
TOWN OF SIDNEY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
Monday, August 10, 2020
Council Chambers
6:00 p.m.

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

Staff: R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services
J. Clary, Director of Engineering
C. Newcomb, Senior Manager of Long Term Planning
S. Nelson, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that this evening's meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ First Nations.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, that the agenda be approved with the following addition to item 9a - letters from Island Health dated September 11, 2018 and July 31, 2029.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting - July 13, 2020

Moved by Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the Minutes of the Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 13, 2020, be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Quarterly Policing Report - April - June 2020

S/Sgt Wayne Conley, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP, provided a summary of the second quarterly policing report, noting an additional page for COVID-19 impacts for policing, and highlighted on the following:

- many changes in processes by Crown Counsel and Court services, which results in additional work for our office and administration staff; cases backlogged
- community policing and major crime unit positions have been filled
- effective August 1 early morning park checks on weekends
- Detachment is now open to walk-in service
- crime statistics: increase in cause disturbance 186%; and mental health calls 11%; and decrease in property crime 42%; impaired driving 70%; accidents 21%; and total calls for service 18%

S/Sgt. Conley noted, like most organizations, there have been challenges but that they have been managing under the circumstances.

6. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

a. Budget Variance Report / Update on 2020 Capital Projects

Mr. A. Hicik, Director of Corporate Services, advised that the capital projects for 2020 have not been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that some may be delayed and carried forward to future years. He advised that most of the capital projects are funded through non-taxed sources and canceling them would have no impact on taxes. However, he did note that depending on the pandemic over the next year some financial choices may need to be made to lessen the burden on residential and businesses taxes, and this will be monitored by staff.

Moved by Councillor T. O'Keeffe, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that the Committee recommend to Council that a letter be drafted from Mayor and Council to our local MLA outlining the impacts that COVID-19 has had on our bylaw enforcement.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, seconded by Councillor S. Garnett, that the Committee recommend to Council that the staff report, dated August 4, 2020, providing an update on the financial results for the first half of the 2020 fiscal year and the status of the 2020 Capital Projects, be received for information.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

8. PROTECTIVE SERVICES

9. DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

a. Cannabis Retail Store Referral - Happy Buddha Cannabis (2410 Beacon Avenue)

Cindy Pendergast and Brad Styles, Applicants, were pleased to present an updated cannabis retail licence application for Happy Buddha Cannabis at 2410 Beacon Avenue, and highlighted on the following:

- impacts of COVID-19 have been devastating and it is very difficult for new businesses to start up in these difficult economic times
- important to shop local, stay local - keep jobs and consumer dollars in Sidney
- no one can purchase legal cannabis in Sidney
- cannabis not about getting high - it helps many people who suffer with various ailments
- cannabis is a legal and licensed product in Canada, and grown in Canada
- storefront has been changed to include active and transparent windows (as per new Provincial regulations and Town's policy)
- application is fully compliant with federal, provincial and municipal guidelines and regulations
- LCRB vetting process is extremely comprehensive, including strict security measures, which have been met

She was pleased that the Town's concerns regarding the storefront window has been addressed and for the Town's review of this updated application.

Committee members discussed the LCRB's directive for obtaining the views of residents and how those views would be obtained.

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

1. *That staff be directed to gather the views of residents regarding the proposed Happy Buddha Cannabis retail store licence and report back to Council with the results.*

2. *That the method used to gather residents' views include the following and that any written correspondence received be forwarded to Council for consideration:*
 - a) *That owners and tenants in occupation of property within 100 metres (328 feet) of 2410 Beacon Avenue be notified by mail;*
 - b) *That advertisements be placed in two consecutive issues of the Peninsula News Review;*
 - c) *That signage consistent with Schedule D of Land Use Procedures Bylaw No. 1380 be placed in the storefront window of the proposed location for a period of not less than 14 days, and;*
3. *That Council provide a special public participation opportunity at the Council meeting where the public may speak to the proposed cannabis retail store licence.*

Moved by Councillor T. O'Keeffe, seconded by Councillor B. Fallot, that local schools, daycares and parent advisory groups in Sidney and North Saanich be notified and invited to share the notice with parents so that they may submit their views to the Town.

**OPPOSED: Councillors: S. Duncan, S. Garnett & P. Wainwright
MOTION CARRIED 4:3**

The question was called on the original motion as amended:

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

1. *That staff be directed to gather the views of residents regarding the proposed Happy Buddha Cannabis retail store licence and report back to Council with the results.*
2. *That the method used to gather residents' views include the following and that any written correspondence received be forwarded to Council for consideration:*
 - a) *That owners and tenants in occupation of property within 100 metres (328 feet) of 2410 Beacon Avenue be notified by mail;*
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3. *That Council provide a special public participation opportunity at the Council meeting where the public may speak to the proposed cannabis retail store licence.*
4. *That local schools, daycares and parent advisory groups in Sidney and North Saanich be notified and invited to share the notice with parents so that they may submit their views to the Town.*

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor S. Garnett, seconded by Mayor C. McNeil-Smith, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY