand turn lane? *Staff to check on rights of way available.*
- (6) Petition Request for Pedestrian Controlled Signal Light for Crosswalk – 1100 Block Esquimalt Road, Staff Report No. EPW-12-028

The Director of Engineering and Public Works presented Staff Report No. EPW-12-028 and answered questions from Council.

Council Comments:

- Support staff recommendation because of cost issue; up to drivers to be alert to pedestrians;
- This crosswalk is about safety for seniors and is important for accessibility to shopping; need some sort of lighting at this crosswalk;
- Study needs to be done on speed between crosswalks in this area.

The Director of Engineering and Public Works was directed to prepare a report for Council’s consideration, providing cost effective ways to improve the sightlines, a review of the crosswalks in the area, and an option to maintain the flow of traffic and the safety of pedestrians.

6.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

Darvin Miller, resident and owner of the Renaissance Residence, expressed concern for his elderly tenants using the crosswalk at the 1100 block of Esquimalt Road. He noted that the “Walk” signs are too high for motorists to see.

Muriel Dunn, resident, stated that the current Council/staff configuration was not user-friendly to the gallery. She stated that improvements need to be made the crosswalk on Old Esquimalt Road first.

Peter Ryan, resident, stated that the current Council/staff configuration was not user-friendly. As Esquimalt’s representative on the Victoria Police Board, he thanked Acting Mayor Morrison for his attendance at the volunteer appreciation dinner.

Lorne Argyle, resident, expressed his dissatisfaction with the current Council/staff configuration.

Muriel Dunn, resident, expressed concern with the cost of “environmentally friendly” leaf bags.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Councillor McKie/Councillor Morrison:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 26, 2012 be adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAYOR OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT
THIS 10th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

ANJA NURVO
CORPORATE OFFICER