

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES



FEBRUARY 28, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 1:42 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Heather Deal, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs*
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Tony Tang

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

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The Committee recessed at 1:43 pm, in order to reconvene in Regular Council to deal with a referral motion. The Committee reconvened at 1:46 pm, all members present.

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PROCLAMATION - "BULLYING STOPS HERE - PINK SHIRT DAY"

The Mayor proclaimed Wednesday, February 29, 2012, as "Bullying Stops Here - Pink Shirt Day" in the city of Vancouver and invited the following to the podium to receive the proclamation and say a few words:

Trustee Patti Bacchus, Chairperson, Vancouver Board of Education
Dave Teixeira, Co-Founder, Pink Shirt Anti-Bully Day Campaign
Jen Schaeffers, Executive Director, CKNW Orphans' Fund
Carolyn Tuckwell, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of South Coast BC

AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Property Tax Exemptions - 2011
February 15, 2012**

The Committee received the Administrative Report dated February 15, 2012, entitled "Property Tax Exemptions - 2011", for information.

**2. 2012 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging
February 17, 2012**

Grace Cheng, Manager, Financial Policy and Projects, gave a presentation on land assessment averaging taxation policy, and, along with Patrice Impey, General Manager, Financial Services Group/Chief Financial Officer, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers, all of whom spoke in opposition to land assessment averaging.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the continuous application of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2012 for the purpose of calculating property taxes for Residential (Class 1), Light Industrial (Class 5), and Business & Other (Class 6) properties.
- B. 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 above, and bring it forward to Council for consideration on March 27, 2012.
- C. THAT, subject to adoption of the by-law on March 27, 2012, Council instruct the Director of Finance to make appropriate arrangements with BC Assessment for the production of the 2012 Average Assessment Roll at an estimated cost of \$24,000; source of funding to be 2012 Operating Budget.
- D. THAT staff report back to Council prior to consideration of the 2013 budget on ideas raised by speakers at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 28, 2012, and how to achieve a fairer property tax system recognizing the current challenges.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Meggs absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 3:33 pm.

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 3:33 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Tony Tang

ABSENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
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 Finance and Services
February 28, 2012

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

1. Property Tax Exemptions - 2011
2. 2012 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging

Items 1 and 2

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of Tuesday, February 28, 2012, as contained in Items 1 and 2, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson

SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 3:34 pm.

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