
TOWN OF SIDNEY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2019
Council Chambers

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor P. Wainwright
Mayor C. McNeil-Smith & Councillors: S. Duncan, B. Fallot, S. Garnett, T. O’Keeffe and C. Rintoul

Staff: R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services
B. Mikkelsen, Fire Chief
M. van der Linden, Acting Director of Engineering
T. Restell, Manager of Finance
B. Robinson, Manager of Public Works & Parks
S. Nelson, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor B. Fallot, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 4biv – Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea – Additional Funding Information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

2019-2023 Financial Plan – Preliminary Discussions

a. Special Public Participation Period

- 1. D. Calveley, 9655 First Street** – empathized with Council’s position with respect to demands on funding and the lack of available provincial funding sources (i.e. Gas Tax program) and encouraged Council to look at urgent things that need to be done, such as the OCP review.

Special Public Participation Period closed at 6:04 p.m.

b. Requests for Funding

i. South Island Prosperity Project

Emilie Rosenroll, Chief Executive Officer of the South Island Prosperity Project, advised SIPP (established in 2016) is a public-private organization with 50 members (10 municipalities, 7 First Nations, 21 largest employers in region, etc.) the purpose of which is to focus on regional economic development and thinking to the next 10 years of building jobs and a sustainable economy. She advised the local economy is overly dependent on only a couple of sectors (tourism and government) and there are some systemic issues that could be addressed through: business investment and attraction; First Nation economic development; collaboration, communication and research; business growth and expansion; and cluster development. She advised their regional collaborative model allows for greater leveraging for provincial/federal and private-sector funding opportunities.

Ms. Rosenroll was pleased to advise they are finalists in Canada's Smart Cities Challenge, which would provide access to \$10,000 million of funding. She extended an invitation to participate in their upcoming organizational review which will help determine the future of the organization and the economic development model for the region.

Council had some questions and discussions ensued regarding the following:

- business attraction for encouraging exports – through solid networking and outreach
- very different services and membership than Chamber model
- a variety of indexes and benchmarks available, based on international standards
- UVic graduates leave area for employment, much more than Camosun students
- financials and audited statements available on website
- large membership not a focus, only largest private sector businesses in the region
- Songhees Innovation Centre opportunity on the Peninsula – can provide grant support and connections
- performance measures - number of new jobs and targeted sectors, medium household income, and amount of project funding raised – will be provided after completion of third year

ii. Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Andi Hook, Vice President of the Chamber, provided some background history into the Chamber (organized in 1912), which subsequently expanded to North Saanich and Central Saanich throughout the years. She advised of their 325 membership (46.2% – Sidney, 13.8% – North Saanich, 18.5% – Central Saanich) and the many activities they provide (production and distribution of 40,000 flat maps, new resident packages, etc.). Ms. Hook advised the Chamber's office is located in the Information Centre along the highway and that their focus is on the promotion of their members and to offering information about the Saanich Peninsula to visitors (44,000 per year), as per agreement with North Saanich. She advised the funding would be put towards a full-time coordinator to develop commercial and industry sectorally-focused tours and workshop and conferences.

Council had some questions and discussions ensued regarding the following:

- new business/relocation assistance – receive 5-6 calls per month
- new membership from Sidney/North Saanich Industrial Group – Chamber will continue and is committed to providing significant outreach
- Chamber not able to solve affordable housing – assist with education and providing linkages to attract people into the community
- members join for different reasons and are engaged in different ways – marketing, networking, visitors services, etc.
- variety of business sectors – Chamber model is providing information and connecting people or businesses on the Peninsula
- further Peninsula wide collaboration – concerns of duplication / overlap of services
- appreciate the focus on helping existing business to do better and providing education on local careers

iii. ArtSea Community Arts Council

Diane Thorpe, President of ArtSea, advised of ArtSea's request for an increase of \$20,000 to their base funding of \$15,000, which would be directed towards: strengthening organizational and leadership capacity; improving communications and community engagement; and continue grants to member groups and fill gap from loss of CRD funding. She advised of their many programs, events, etc. and the value they provide to local artists and the community. Ms. Thorpe advised of the importance of the new part-time coordinator position and provided details on their revenue sources (26% from municipal/CRD, 34% from Sidney Fine Art Show and 7% gallery rentals).

Council had some questions and discussions ensued regarding the following:

- having the gallery space is a great bonus and has become the heart of the arts community
- revenue streams are diverse and healthy
- 34% from Fine Art Show- is an event, not started as fundraiser, and is not guaranteed
- no longer will receive funding from CRD (\$3,500 in 2018)
- Sidney funding increased from \$4,500 to \$15,000; \$7,500 from North Saanich
- scholarship grant funding increased \$500 to \$1,000
- 8 member groups and 200 local artists
- additional \$10,000 request for strengthen organization, including marketing
- Sculpture Walk - may be able to assist with marketing at the Centre

iv. Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea – Additional Funding Information

Moved Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, seconded by Councillor S. Duncan, that the correspondence from the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea, dated February 4, 2019, providing additional financial information on the Centre, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Preliminary Discussions & Additional Budget Notes

Andrew Hicik, Director of Corporate Services, provided an overview of the draft 2019 Budget, which continues to reflect a 5.95% general tax increase, and noted one change to the Chamber's funding request (decrease from \$28,000 to \$20,000). Mr. Hick suggested that Council, in order to assist them in their budget deliberations, review the 2019 tax funded projects as those would have a direct impact on the rate of the tax increase.

Council had questions regarding the tax funded capital projects and suggested some possible amendments. Some members indicated they would be comfortable with a 4% tax increase.

Mr. Hicik advised staff will review Council's feedback from this evening and present options for Council's consideration at the next Budget Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m.

d. Special Public Participation Period

1. **S. Duck, 9803 Second Street** – with respect to the Economic Development Fund, stated there seems to be some duplication of efforts through multiple organizations; encouraged Council to seek support from Central Saanich and North Saanich to look at a wider economic area; and suggested that the Town's Economic Development Commission oversee the EDC Fund.
2. **D. Walker, 2127 Collinwood** – noted that the SBIA, SIPP and Chamber are very different groups with their own perspectives, and encouraged Council to carefully consider re-activating the Towns' Economic Development Commission to provide for an unbiased assessment of economic development services in the community.
3. **J. Gifford, 10448 Allbay Road** – suggested staff and Council need to think beyond beautification projects in the downtown and waterfront areas, emphasizing that there are other areas throughout the Town that require attention with real safety issues.
4. **D. Calveley** - provided the following comments: 1. First Street Sidewalk Project – is not necessary; 2. OCP Review – needs to be done right and \$100,000 may not be enough; 3. EDC Fund – provided feedback on the presentations from SBIA, SIPP and Chamber and suggested the Town's Economic Development Commission be retained to harmonize economic development activities.

5. **S. Duck, as President of the Sidney Community Association** – stated that economic development is not just for businesses, but also for the community and noted an upcoming program regarding economic development on Radio Sidney on Sunday, February 10.

Special Public Participation Period closed at 9:46 p.m.

5. **PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE**
6. **PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
7. **DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING**
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**

10. **MOTION TO GO “IN-CAMERA” (closed meeting) - Not required.**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor B. Fallot, seconded by Councillor T. O’Keeffe, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER