
TOWN OF SIDNEY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Monday, June 3, 2019
Council Chambers

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

Staff: R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services
B. Mikkelsen, Fire Chief
A. Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning
C. Newcomb, Senior Manager of Long Range Planning
M. van der Linden, Acting Director of Engineering
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 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

5. PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

6. PROTECTIVE SERVICES

7. DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

a. Legalization Options for Recreational Cannabis in Sidney

Staff presented a report providing information respecting the decriminalization of recreational cannabis in Canada and options for Council to consider for the regulation of recreational cannabis retail sales, production and distribution in Sidney.

Committee members had several questions and the following items were discussed:

- Beacon Avenue is the front door to our community - input from citizens required
- public consultation needed prior to moving forward
- cannabis is a regulated legal substance
- prefer provincially-operated retailer
- not a significant increase for RCMP, enforcement respecting retailers provided by Province
- alcohol and tobacco retailers already on Beacon Avenue
- regulation requires cannabis products not to be visible from the street
- active retailer increases footsteps to other neighboring retailers
- vacancies in Sidney - would like to be open to what can be offered
- cannabis application fees to reflect additional review and processing times
- further consideration needed for hours of operation
- strata corporations may restrict the growing of cannabis within units
- CRD Clean Air Bylaw - increase enforcement may be needed and will be provided

Moved by Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that the Committee recommend to Council:

1. That staff bring forward a bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 2015:
 - a. to allow the retail sale of recreational cannabis within the Downtown Sidney C1 zone (Commercial), excluding businesses fronting onto Beacon Avenue, Sidney Avenue, James White Boulevard and on the streets south of Bevan Avenue;
 - b. to allow the commercial processing and commercial distribution of cannabis in the West Sidney M1 zone (Industrial);
 - c. to exclude the commercial growing of cannabis in Sidney; and
 - d. to exclude the processing, distribution and retail sale of cannabis edible products in Sidney;
2. That staff prepare a draft policy for Council's consideration that would guide the consideration of recreational cannabis licence applications in Sidney;
3. That staff prepare an amendment to Land Use Procedures Bylaw No. 1380 to include an application fee for cannabis-related business licence applications;
4. That staff review and if required bring forward amendments to Business Licence Bylaw No. 2119 and Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 1975 to ensure that these bylaws are consistent with the regulation of cannabis within the Town of Sidney; and
5. That staff bring forward, when the bylaw is brought forward for Council's consideration, a plan for communication on public awareness of the process for these bylaw and policy changes, including the opportunities for the public to submit their feedback in writing, online and at Council meetings.

Moved by Councillor P. Wainwright, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that the above motion be amended by deleting "Beacon Avenue" from item 1a.

**OPPOSED: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith and Councillors: T. O'Keeffe & C. Rintoul
MOTION CARRIED 4:3**

The question was called on the amended motion as follows:

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 - a. to allow the retail sale of recreational cannabis within the Downtown Sidney C1 zone (Commercial), excluding businesses fronting onto Sidney Avenue, James White Boulevard and on the streets south of Bevan Avenue;
 - b. to allow the commercial processing and commercial distribution of cannabis in the West Sidney M1 zone (Industrial);
 - c. to exclude the commercial growing of cannabis in Sidney; and
 - d. to exclude the processing, distribution and retail sale of cannabis edible products in Sidney;
2. That staff prepare a draft policy for Council's consideration that would guide the consideration of recreational cannabis licence applications in Sidney;
3. That staff prepare an amendment to Land Use Procedures Bylaw No. 1380 to include an application fee for cannabis-related business licence applications;
4. That staff review and if required bring forward amendments to Business Licence Bylaw No. 2119 and Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 1975 to ensure that these bylaws are consistent with the regulation of cannabis within the Town of Sidney; and
5. That staff bring forward, when the bylaw is brought forward for Council's consideration, a plan for communication on public awareness of the process for these bylaw and policy changes, including the opportunities for the public to submit their feedback in writing, online and at Council meetings.

**OPPOSED: Councillors: T. O'Keeffe & C. Rintoul
MOTION CARRIED 5:2**

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. MOTION TO GO "IN-CAMERA" (closed meeting) - Not required.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor C. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR

CORPORATE OFFICER