

PRESENT: Mayor Walker
Councillor Chesney
Councillor Fathers
Councillor Johanson
Councillor Kristjanson (arrived at the meeting at 5:02 p.m.)
Councillor Manning
Councillor Trevelyan

ABSENT:

STAFF: D. Bottrill, Chief Administrative Officer
T. Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration
J. Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations
C. Isaak, Director of Planning and Development Services
J. Johnstone, Director of Human Resources (electronically)
P. Lemire, Fire Chief
K. Pauls, RCMP Staff Sergeant
C. Ponzini, Director of Financial Services
E. Stepura, Director of Recreation and Culture (electronically)
C. Zota, Manager of Information Technology (electronically)

Press: 0

Public: 0

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

1.1. **FIRST NATIONS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
Mayor Walker noted the following:
We would like to recognize that we are standing/working/meeting on the traditional unceded territory of the Semiahmoo First Nation, and also wish to acknowledge the broader territory of the Coast Salish Peoples.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

2020-099 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
THAT the Corporation of the City of White Rock Council amends the agenda for its Special meeting scheduled for March 23, 2020 by adding:

- "On-Table" Bylaw No. 2337 with additional amendments to the Council and Committee Procedure Bylaw in regard to Council Participation through Electronic Means at Council meetings

AND THAT the agenda be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED

Councillor Kristjanson arrived at the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

3. VERBAL UPDATE COVID-19

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an update and advised that the City's website will be updated daily with respect to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic.

The Fire Chief noted:

- Resource list coming soon to the website is being worked on
- Stats noted in BC 472 cases (48 new since March 21)
- Over 2,000 in Washington State

The following discussion points were noted:

- Expressed appreciation for closing civic parking lots along the waterfront
- Businesses along Marine Drive appear to be using their patios as waiting areas for take-out orders
- Staff reported that Bylaw Enforcement has worked with the businesses still open for take-out to ensure their patio furniture has been removed or stacked in order to eliminate congregating (in response to complaints)
- Bylaw Enforcement has been checking the waterfront to ensure that if groups are in close proximity, that they are family
- Requested Fraser Health provide numbers of COVID-19 cases to see if any are in the City of White Rock. Staff noted the practice has been that this information is only released if it is a cluster of cases in one (1) area. Staff will inquire again and report back with information available.
- Staff reported that the local Lawn Bowling and Pickle ball clubs have decided to close down / temporality suspended their operation
- Resource listings for services will be available on the City's website
- Sports User Groups are no longer operating in the City
- Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic will be open for one (1) day in April at a City-Operated facility
- The City will speak to Semiahmoo First Nation (SFN) with respect to their parking lot, which appears to be open in order to accommodate storefronts on SFN land / concern noted that it appeared very busy and social distancing a problem

Council discussed the possibility of closing the Promenade in conjunction with the Pier. The following comments were noted:

- The Promenade is 2 km of foreshore
- Staff could fence the entries onto the Promenade; however, it's ensuring the public stay out and do not attempt to enter is of a concern
- Concern that if the City closes the promenade, that there would be a domino effect and people would be in closer proximity on the sidewalks with patios that it is even closer proximity
- If the Promenade and Pier are closed, there will be signage, and those wishing to ignore the signs would be trespassing

Council suggested that the City first close the Pier, and if needed, can close the Promenade at a later date. Staff are directed to report back with a Promenade/Pier closure plan.

Discussion continued and the following points were noted:

- With respect to seniors in the City, it was reported that there are stores that are providing shopping time / opportunities exclusively for them, and that neighbours are encouraged to be aware of where seniors are in their community and assist if possible.
- It was suggested the City consider providing printed information for distribution to seniors. This could help seniors who may not have access to the internet or social media
- Concerns expressed with respect to youth gathering on East Beach for bon fires.
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2020-099

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council directs staff to close the White Rock Pier temporarily.

CARRIED

Have Council send a stern message and if Social Distancing not adhered to then the pier will be closed and there may be further consideration of closing the promenade area.

Staff spoke to various information resources with respect to Covid-19 global pandemic which include:

- www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/COVID19#.XnkJU6hKiUk>
- <https://www.whiterockcity.ca/>

Council also provided an infographic which demonstrated the power of social distancing, noting that it is a good example of how to assist in flattening the curve.

Council spoke to how various organizations are taking precautions with respect to safety/covid-19. It was noted that bus services are requiring riders enter from the back of the bus, there are no fares being collected and the sea bus times are reduced (less travellers); however, the Sky Train service remains the same.

Groups such as Metro Vancouver are reducing the number of meetings they are having unless required. The City will continue to converse with upper levels of government and local associations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement Association. Verbal reports will be made during Council meetings. Through these discussions, the City is looking at ways to ease the tax burden on businesses and residents.

2020-099

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council:

1. Directs that staff monitor the promenade (including Memorial Park) to ensure social distancing is being adhered to;
2. Delegates the authority to the Mayor should the need arise to close it; and
3. Directs staff to prepare a plan to do this so it is ready when it is needed.

CARRIED

Councillors Johanson and Manning and
Mayor Walker voted in the negative

Concern was noted around the financial impacts Covid-19 global pandemic could have on the City, Council requested staff provide a corporate report revisiting the Financial Plan. It was also requested that the report address:

- The loss of revenue from patio fees
- How the City can play a role in assisting seniors without financial support from family or friends
- Potential financial issues that have arisen from the pandemic situation
- Can the City assist businesses due to how they will be impacted

Staff also advised that a report will be coming forward with respect to City Hall staffing / new hires authorized by the Financial Plan; it will be a separate report.

2020-100

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council directs a corporate report be brought forward that will include what other organizations are in White Rock and what they are doing to help seniors and those with disabilities with maintaining their lifestyle (Sources / CARP / Rotary) .

CARRIED

Council requested the corporate report also provide options that can help residents and that it include information on a State of Emergency, and how the City can help seniors.

With respect to the sale of goods and services, it was reported that the Province has asked municipalities to leave this matter with them. Although this is something the municipality can ask for to help with it is important to note a State of Emergency must be approved by the Province and when they are they are approved it is only for a short period of time (seven (7) days).

4.

BYLAW

4.1

**BYLAW 2337 - COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE BYLAW,
NO. 2232, 2018, AMENDMENT NO. 3, 2020, NO. 2337**

Proposed amendment to permit electronic participation at Council and Standing Committee meetings by Council members. The bylaw was discussed by the Governance and Legislation Committee at their March 17, 2020 meeting and is presented for consideration of first, second and third reading.

Following discussion by the Governance and Legislation Committee the bylaw includes amendments noted in red to clarify it presents the opportunity for a Member of Council to participate at their discretion.

Added to the agenda was a further "On-Table" amendment to the proposed bylaw the added a new Section 18. Electronic Participation by Council Members in extenuating circumstance(s)

The following discussion point was noted:

- The bylaw (Section 18) as presented "On-Table" endeavors to promote as little physical contact as possible during this global pandemic.

2020-101

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council gives first, second and third reading to "Council and Committee Procedure Bylaw, No. 2232, 2018, Amendment No. 3, 2020, No. 2337" as circulated / presented "On-Table".

CARRIED


5.

CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 23, 2020 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairperson declared the meeting concluded at 6:22 p.m.



Mayor Walker



Tracey Arthur, Director of
Corporate Administration