

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 3, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 9:39 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, * Vice-Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson, * Acting Chair
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Andrea Reimer

ABSENT: Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

1. **Property Tax Exemptions - 2010**
February 17, 2011

Financial Policy and Projects staff responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the 2010 Property Tax Exemptions Report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Meggs absent for the vote)

2. 2011 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging
February 21, 2011

Financial Policy and Projects staff provided an overview of the report and responded to questions.

* * * * *

During the overview of the report, Councillor Meggs arrived and assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

* * * * *

The Committee heard from three speakers, one who was in general support of the recommendations but also expressed concerns and two who were opposed to the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2011 for the purpose of calculating property taxes for Residential (Class 1) properties.
- B. THAT Council approve the continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2011 for the purpose of calculating property taxes for Light Industrial (Class 5) and Business & Other (Class 6) properties.
- C. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to prepare a by-law authorizing the use of three-year land assessment averaging that reflects Council's decision on A and B above, and bring it forward to Council for consideration on March 15, 2011.
- D. THAT, subject to adoption of the by-law on March 15, 2011, Council instruct the Director of Finance to make appropriate arrangements with BC Assessment for the production of the 2011 Average Assessment Roll at an estimated cost of \$22,000; source of funds to be the 2011 Operating Budget.
- E. THAT Council request staff to report back on the number of properties year over year which exceed the \$1 million assessed value and therefore are not able to receive the provincial home owners grant and what other municipalities may have similar circumstances and be interested in approaching the Provincial government to modify the threshold for the valuation for home owner grants.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

* * * * *

The Committee agreed to recess at 11:06 am and reconvened at 11:15 am, with the same members present, except for Mayor Robertson.

* * * * *

**3. Code of Conduct, Human Rights and Harassment Policy, and Respectful Workplace Policy
February 16, 2011**

The General Manager of Human Resource Services and the Deputy City Clerk responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the proposed amendments to the City's Code of Conduct as detailed in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated February 16, 2011, entitled "Code of Conduct, Human Rights and Harassment Policy, and Respectful Workplace Policy".
- B. THAT Council give final approval to the Human Rights and Harassment Policy (approved in principle January 21, 2010) attached as Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated February 16, 2011, entitled "Code of Conduct, Human Rights and Harassment Policy, and Respectful Workplace Policy", and refer it to the following organizations, encouraging them to adopt this policy, or a policy comparable in spirit and intent, and inform Council within a period of six months:
 - Britannia Community Services Society;
 - Ray-Cam Cooperative Association;
 - Vancouver Public Library Board;
 - Vancouver Police Board;
 - The Hastings Institute;
 - Harbour Park Development Ltd.;
 - EasyPark;
 - Vancouver Civic Development Corp.;
 - City of Vancouver Public Housing Corporation;
 - The Pacific National Exhibition;
 - Vancouver Art Gallery Society;
 - Vancouver Museum;
 - HR MacMillan Space Centre, and
 - Vancouver Maritime Museum.

- C. THAT Council approve the proposed Respectful Workplace Policy attached to this report as Appendix C of the Administrative Report dated February 16, 2011, entitled "Code of Conduct, Human Rights and Harassment Policy, and Respectful Workplace Policy".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**4. Taxi Company Applications for Temporary Operating Permits
March 1, 2011**

The Assistant Director of Licences and Inspections responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who supported the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Chow
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council advise the Passenger Transportation Board that, in regard to the applications to the Board by the four Vancouver Taxi companies for 65 Temporary Operating Permits restricted to Friday and Saturday evenings, the City is in the process of a comprehensive review at the Taxi Roundtable of initiatives to address the issues of improving service to the public and, with this process incomplete, the City cannot provide a formal position at this time, but is not opposed to the issuing of the permits on a 6-month pilot basis.
- B. THAT Council request that the Passenger Transportation Board require an appropriate metric based evaluation of the pilot to inform future initiatives to improve service to the public.
- C. THAT Council request staff to report back on the details of any pending applications for increased taxi service before the Passenger Transportation Board along with recommendations for consideration by Council after consultation with the Taxi Roundtable and that such matters be reviewed in the context of emerging strategies to improve taxi services throughout the city that are supportive of the established taxi operations licensed by the City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 12:04 pm

* * * * *



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 3, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 12:04 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer

ABSENT: Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth (Sick Leave)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Bonnie Kennett, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
March 3, 2011

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets. Its items of business included:

1. Property Tax Exemptions - 2010
2. 2011 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging
3. Code of Conduct, Human Rights and Harassment Policy, and Respectful Workplace Policy
4. Taxi Company Applications for Temporary Operating Permits - Report

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of March 3, 2011, as contained in items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 12:05 pm

* * * * *