

1420-30
MSCCA

DISTRICT OF SAANICH CANCELLATION OF AMALGAMATION STUDY

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 16, 2020 recommending:

- That Saanich Council write to the City of Victoria and the Province of British Columbia informing them that Saanich is ceasing any further action on the non-binding joint Citizens' Assembly with the City of Victoria until further notice;
- That the budget of \$250,000 originally set aside by Saanich for the Citizens' Assembly will now be applied to address other financial issues within the Saanich budget in light of uncertainty under the COVID-19 pandemic situation; and
- That, Council direct staff to remove the Citizens' Assembly and consideration of amalgamation with Victoria from the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan until further notice.

MOVED by Councillor Brice and Seconded by Councillor Brownoff: "That Saanich Council write to the City of Victoria and the Province of British Columbia informing them that Saanich is ceasing any further action on the non-binding joint Citizens' Assembly with the City of Victoria until further notice."

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The existing timelines for meetings of the Citizens' Assembly are not being met due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- It was the intent of the letters to let residents and the City of Victoria know that work on the Citizens' Assembly would be paused until it is safe to include the public in meetings.
- Discussions with the City of Victoria would take place after Saanich Council provides direction on how they wish to proceed.
- Discussions could continue on what could be done in the short term.
- It is unnecessary to send a letter when it is obvious that the project will be paused due to the current situation.
- It may be appropriate to have a discussion with the City of Victoria informally rather than through a letter.

MOVED by Mayor Haynes and Seconded by Councillor Chambers: "That the item, District of Saanich Cancellation of Amalgamation Study, be tabled."

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- If the motion is tabled, further information could be provided on how to proceed.
- The motion to table is not supportable as the majority of Council does not wish to proceed with pausing further action on the Citizens' Assembly.

**The Motion to Table was DEFEATED
with Mayor Haynes and Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Chambers, de Vries,
Harper, Mersereau, Plant and Taylor OPPOSED**

**The Main Motion was DEFEATED
with Mayor Haynes and Councillors Brice, Brownoff, de Vries, Harper,
Mersereau, Plant and Taylor OPPOSED**

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor de Vries: “That Saanich staff meet with City of Victoria staff to discuss options on how the Citizens’ Assembly might proceed and to report back to Saanich Council at a future meeting.”

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- It is appropriate for Saanich staff to have discussions with City of Victoria staff on how to move forward.
- Staff can explore options on moving forward when it is safe to do so.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED