



CITY OF VANCOUVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2005

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of hearing speakers on motions regarding the Burrard Bridge and the Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan and Financial Plan and Strategy.

PRESENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan
 Councillor Suzanne Anton
 Councillor Elizabeth Ball
 Councillor Kim Capri
 Councillor George Chow
 Councillor Heather Deal
 Councillor Peter Ladner
 Councillor B.C. Lee
 Councillor Raymond Louie
 Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor David Cadman (Leave of Absence)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Syd Baxter, City Clerk
 Laura Kazakoff, Meeting Coordinator
 Tarja Tuominen, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
 SECONDED by Councillor Anton

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Sullivan in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Burrard Bridge (File 5752-3)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on December 15, 2005, referred the following motion to a Special Council Meeting on December 20, 2005:

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Anton

WHEREAS:

1. Council had previously directed staff to pursue two options for improving cycling and pedestrian facilities on the Burrard Bridge; and,
2. Staff are currently expending significant resources on advancing both these options; and,
3. The Mayor, in his inaugural address, recommended fast-tracking the introduction of new cycling lanes that will help to facilitate cyclists and pedestrians crossing False Creek.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the trial closure of travel lanes on the Burrard Bridge not be pursued further.
2. THAT the design of the sidewalk widening be advanced to the final design stage, and staff report back as soon as possible on a recommended consultant team for undertaking the final design of outward widening of the Burrard Bridge sidewalk with and without "pinch points".

referred

The Mayor noted there were a number of people wishing to address Council on this matter and advised that Council would hold all questions until after the speakers list had been completed.

Councillor Louie rose on a point of order regarding the process stated by the Mayor whereby questions to speakers would be held until all speakers had been heard.

The Mayor ruled that all questions of speakers and staff would be held until the completion of the speakers list. Councillor Louie challenged the ruling of the Chair.

The Mayor then put the question:

Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?

(Councillors Chow, Deal, Louie and Stevenson opposed)

A two-thirds majority is required to overrule the decision of the Chair. Therefore the Mayor's decision was SUSTAINED.

The following people spoke in opposition to the motion and in support of the previously approved trial travel lanes re-allocation for bicycle lanes on the bridge-deck:

Richard Campbell, Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
Bonnie Fenton, Past Chair, Bicycle Advisory Committee (materials/brief filed)
Ron Van der Eerden
Ned Jacobs
Paul Bogaert, Bike Doctor Bicycle Shop
Justin Berger
Mary Sherlock
Leah Whitehead
Kari Hewett (brief filed)
Miriam Stuart
Marilyn Pollard
Amy Walker
Tim Blair
Brent Granby
Tannis Braithwaite
John Whistler, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation
Derek de Biasio
Sarah Albertson
Gwendal Castellan
Deming Smith
Amanda Dowling
Am Johal
Eric Doherty
Richard Keate, Past Chair, Vancouver Heritage Commission (brief filed)
Anne Roberts
Fred Bass (materials filed)
Russell Adams
John Wright
John Irwin (overhead presentation)
Rob Weiden, President, West End Residents Association
Richard Seigenthaler (overhead presentation)
Polly Ng

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers include the following:

- meeting City's stated goal to reduce greenhouse gasses emissions by 30% will require a concerted effort; allocating travel lanes on the bridge can be the most important decision Council can ever make and be a catalyst which can help transform Vancouver and the world;
- traffic gridlock predicted as a result of Cambie Street closures for RAV construction have not materialized due to measures implemented by City staff; staff's demonstrated capabilities to effectively implement lane closures could also be applied to the Burrard Bridge bike lanes trial, with similar results;
- City's engineers have never done modeling to show what would happen with the closure of a major arterial, or properly studied the results of such closures;
- the concerns of people who care about tranquility of residential areas, quality of life, quality mass transit, mobility of children and non-car-owners, single car families, and

consequences of climate change are in sync with the concerns of cyclists, and their battles are the same;

- downtown bridges are a major barrier to cyclists, especially new and inexperienced riders;
- a wider shared-use sidewalk on the bridge will still be dangerous; cyclists will still need to negotiate the curb drop to the street and integration back into motorized traffic at both ends of the bridge, as well as the “pinch-points” at the towers;
- cyclists are not able to travel at normal speed whenever the space is shared with pedestrians;
- the bike lane trial would be an investment in and commitment to the City’s own policies and its commitment to the Kyoto protocol;
- a truly sustainable community must have a balanced transportation system;
- lane re-allocation is no more about punishing motorists as no-smoking by-laws are punitive to smokers;
- in order to seriously deal with air pollution and greenhouse gasses emissions we not only need to encourage cycling, but must also discourage driving;
- several speakers expressed concern with regard to the process whereby this motion is being considered, citing insufficient public notice and inadequate time to provide input given the pending holiday season;
- the bike lane trial must at least be given a chance to succeed;
- cyclists’ needs are not accommodated properly in this city;
- all the changes to infrastructure in this city are made with the car in mind;
- encourage Council to try something (bike lane trial) that has less impact on the environment, is less expensive, and provides a healthier alternative for people;
- bicycles belong on the road, not on the sidewalk; the Burrard Bridge is the only place in the city where cyclists are forced to ride on the sidewalk;
- money saved by implementing lane re-allocation for bicycles, rather than bridge widening, could be used to complete the city’s bicycle network;
- Council has a unique opportunity today to save money and do the right thing by simply doing nothing; do not pass this motion - allow the bike lane trial to proceed;
- several cities, such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam, are recognized as great cycling cities and experience huge levels of tourism as a result;
- urge Council to defer widening of bridge until all the options have been explored, including looking at other bridges;
- conditions such as diabetes and obesity are on the rise due to the substitution of the automobile for the walking and cycling done by past cultures;
- today on the bridge, at least 70% of cars are carrying a lone occupant;
- the expense of widening the bridge will bring very low returns for a very high investment.

Susan Boissoneault, Vice-President, Heritage Vancouver, spoke in opposition to the motion and urged Council to explore alternatives to sidewalk widening, noting it would result in a gross, irreversible disfigurement to the appearance and proportions of this significant Heritage A-listed structure, which is recognized world-wide as a heritage treasure.

Charles Gauthier, Executive Director, Downtown Business Improvement Association (brief filed), spoke in support of the motion, noting that, according to City documents, allocation of two traffic lanes on the bridge to cyclists would increase traffic congestion, negatively impact transit users, traffic circulation, and the flow of goods movement through the downtown

area, and would also be contrary to the Downtown Transportation Plan's stated intentions as it pertains to bicycle lanes.

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Following the hearing of the foregoing speakers, Council recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m. with the same members present.

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During Council's questioning of speakers, Jerry Dobrovlny, Assistant City Engineer, Transportation, Larry Beasley, Director of Current Planning, and David Rawsthorne, Engineer, Neighbourhood Transportation, also responded to questions on issues raised by the foregoing speakers.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT Council postpone consideration of the Burrard Bridge matter to January 17, 2006.

Withdrawn

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT Resolve 2 of the motion on Burrard Bridge be amended by inserting the following after the words "final design stage,":

"after there has been full public consultation including a Special Council meeting (with all partners including Translink), and including systematic surveys,"

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and the Mayor opposed)

Council requested to separate the resolves in the Motion for the vote.

1. THAT the trial closure of travel lanes on the Burrard Bridge not be pursued further.

CARRIED

(Councillors Chow, Deal, Louie and Stevenson opposed)

2. THAT the design of the sidewalk widening be advanced to the final design stage, and staff report back as soon as possible on a recommended consultant team for undertaking the final design of outward widening of the Burrard Bridge sidewalk with and without "pinch points".

CARRIED

(Councillor Chow opposed)

MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS:

1. Council had previously directed staff to pursue two options for improving cycling and pedestrian facilities on the Burrard Bridge; and,
2. Staff are currently expending significant resources on advancing both these options; and,
3. The Mayor, in his inaugural address, recommended fast-tracking the introduction of new cycling lanes that will help to facilitate cyclists and pedestrians crossing False Creek.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the trial closure of travel lanes on the Burrard Bridge not be pursued further.
 2. THAT the design of the sidewalk widening be advanced to the final design stage, and staff report back as soon as possible on a recommended consultant team for undertaking the final design of outward widening of the Burrard Bridge sidewalk with and without "pinch points".
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2. **Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan and Financial Plan and Strategy (File 8206)**

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on December 15, 2005, referred the following motion to a Special Council Meeting on December 20, 2005:

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Ladner

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council consider changes to the Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan and Financial Plan and Strategy to improve the economic sustainability of the development by having the Property Endowment Fund recover the land value of the site (estimated at \$50,000,000) over the anticipated 15 year build out by adjusting the housing mix and other public amenities, with minimal impact on the other aspects of the development and with no adverse impact on the delivery of the Olympic Village for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games;
- B. THAT City staff report back at the first Community Services and Budget Committee meeting in January, 2006 recommending one or more options to implement the improvements and objectives outlined in Resolution A above; and

- C. THAT the Project Manager for the Southeast False Creek/Olympic Village Project Office be instructed to issue an Addendum to the Request for Proposals for the development of Southeast False Creek advising the participating Short-listed Respondents of Council's adoption of Resolutions A and B above.

referred

Councillor Deal requested a memorandum on the procedure for questions of delegations and staff at Council meetings.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

THAT the process whereby questions to speakers would be held until all speakers had been heard be changed to allow speakers to answer questions immediately following their presentation.

CARRIED
(Councillors Ball and Lee and the Mayor opposed)

The following people expressed concerns in regard to the motion:

Bill Taylor, False Creek Community Centre
John Irwin, Southeast False Creek Working Group
Bob Laurie, Southeast False Creek Stewardship Group
Margaret Birrell, BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
Representative for Community and Residents Mentors Association (CARMA)
Craig Langston, Past Member, Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
Mira Oreck, Canadian Jewish Congress
Richard Campbell
John Young, ACORN Canada
Maria Dobrinskaya, Constituency Assistant to Gregor Robertson, MLA,
Vancouver Fairview (brief filed)
Sean McEwen
Kari Hewett

Comments provided by the foregoing speakers included the following:

- Increasing the number of high rises is not an answer to the development of South East False Creek; already much consultation has taken place, with a strong 70 to 80% consensus of support for the present plan;
- Strong support for the Parks Board option in the present plan to serve a planned population in South East False Creek of 12 to 14 thousand;
- Changes to the South East False Creek Official Development Plan might put 2010 at risk;
- Concern about the proposed 80/20 mix; support for the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 mix;
- Important to do a full cost accounting financial review;
- Concerned no economic sustainability attached to the ODP;

- Consensus from the Southeast False Creek Stewardship Group is that the form of development is very appropriate for the site;
- The development as approved was to be a model; what is the motivation for the motion;
- Urge Council to follow through with the South East False Creek ODP as approved; concern expressed regarding potential loss of social housing units with this motion;
- The development has the potential to be a showcase for the world; encourage Council to continue with the vision;
- The City is experiencing an affordable housing crisis; South East False Creek is the last area where affordable housing can be built;
- a lot of money in this project is being allocated towards roads and car access/parking; suggest staff be directed to look at ways to make up financial deficits by exploring options for allocation of auto parking and access which would require less space on the site and also improve conditions for cycling routes;
- urge Council to strive to achieve the objectives of sustainability and provide a real mix of housing;
- this has been a visionary project which has put Vancouver on the map as a progressive city; to change the plan now will be of concern to many people, who may not be represented at this meeting today due to the timing of this motion;
- funding support from senior levels of government will be required regardless of what percentage of non-market housing is approved; recommend Council be advocates to senior governments in that respect;
- the inner city should not be available only to the very wealthy;
- Vancouver real estate market is very strong; feel this motion is premature and Council should keep to the current course.

Colleen Nystedt spoke in support of the motion, noting that comparison of this development to South False Creek with its large component of co-op and non-market housing is inappropriate because South False Creek was developed with funding from the Federal Government. She provided an overview of the history of the Property Endowment Fund and noted it was never intended the principal be eroded but that it be in place to provide a source of income for the City and it is crucial that it be there for the future and not whittled down for today's purposes.

During the hearing of the foregoing speakers, Larry Beasley, Director of Current Planning, Ken Bayne, Director of Financial Planning and Treasury, Jody Andrews, Project Manager, Southeast False Creek and Olympic Village, Judy Rogers, City Manager, Cameron Gray, Director, Housing Centre, and Rick Scobie, Co-Director of Development Services - Policy and Regulations, responded to questions regarding the Property Endowment Fund, funding sources for social housing, and the dollar value difference between an 80/20 percent mix and a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 mix of housing on the development site.

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Prior to a decision on this matter, Council recessed at 6:00 p.m.
and reconvened at 6:15 p.m. with the same members present.

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POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT Resolution C of the motion be postponed pending a report back from staff regarding what adjustments are to be made to the plan.

withdrawn

Mr. Andrews and Trish French, Assistant Director of Current Planning, responded to questions concerning the rationale for the need of an Addendum to the Request for Proposals at this time, should Resolution A and B be approved this day.

Councillor Louie requested his postponement motion be withdrawn.

Councillor Louie requested staff provide a report back on the Request for Proposals process.

MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council consider changes to the Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan and Financial Plan and Strategy to improve the economic sustainability of the development by having the Property Endowment Fund recover the land value of the site (estimated at \$50,000,000) over the anticipated 15 year build out by adjusting the housing mix and other public amenities, with minimal impact on the other aspects of the development and with no adverse impact on the delivery of the Olympic Village for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games;
- B. THAT City staff report back at the first City Services and Budgets Committee meeting in January, 2006 recommending one or more options to implement the improvements and objectives outlined in Resolution A above; and
- C. THAT the Project Manager for the Southeast False Creek/Olympic Village Project Office be instructed to issue an Addendum to the Request for Proposals for the development of Southeast False Creek advising the participating Short-listed Respondents of Council's adoption of Resolutions A and B above.

CARRIED

(Councillors Chow, Deal, Louie and Stevenson opposed)

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council was recessed at 12:30 p.m.,
recessed at 6:00 p.m., and
adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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