

# Councillor's Update for December 2017

## Fairfield-Gonzales CA meeting

### **Part A - City of Victoria Council Highlights – Council**

*Highlights* provide a snapshot of the progress made on City programs, initiatives and on Council decision-making. For more information on each initiative, please visit the accompanying link where noted. We welcome anyone who would like to receive *Council Highlights* to email us at [engage@victoria.ca](mailto:engage@victoria.ca).

### **November 9, 2017 Council meeting**

#### **Draft 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan**

Council gave first reading to the Draft 2018 – 2022 Financial Plan, which is now ready for community consultation. Staff was directed to report back on a number of initiatives which will be considered by Council in January, in addition to the community's feedback on the draft plan. For more information, [view webcasts](#) of the Special Committee of the Whole meetings that took place October 30, 31 and November 2 and 7, 2017. For more information, visit: [victoria.ca/budget](http://victoria.ca/budget).

#### **Provincial Cannabis Consultation**

The City will prepare a written submission to the Provincial government to reflect Council's direction on policy issues for the proposed provincial cannabis regulations, which is as follows:

- **Minimum Age**

That the City recommend to the Province that the minimum age for possession is consistent with the minimum age for the consumption of alcohol.

- **Personal Possession**

That Council take no position on personal possession.

- **Public Consumption**

That Council request that the Province establish a licensing scheme to allow for designated consumption lounges with a use model that takes into consideration the health and well-being of all users and employees.

- **Drug-Impaired Driving**

That Council direct staff to include comments supporting strong restrictions on drug-impaired driving, zero tolerance for impairment standards for L and N licence holders, education and awareness campaigns regarding cannabis-impaired driving and supporting expanded roadside testing, suspension, and prohibition programs. And that Council direct staff to write the Provincial and Federal governments to request that cannabis legalization and associated regulation frameworks be constructed in a way that will lower policing and enforcement costs for municipalities.

- **Personal Cultivation**

That Council supports the Bill C-45 provisions for cultivation.

- **Distribution Model**

That Council calls on the Province to introduce a distribution model for medical and non-medical cannabis that maintains opportunities for local enterprise, craft enterprise and small business in the cultivation, distribution and retail sale of medical and non-medical cannabis.

- **Retail Model**

That the City recommend that:

1. The Province develop a retail regime that makes room for both public and private retail operations and that the Province establish regulations covering retailers and ensuring that there is a provincial standard.
2. That within the Provincial regime local governments retain their zoning authority as to the location of both public and private retail outlets.
3. The Province introduce a retail model for medical and non-medical cannabis that maintains opportunities for local enterprise, craft enterprise and small business in the cultivation, distribution and retail sale of medical and non-medical cannabis.

- **General Motions**

That with the exception of provincially regulated smoking lounges, local smoking regulations apply to smoking of cannabis. That senior levels of government, in discussion with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, develop a fair and equitable revenue sharing model with local governments. [View the report.](#)

**2017 Development Summit Action Plan**

Council approved the 2017 Development Summit Action Plan. Staff will provide an update to Council on the status of the plan's action items and report back in May 2018 on the planned event details for the 2018 Development Summit. [View the report.](#)

**Lease Agreement for 1240 Yates Street**

The City will sign a six-month lease agreement with the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (BC Housing) to enable Our Place to operate a seasonal 24/7 shelter for up to 40 residents at 1240 Yates Street up to April 30, 2018. School District 61 and My Place Neighbourhood Group were consulted on the proposed use at an information meeting on November 8 at Central Middle School, and do not oppose the use of the property for this purpose. [View the report.](#)

**Council Workshop: Draft Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan**

Council participated in a workshop to consider the community's feedback and provide input on the Create Victoria Draft Plan. Based on the community's input, staff will bring a revised draft plan and develop a draft implementation framework for Council's consideration on December 14, 2017. The project's Economic Impact Assessment report was received for information. View the [full report and engagement details \(Agenda item 18\)](#).

## **Public Hearing: Rezoning Application and Heritage Designation Application for 750 Pemberton Road**

Following a public hearing, Council approved the rezoning of the residential property at 750 Pemberton Road to allow for the construction of three, new single family dwelling units, while maintaining the existing heritage designation. [View the Development Tracker for details.](#)

## **Emergency Services Grant Application**

The City will apply for a \$25,000 grant through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for its Emergency Social Services training and exercise program. [View the report.](#)

## **Advocacy to Government of Canada on Carbon Pricing**

City Council will endorse an open letter to the Government of Canada on carbon pricing, calling for an extension of the rising national price on carbon to the year 2030; and on behalf of Council, the Mayor will write to Prime Minister Trudeau in support of this policy.

## **Options for Including Pollinator Habitat in City Playgrounds**

City staff will work with the Accessibility Working Group and Urban Food Table and report back on options for balancing accessibility considerations with pollinator habitat in the vicinity of City playgrounds. This information will inform an update to the Parks Master Plan's implementation plan.

## **Regional Transit**

Council adopted a resolution to ask the Government of British Columbia and BC Transit to work with the Capital Regional District and local governments to introduce an effective Regional Transportation Authority in the Capital Region, with responsibilities including governance and operations of public transit. The City is committed to working with the Ministry of Transportation, the Capital Regional District and the Transit Commission to fix transit in the region, including rapid transit from downtown to the Westshore, without delay.

## **Smart South Island Symposium**

City Council received a report from the South Island Prosperity Project on the Smart South Island Symposium that is taking place on Saturday, November 25 from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Victoria Conference Centre. This is the first event in a two-part Smart South Island Symposium series to debate the opportunities and challenges that come with the smart and sustainable development of communities across the South Island region. [Learn more.](#)

## **November 23, 2017 Council meeting**

**Development Permit with Variances for 515 Foul Bay Road** - Following a public hearing, Council voted to decline this application which would allow for four strata parcels, with the existing dwelling on one lot and a new single family dwelling to be constructed on the remaining three lots. [Learn more about this application](#)

**Development Permit with Variance for 515 and 533 Chatham Street** - Following a public hearing, Council voted to refer a development permit with variance application for 515 and 533 Chatham Street to staff to work with the application to consider design refinements, particularly on Chatham Street that reflect the character of Old Town. The application is to construct a mixed use development ranging from three to five storeys with commercial and live/work on the ground floor and residential units above. [Learn more about this application](#)

**3020 Douglas Street – Tally Ho Motel** - Following a public hearing, Council voted to approve a temporary use permit at 3020 Douglas Street, known as the Tally Ho Motel, to change the use from motel to 52 units of transitional housing, subject to conditions, including that the applicant undertake planning and design in consultation with the community, fully adhering to the new Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan and include contractual obligations to mitigate community impacts. [Learn more about this application](#)

**Indigenous Walk of Fame** - Council has approved in principle the establishment of an Indigenous Walk of Fame, subject to support of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and welcomes a formal proposal identifying the scope, content, sponsoring organizations, budget and maintenance plan for this initiative.

### **Advocacy for Federal and Provincial Leadership for Housing Affordability**

On behalf of Council, the Mayor will write to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Housing and Social Development, the Premier of British Columbia and various federal and provincial ministers indicating that the City of Victoria is willing and ready to be an active partner for housing affordability, and requesting leadership in partnership with other levels of government, First Nations governments and housing providers.

### **Neighbourhood Benefits of Regional Waste Water Conveyance Infrastructure**

Council has asked staff to continue to work with the Victoria West, James Bay and Fairfield Gonzales communities to identify opportunities to advance traffic calming, transportation improvements, active transportation, and public realm priorities in conjunction with the CRD Core Area Waste Water project construction.

**Short Term Rental Business Regulations** – Council has asked staff to report back in Quarter 1 of 2018 with recommendations for short term rental business licence fees, in conjunction with the short term rental implementation plan. [Learn more about the proposed regulations and operating requirements.](#)

**Zoning Bylaw 2017** - Council approved first readings of Zoning Bylaw 2017 that will now go to public hearing on December 14, 2017. The proposed Zoning Bylaw 2017 introduces new zoning regulations that are more simplified and flexible including new permitted uses, definitions, off-street parking requirements and updated building siting regulations. It is also more user-friendly and helps to support the land uses and development forms that are outlined in the *Downtown Core Area Plan*. Learn more about the bylaw [here](#).

**Victoria Housing Strategy Annual Update** - Council received an update on the Victoria Housing Strategy, and has agreed to consider a supplementary budget request of \$250,000 as part of the 2018 Financial Plan process to support City of Victoria housing initiatives. City staff will work to develop an Inclusionary Housing Policy, and engage with stakeholders on proposed new items to bring forward to include in the strategy going forward.

[Read the annual update](#)

**Market Rental Revitalization Study** - The Market Rental Revitalization Study is an examination of potential regulations, public policy and incentives to preserve and improve the existing stock of aging rental buildings in the City of Victoria. After receiving this study, Council has asked City staff to prepare a new Standards of Maintenance Bylaw and Tenant Relocation Policy, to include consideration of strengthening tenants' rights to first refusal to replacements units at comparable/reasonable market rent levels. Staff will seek feedback on these at Market Rental Revitalization Study focus group sessions, examine the City's authority to further improve tenant stability, and explore options of compensation for moving expenses for tenants.

[Read the report](#)

**Community Gardens** - The Rockland Woodland Garden, Franklin Green and Montreal Street Community Garden have all been given new licences of occupation for three years. [Read the report](#)

## **Part B – Miscellaneous**

### **Calling All Musicians, Community Programmers and Food Trucks**

Each summer, the City of Victoria offers free outdoor concerts and activities at Centennial Square and Beacon Hill Park for the community to enjoy. The City is updating its rosters of pre-qualified, local musicians and community programmers to activate these venues from June to September, as well as at other City-programmed events throughout the year. New for 2018 will be the food truck roster, from which vendors will be invited to participate in City-programmed concerts and events in Centennial Square.

To be considered for these rosters, local musicians, community programmers and food truck vendors are invited to apply online and provide links to samples of their work or menus by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Preference will be given to those based in the Capital Region.

Musician roster submissions will be assessed on the musician's/band's broad appeal, technical expertise and talent, and will be reviewed by a team of City of Victoria staff and local music professionals.

Community programmer roster submissions will be assessed on the quality and creativity of the activity proposed, and the applicant's track record in delivering similar, successful programs to the community.

Food truck roster submissions will be assessed on the vendor's food offerings and their technical requirements for events in Centennial Square.

Successful applicants will be contacted in early March 2018. Roster applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, however, the selection process takes place once a year. Late applications will be considered for 2019.

For more information and to apply, visit: [victoria.ca/artsandculture](http://victoria.ca/artsandculture)

## Town Hall/e-Town Hall on Victoria's 2018 Budget

**PURPOSE:** To inform about consultation on the 2018 Draft Financial Plan

**BACKGROUND:** The consultation period on the 2018 Draft Financial Plan began last week.

The public is invited to provide input on the budget through a variety of ways: an [online survey](#) (open until December 8), and through the Town Hall/e-Town Hall on Thursday, November 30 at 7 p.m. The Town Hall will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions about the budget, and provide feedback. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with an open house portion until 7 p.m.

The format for the meeting will be the same as in previous years. The meeting will be interactive and webcast live. Participants can attend and provide feedback in person at City Hall, or from the comfort of their own homes. Questions will be accepted through the website and social media, and will continue in real time during the event. For those who submit a question but can't attend the event in person, they can [watch the webcast](#) to listen for the answer.

Ways to submit questions and feedback for the Town Hall include:

- **In person:** Attend the meeting at City Hall, 1 Centennial Square
- **Facebook:** Join the Facebook event and post questions there
- **Twitter:** Submit questions via Twitter using #victownhall
- **Website:** Submit questions or comments using the online form
- **By Phone:** Once the meeting is underway, call (250-361 -0327 and the questions will be transcribed)

### KEY DATES

- Comments by Facebook, Twitter and website for the Town Hall will be open to the public on Friday, November 24.
- Town Hall – Thursday, November 30 at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with an open house portion until 7 p.m.)
- Deadline for public input via survey and other correspondence – Friday, December 8

### NEW THIS YEAR

- A new four-page [Budget at a Glance](#) has been created to further distill the complex budget information for those who have limited time, in addition to the longer [Budget Summary](#) .
- Additional focus on budget engagement and education will be placed on youth and renters, encouraging increased participation by these groups

- Each neighbourhood association will receive a presentation in October/November from the Neighbourhoods Team on the budget process and opportunities for consultation

All information, including [a video that explains a City budget](#), background documents, [budget simulator](#) and link to the online survey can be found at [www.victoria.ca/budget](http://www.victoria.ca/budget). We will share these tools and continue education on what the City budget is, why it is important, and how to get involved.

Consultation details are being widely promoted through various channels: earned media, Connect newsletter, newspaper ads, neighbourhood association emails, front page placement on the website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and e-newsletter. Council is encouraged to share details through their own networks as well.

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