

MINUTES of a regular meeting of the MUNICIPAL COUNCIL of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Victoria, B.C., on Monday March 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor K. Murdoch, Chair
Councillor A. Appleton
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor C. Green
Councillor T. Ney
Councillor E. Paterson
Councillor E. W Zhelka

STAFF: Acting Director of Corporate Services, D. Hopkins
Director of Building and Planning, B. Anderson

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

1. ***Minutes***

MOVED and seconded: That the meeting minutes and recommendations contained therein be adopted from the March 11, 2019 Council meeting and the March 18, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

2. Mayor Murdoch reported that he, along with several members of Council, attended the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Society's (VIRCS) recognition event of the Welcome House established in Oak Bay. He was pleased to speak at the event and expressed appreciation to Warren Jones, Director of Corporate Services for his instrumental efforts in facilitating the partnerships that made this initiative possible.

Mayor Murdoch attended the Leadership Victoria graduation event and opened the 110th Victoria Sketch Club event which featured some fantastic art. The Mayor noted he visited the Monterey Middle School Young Entrepreneur's event and market and the math night which were great community events and he noted that he was impressed with the efforts made at the school to encourage creative and innovative thinking.

The Mayor also commented that he met with all of the first time Mayors in the CRD to discuss regional issues. He also noted that the District will be holding an open house on March 28, 2019 regarding municipal budgeting and the draft five year financial plan at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and encouraged members of the public to attend and participate.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD:

3. Ian Rye, CEO, Pacific Opera Victoria spoke to Council against the proposed rate increases and restricted access that is threatening to displace local not for profit arts organizations. Mr. Rye said that this is an opportunity for the Royal Theatre Users Group, the CRD, Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria to work together to create a shared vision for the theatre.

Steven White, Executive Producer, Dance Victoria, also addressed Council regarding the proposed rate increases and revised user group access to the Royal Theatre. He requested that the Royal Theatre Users Group, Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and the CRD work together to complete a third party review of the theatre's governance and operating models; conduct a comprehensive stakeholder consultation to establish the future use of the theatre; draft a theatre mandate to address the values and needs of the municipalities, resident art organizations and the communities they serve; and establish a governance and operating model that serves that mandate.

COMMUNICATIONS:

4. ***Oak Bay Business Improvement Association***
- Note - Director of Corporate Services - Oak Bay Business Improvement Association
 - Presentation - Oak Bay BIA Budget and Initiatives 2019
 - Correspondence - BIA 2019 Budget
 - Correspondence - BIA Improvement Area Bylaw Renewal
 - Addenda - Bylaw No. 4626, Oak Bay Business Improvement Area Bylaw, 2015

Martin Cownden, President, Oak Bay Business Improvement Association (BIA), presented the 2019 annual budget on behalf of the BIA highlighting the success of the events held and expressing appreciation for the cooperation provided by all municipal departments.

MOVED and seconded: That Council approve the budget submitted by the Oak Bay Business Improvement Association for the 2019 calendar year as outlined in the March 20, 2019, correspondence from the Oak Bay Business Improvement Association, with the budget incorporating on the revenue side a grant from the Municipality in the amount of \$78,000 to be recovered by means of a local service tax in that amount.

In response to questions from Council, Mr Cownden noted that the current Business Improvement Area will expire at the end of 2019 and requested that Council consider renewing the bylaw and increasing the maximum grant amount to \$500,000 subject to approval of the affected property owners. Mr. Cownden said that the requested increase results from increased number of hosted events and the increased attendance at each of the events.

MOVED and seconded: That Council direct staff to prepare a report on the process for renewing the Oak Bay Business Improvement Area Bylaw.

Council expressed appreciation for the work done by the Oak Bay BIA, support provided to other community groups, and support to municipal initiatives such as heritage. Council asked that the Annual General Meeting report be provided to Council once presented to the members in May. Council also requested a future discussion of whether the financial statements should be included in the renewal bylaw as audited or unaudited.

The question was then put.

CARRIED

5. **Regional Vegetation Management Strategy**

- Correspondence - Regional Vegetation Management Strategy
- Addenda Correspondence - Regional Vegetation Management Strategy

Mayor Murdoch noted that this matter arises from a piece of correspondence sent to Council by the District of Highlands. He commented that there is a regional group meeting coming forward to discuss this issue.

MOVED and seconded: That Council direct staff to write a letter to the Capital Regional District and all member local governments indicating Council's interest in participating in a co-application submitted by the CRD on behalf of its members to UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Program for the development of a regional vegetation management strategy.

Council asked that the letter express interest in participating as requested. Council indicated that additional information needs to be received prior to providing full Council commitment. Council requested that if staff representation is required that Parks, Recreation and Culture staff be involved in identifying appropriate staff to participate, and that the staff member involved be affiliated with the District's Urban Forest Strategy.

The question was then put.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES:

6. **CRD Update**

Discussions are occurring regarding methods of methane gas recovery at the Hartland Landfill and means for doing on island organics processing by anaerobic or aerobic digesting or by composting.

The CRD Hospital District, CRD Housing Corporation and CRD budgets and five year financial plans were approved at the last meeting. The Core Area Wastewater Treatment is the single driver of new costs. In Oak Bay this is billed on utility bills so the associated taxation levy will be decreased by approximately 1.4% per household, however there will be an associated increase to the utility bills to cover those costs.

Verbal Reports

Councillor Green thanked Councillor Braithwaite for attending the Oak Bay Tourism Committee meeting and the Oak Bay Business Improvement Association meeting on her behalf due to illness.

Councillor Paterson commented that the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation spring newsletter is out. She said that the Heritage Foundation has established a website and operates a Facebook page where the newsletter can be accessed. Council Paterson noted that the Heritage Foundation reviews applications and awards grant money for restoration of designated heritage homes and non-designated homes that are on the heritage register. She said that grant season ends at the end of March. She added that the Heritage Foundation's annual report has been completed and will be coming forward to a future Council meeting.

Councillor Braithwaite said that the Oak Business Improvement Association reviewed the number of events held in 2018 as well as the success of the events. She commented that she is looking forward to the Spring Nosh scheduled to be held in May. She added that the Oak Bay Tourism Committee was also discussing budgeting aspects and considering joining the Chamber of Commerce. She noted that other municipalities have joined the Chamber of Commerce and would like this Council to consider this also and will be submitting information to staff to be included in the budgeting process to explore the viability of this for Oak Bay. Council Braithwaite noted that the Acorn Awards are scheduled to be held on April 4, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT:

7. **Motion to Adjourn**

MOVED and seconded: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Mayor

Acting Director of Corporate Services