

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



MARCH 5, 2012

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Monday, March 5, 2012, at 7:40 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of considering the 2012 Operating Budget - Final Estimates.

**PRESENT:**

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

**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

**1. 2012 Operating Budget - Final Estimates**

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on February 28, 2012, received a Report Reference on the proposed 2012 Operating Budget and Public Consultation Update, and postponed discussion and decision until after hearing from members of the public at a Special Council meeting on February 29, 2012.

Subsequently, having heard from members of the public at the Special Council meeting held February 29, 2012, Vancouver City Council approved "in principle" the proposed 2012 Operating Budget.

Accordingly on March 5, 2012, Patrice Impey, General Manager, Financial Services Group, submitted the 2012 Operating Budget - Final Estimates, and, along with Penny Ballem, City Manager, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Louie

- A. THAT Council approve the following budget resolution, thereby adopting the final 2012 Operating Budget with a general purpose property tax levy increase of 2.5%:

THAT WHEREAS, the Vancouver Charter, Section 219 requires that the Director of Finance submit to Council each year the detailed estimates of revenues and expenditures of the City for the year;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Charter, Section 372 requires that Council adopt the estimates of revenues and expenditures for the City as soon thereafter as possible;

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed the development of the estimates in reports submitted by the Director of Finance on December 15, 2011 and February 28, 2012 and approved measures to bring the estimates into balance, including approval of a general purposes property tax increase;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated gross expenditures of the City to pay all debts and obligations of the City falling due in the year 2012, exclusive of the amounts required for school, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, British Columbia Assessment Authority and Municipal Finance Authority purposes and not otherwise provide for, as amended by Council, amount to \$1,125,293,000;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated expenditures as aforesaid is the sum of the appropriation requests of all departments and boards properly supported by detailed analysis of those expenditures and listings of the salaried staff;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated revenue of the City for 2012 from sources other than real property taxes, as amended by Council, amounts to \$526,758,500;

AND WHEREAS the amount of the General Purposes Tax Levy so required is \$598,534,500;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the said estimates, both as to totals and individual items pertaining thereto, of the Director of Finance as so amended by Council be and the same are hereby adopted by Council.

- B. THAT Council approve the 2012 Grants budget of \$16.4 million, held to 2011 levels.
- C. THAT Council approve the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation Global Budget of \$55,935,900, comprised of \$103,808,800 expenditures and \$47,872,900 revenues.

- D. THAT, as part of the Operating Budget, Council approve the creation of a \$2 million Innovation Fund that would be used to leverage additional monies from external funding sources (e.g. other orders of government, not for profit organizations, private sector, universities and foundations). Staff will report back with Innovation Fund use criteria by mid-April 2012, including matching requirements, alignment with Council Agenda, requirements regarding other funders, size of contribution, programs or projects which can be funded on a one-time basis and evaluation criteria to ensure the success of the program is tracked.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back, in advance of or concurrent to the initiation of the 2013 Budget process, on best practices in Canadian cities for budget process in relation to both robust public consultation and ensuring Council members are adequately equipped to discharge their fiduciary responsibilities.
- F. THAT staff provide a memo to Council prior to the initiation of the 2013 Operating Budget process on both the staffing levels of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS) and emergency call outs of VFRS annually over the past decade.

carried

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council refer the 2012 Operating Budget - Final Estimates to a date prior to April 30, 2012, and until such time as staff provide to Mayor and Council detailed line-by-line estimates for the proposed 2012 Operating Budget and line-by-line details itemizing how the savings were made to make up the \$52 million gap and bring the budget into balance.

LOST

(Councillors Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson, Tang and Mayor Robertson opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council increase the operating budget by \$470,000: \$200,000 to the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service to increase the number of firefighters able to be deployed to respond to the increasing number of emergency calls and \$270,000 to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to ensure lifeguard services, cut in initial cost-saving measures, can be maintained at 2011 levels without other service cuts, and that the general purpose property tax levy be slightly increased to accommodate this increase.

LOST

(Councillors Affleck, Ball, Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson, Tang and Mayor Robertson opposed)

## FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

Council agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion and to consider D first, which resulted in an adjustment to the general purpose property tax levy increase in A from "2.5%" to "2.84%". Therefore, the following motion contains amendments to A, which were accepted by Council.

For clarity, the components of the motion are minuted in alphabetical order.

- A. THAT Council approve the following budget resolution, thereby adopting the final 2012 Operating Budget with a general purpose property tax levy increase of 2.84%:

THAT WHEREAS, the Vancouver Charter, Section 219 requires that the Director of Finance submit to Council each year the detailed estimates of revenues and expenditures of the City for the year;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Charter, Section 372 requires that Council adopt the estimates of revenues and expenditures for the City as soon thereafter as possible;

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed the development of the estimates in reports submitted by the Director of Finance on December 15, 2011 and February 28, 2012 and approved measures to bring the estimates into balance, including approval of a general purposes property tax increase;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated gross expenditures of the City to pay all debts and obligations of the City falling due in the year 2012, exclusive of the amounts required for school, Greater Vancouver Regional District, Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, British Columbia Assessment Authority and Municipal Finance Authority purposes and not otherwise provide for, as amended by Council, amount to \$1,127,293,000;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated expenditures as aforesaid is the sum of the appropriation requests of all departments and boards properly supported by detailed analysis of those expenditures and listings of the salaried staff;

AND WHEREAS the total estimated revenue of the City for 2012 from sources other than real property taxes, as amended by Council, amounts to \$526,758,500;

AND WHEREAS the amount of the General Purposes Tax Levy so required is \$600,534,500;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the said estimates, both as to totals and individual items pertaining thereto, of the Director of Finance as so amended by Council be and the same are hereby adopted by Council.

- B. THAT Council approve the 2012 Grants budget of \$16.4 million, held to 2011 levels.
- C. THAT Council approve the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation Global Budget of \$55,935,900, comprised of \$103,808,800 expenditures and \$47,872,900 revenues.
- D. THAT, as part of the Operating Budget, Council approve the creation of a \$2 million Innovation Fund that would be used to leverage additional monies from external funding sources (e.g. other orders of government, not for profit organizations, private sector, universities and foundations). Staff will report back with Innovation Fund use criteria by mid-April 2012, including matching requirements, alignment with Council Agenda, requirements regarding other funders, size of contribution, programs or projects which can be funded on a one-time basis and evaluation criteria to ensure the success of the program is tracked.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back, in advance of or concurrent to the initiation of the 2013 Budget process, on best practices in Canadian cities for budget process in relation to both robust public consultation and ensuring council members are adequately equipped to discharge their fiduciary responsibilities.
- F. THAT staff provide a memo to Council prior to the initiation of the 2013 Operating Budget process on both the staffing levels of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS) and emergency call outs of VFRS annually over the past decade.

CARRIED

(Councillors Affleck, Ball and Carr opposed to A, B, C and D)

#### 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 Special Council adjourned at 9:19 pm.

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