
TOWN OF SIDNEY

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2020

Council Chambers

To Immediately Follow Committee of the Whole Meeting

Council Meetings are being broadcast LIVE via:

http://sidney.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=1

REVISED

AGENDA

** Pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council meetings remain closed to the public until further notice, however Council invites the public to participate via:

- Correspondence - send an email with subject line "Public Participation Period" to admin@sidney.ca, prior to 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting and it will be recorded and read aloud in the meeting. Correspondence for Public Hearings will be forwarded to Council, however will not be read aloud.
- Electronically (via Zoom) - register to speak during Public Participation Period or a Public Hearing by contacting the Corporate Officer by email at admin@sidney.ca or by phone at 250-656-1139 prior to 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. A. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD (maximum 20 minutes)
(Written submissions, if any, to be read aloud)

B. PRESENTATIONS

i. COVID Recovery Task Force – Recommendation to Council (item 4.b)

- Presentation by David Calveley

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. COVID RECOVERY TASK FORCE - October 8, 2020

Minutes contain recommendations(s) regarding:

R.1 Business Support Project

That the Task Force recommends that Council consider providing a budget of \$30,000 to a working group of the Task Force or the EAC to be used as they see necessary to contract, survey, and report on how businesses can be supported in response resiliency and recovery.

R.2 Long-term Economic Strategy

That Council task the EAC with preparing and implementing a long-term economic strategy following a detailed planning tool to develop road map.

6. ADJOURNMENT

R. Humble, Chief Administrative Officer

Notice issued: Thursday October 15, 2020, at 10:30 am

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A G E N D A

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1. CALL TO ORDER

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. **COVID Recovery Task Force – Recommendation to Council (item 6.a)**
- Presentation by David Calveley

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **COVID RECOVERY TASK FORCE - October 8, 2020**
Minutes contain recommendations(s) regarding:

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COVID 19 and Sidney's Economy

An approach to ongoing Response and Recovery

Short-term – response

- The business survey in the initial response phase showed significant impact on our business community.
- Some businesses have been positively impacted.
 - Sales of boats and RVs as well as service and support have done well.
 - Bicycle sales have been excellent.
 - Local tourists have shown up.
- BUT what about the current situation and the immediate future?
 - Inventories have been depleted.
 - Demand is falling – the weather is changing.
- We need an update and a forecast

Short-term – response

- There is a natural tendency to think of the BIA area, but we have other business sectors.
 - The west side
 - Harbour Road
 - Home-based business
- We need to survey all our business sectors again and actively engage with them.
 - What is your current experience and what difficulties are you facing?
 - What do you forecast longer-term?
 - What would help you survive and prosper?

Short-term – response

- We need to go beyond simply a survey!
 - If an immediate need is identified and a solution is possible we need to respond with action quickly.
- But who is to respond?
 - Town staff are experiencing a high workload level and have no free resources.
 - The BIA and Chamber of Commerce continue to do an excellent job to date, should be included in any response but again have limited resources.

Short-term – response

- The proposal is for outside resources to be contracted.
 - As an example the resource person contracted by the chamber for the initial survey is still available.
 - Other resources as needed.
- Council is requested to provide an operating budget.
- Priorities to be set and oversight provided by a working group of either the task force or the EAC.
 - A report on actions taken and monies spent to be provided to Council monthly.
- Council would be seen to be responding to the pandemic and supporting the business community.
 - Information gathered would be invaluable for planning long-term recovery.

Long-term – recovery and resilience

- When the EAC was conceived and established our economic outlook was bright.
 - Some weaknesses in the Town’s economic approach [including the lack of an economic strategy] were identified but there was no great concern.
- Covid 19 has changed the world dramatically, for example:
 - Travel patterns have been changed with long-term effect.
 - Online shopping has boomed.
 - Working from home has become accepted.
- There are many forecasts and opinions as to what the future will look like but the simple answer is, “We don’t know.”
- Whatever the future brings, we should prepare for it.

Long-term – recovery and resilience

- We need to refocus the EAC and set them a challenge to design and implement a long term economic strategy for Sidney.
- The approach must be structured following a clear roadmap.
 - Build on existing knowledge, filling gaps in that knowledge where necessary.
 - Use a planning tool coming from either the BC government or the BCEDA.
 - Engage external resources where necessary to complement local knowledge.
 - Have sufficient budget available to complete the task.
- The EAC should outline their approach before the end of 2020.



**Town of Sidney – COVID-19 Recovery Task Force Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 08, 2020 – 2:30PM Zoom Meeting**

Present: Mayor C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), Councillor B. Fallot, David Calveley, Glenys Cavers, Steve Duck, Graden Sol, Denny Warner

Regrets: Kirsten Norris, Morgan Shaw

Staff: Randy Humble, Chief Administrative Officer, Brett Mikkelsen, Fire Chief, Alison Verhagen, Senior Manager of Current Planning / Recovery Director, Paula Kully, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 2:35.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by G. Sol, that the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Still to be determined suggested next steps for the Task Force Committee

a. Submission by D. Calveley

David provided an overview of the intent of his submission:

- Check in with businesses now that we are several months out from the initial pandemic response.
- Seeking budget of one lump sum rather than continually coming back to Council for budget request, for actions to take based on survey. Suggest \$30,000.
- Suggested conducting an information-sharing workshop with businesses.
- Use this to build a bigger and better picture of what business in Sidney looks like now, what it may look like in 6 month, 12 months, etc.
- Council should refer long-term planning to the EAC to look at a long-term strategy.
- BCEDA has developed an economic recovery & resiliency toolkit that would be useful.
- A long-term strategy for economic recovery would help with the OCP review.

Discussion:

G. Cavers: questioned what impact the pandemic will have on the OCP. R. Humble assured that we are moving forward in a modified format but the focus is on a robust, engaging process. A. Verhagen noted that the Town is seeing confidence in the economy with significant numbers of new business licences and few closing.

B. Mikkelsen: Reminded the task force that initiatives should be parallel with other the other 3 pillars - community, culture, economy and anticipating a second wave.

A. Verhagen: Noted that the EOC recommended conducting a second business survey 6 months after the first that was conducted during the pandemic. The outdoor seating areas question could be part of the survey. In regards to budget, we need to identify what it will be used for. The EAC may be a better conduit for this project. Alison also noted that social connection, mental health and community wellbeing are the top factors facing people at this time and that if council approves the business survey, there will be a desire from the community to provide a budget for community wellbeing as well. Advised that there are no immediate plans for follow up survey but would be happy to move forward with it in collaboration with chamber.

D. Warner: Confirmed that businesses taking part in the survey were advised a second would be conducted in about 6 months. It would be advantageous to ask some of the same questions for comparison purposes along with some new. The contractor used for first survey would be good for continuity purposes. Cost of the first survey was for time spent making calls.

R. Humble: Suggest that moving forward, the Task Force my convert into something like SEAG, which has been a highly successful model for information sharing and support.

R.1 *Moved by David Calveley, seconded by Steve Duck that the Task Force recommends that Council consider providing a budget of \$30,000 to a working group of the Task Force or the EAC to be used as they see necessary to contract, survey, and report on how businesses can be supported in response resiliency and recovery.*

CARRIED

R.2 *Moved by David Calveley, seconded by Denny Warner, that Council task the EAC with preparing and implementing a long-term economic strategy following a detailed planning tool to develop road map.*

CARRIED

Next meeting two weeks from today.

5. **Adjournment**

Moved by G. Cavers, seconded by G. Sol that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45 pm.