



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 9:36 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, Chair
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson*, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT items 2 and 3 be adopted on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the order of the agenda be varied to deal with item 6 first.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Note: For clarity, the agenda items are minuted in chronological order.

6. Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Related Business Development Permit Applications

At the Regular Council meeting on February 2, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred the above-noted Motion on Notice to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 3, 2016, to hear from speakers. Prior to hearing from speakers, the Chair advised that Parts A and B of the motion were not in order because the City does not have the authority to take action.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the motion and one who expressed opposition to the regulation of medical marijuana-related retail in the city of Vancouver without senior government legislation in place.

The following motion reflects changes to the original Motion on Notice in that Parts A and B were removed having been ruled out of order by the Chair.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On June 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council approved amendments to the City's Zoning and Development By-law pertaining to Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-related Uses - with new rules to regulate and control medical marijuana retail businesses in the City of Vancouver;
2. The Government of Canada's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) currently prohibits possession, trafficking, import and export, and production of controlled substances, including marijuana, unless authorized by regulations;
3. The Government of Canada's Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) came into force in June 2013 to meet the requirement of the courts to provide Canadians who require marijuana for medical purposes with reasonable access to a legal source of dried marijuana;
4. Neither the Government of Canada's Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR) nor any other Health Canada regulations currently authorize licensed producers to provide marijuana for medical purposes through a storefront;
5. To operate a medical marijuana-related retail business or compassion club in the City of Vancouver, a development permit and business licence are required;
6. Under the City of Vancouver's amended zoning By-law, the City of Vancouver has deemed 12 applications for medical marijuana-related businesses eligible to move forward with a development permit review, with an additional 30 (thirty) applications that meet zoning requirements (except for the minimum distancing from other medical marijuana-related retail use applicants), some of which could also soon proceed to the permits and licencing process phase;

7. In accordance with the City of Vancouver By-law, the majority of development permit applications for existing medical marijuana-related retail businesses have been refused due to the fact that they do not comply with the City's Zoning and Development By-law requirements and the operators have been informed that they must close by the end of April 2016 or face enforcement actions by the City, ranging from ticketing to injunctions and prosecution;
8. On December 4, 2015, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, opened the First Session of the Forty-second Parliament of Canada and conveyed, in the Speech from the Throne, that the Government of Canada will introduce legislation to legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana;
9. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's November 2015 Mandate Letter to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, directs the Minister to work with the Ministers of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Health to create a federal-provincial-territorial process that will lead to the legalization and regulation of marijuana;
10. The intent of the Government of Canada is to create a new regulatory framework that will remove marijuana consumption and incidental possession from the Criminal Code and create new, stronger laws to punish more severely those who provide marijuana to minors, those who operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana, and those who sell marijuana outside of the proposed new regulatory framework;
11. The intent of the Government of Canada is to create a federal/provincial/territorial task force to design a new system of strict marijuana sales and distribution, with appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes applied, and with input from experts in public health, substance abuse, and law enforcement;
12. In January 2016, it was announced that MP Bill Blair, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, will be the Government of Canada's point person on the legalization and regulation of marijuana;
13. Neither the outcome of the Government on Canada's upcoming process to legalize and regulate marijuana nor the form of any new regulatory framework are known at this time, and the eventual status, as well as the current legality, of storefront medical marijuana-related businesses remains unclear.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Mayor Robertson to write to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, requesting that the City of Vancouver be granted formal status in the federal-provincial-territorial process that will lead to the legalization and regulation of marijuana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to engage with staff in other B.C. municipalities where storefront medical marijuana dispensaries have attempted to set up shop, as well as with staff in jurisdictions such as the states of Colorado and Washington, to gain from their firsthand experience with marijuana related businesses and any pitfalls they have encountered.

lost

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the first resolved be amended to strike the words “granted formal status” and insert the word “consulted” after the words “Vancouver be”.

CARRIED

(Councillors Deal, Jang, Meggs and Stevenson opposed)

The amendment having carried, the main motion as amended was put and LOST with Councillors Deal, Jang, Meggs, Reimer and Stevenson opposed.

1. 2016 Assessment Roll

Jason Grant, Regional Assessor, and Christina Randle, Deputy Assessor, both from BC Assessment, presented the 2016 Assessment Roll and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who expressed concerns with BC Assessment’s property taxation policy on small businesses and stressed the need for changes to the assessment roll to address unreasonable property tax increases prior to the Property Assessment Review Panel’s deadline of March 15, 2016.

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The Committee recessed at 11:55 am, and reconvened at 2:05 pm.

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2. Contract Award for Design, Supply, Install, Configure and Maintain Vehicle GPS & Telematics Solution November 27, 2015

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the City’s General Manager of Engineering Services, City’s Director of Legal Services, and the City’s Chief Purchasing Official and enter into a contract with Northern Business Intelligence, to Design, Supply, Install, Configure and Maintain a Vehicle GPS & Telematics Solution, for a term of five (5) years, with the option to extend for two (2) additional one (1) year terms, with an estimated contract value of \$3,099,540, plus applicable taxes, over the five-year term.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services, Chief Purchasing Official and General Manager of Engineering Services be authorized to execute on behalf of the City the contract contemplated by A above.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**3. 452 SW Marine Drive - Cineplex Entertainment Limited Partnership
Liquor Primary Licence Application
Liquor Establishment Class 5 - Cineplex VIP - Movie Theatre
December 7, 2015**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council, having considered the opinion of local area residents and business operators as determined by neighbourhood notifications, site signs, noise impacts and relevant Council policy as outlined in the Administrative Report dated December 7, 2015, entitled "452 SW Marine Drive - Cineplex Entertainment Limited Partnership - Liquor Primary Licence Application - Liquor Establishment Class 5 - Cineplex VIP - Movie Theatre", endorse the request by Cineplex Entertainment Limited Partnership (Cineplex VIP) for a 556 person Liquor Primary liquor licence (Liquor Establishment Class 5 - Movie Theatre) at 452 SW Marine Drive subject to:

- i. A maximum combined capacity of 556 persons (includes lobby lounge, patio and three auditoriums);
- ii. Hours of operation limited to 10 am to 1 am, seven days a week;
- iii. Liquor service is limited to one hour prior to, during and one hour after a film or broadcast;
- iv. Liquor to be served in conjunction with ticketed films or broadcasts;
- v. A Time-limited Development Permit;
- vi. Minors will not be permitted in the VIP theatres; and
- vii. Signing a Good Neighbour Agreement with the City prior to business licence issuance.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**4. East False Creek Stewardship Group - Terms of Reference and Recommended Process
December 15, 2015**

The Committee heard from two speakers. One spoke in support of the recommendations and stressed the need to include representatives from the arts, culture, culinary and small business communities on the stewardship group. The other speaker expressed concern with the lack of consultation regarding the new stewardship group and requested all stakeholders, including the former joint working group, be involved in all future consultation.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council adopt the terms of reference outlined in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated December 15, 2015, entitled “East False Creek Stewardship Group - Terms of Reference and Recommended Process”, for the Northeast False Creek Stewardship Group.
- B. THAT Council approve the process for soliciting and appointing members of the Northeast False Creek Stewardship Group.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Stevenson on Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

5. New Tools Needed to Make Housing More Affordable

At the Regular Council meeting on February 2, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 3, 2016, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion who suggested Council ask the provincial government to implement a municipal land transfer tax like the City of Toronto.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. In 2015, according to Sotheby’s International Realty Canada, the greatest increase in sales for Vancouver homes were those valued at more than \$4 million, with an increase of 67%;
2. A 2015 study by Vancity Credit Union found that Metro Vancouver housing costs increased by 63% from 2001 to 2014, a region-wide trend that is likely to trigger future labour shortages;
3. The high cost of housing makes it more difficult for local businesses to retain or recruit talent, especially in sectors such as the tech industry;
4. Other jurisdictions have tools that target demand at the high end of the housing market without impacting the equity of the majority of homeowners;
5. There have been recent proposals from researchers at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University for new provincial tools to reduce housing speculation;
6. Vancouver is a global city that attracts people and investment from around the world, yet there is limited data collected on the specific impact that global investment has on Vancouver’s housing prices;

7. The City of Vancouver lacks the legal authority to create new taxation categories or tools; and the Mayor has highlighted the urgent need for the provincial government to examine and implement new tools to better manage Vancouver's housing market, including by writing to the Premier.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council support the Mayor's call for the Provincial Government to:

1. Consider measures to discourage the quick resale of new housing, to reduce speculation and help level the playing field for first-time buyers;
2. Increase the property transfer tax on the sale of the most expensive properties, with the proceeds invested back into affordable housing;
3. Accurately track information on housing purchases, both foreign and domestic;
4. Provide municipalities with the ability to track property occupancy and reduce excessive vacancies.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Ball

THAT the motion "New Tools Needed to Make Housing More Affordable" be referred to staff for further analysis of the points proposed by the Mayor and on the potential for a municipal land transfer tax, and report back to Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Stevenson on Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

**7. Enhanced Solid Waste Management and Diversion By-law Authority
January 8, 2016**

At the Regular Council meeting on February 2, 2016, Council received a presentation on Enhanced Solid Waste Management and Diversion By-law Authority and referred the matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on February 3, 2016, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from two speakers in support who also suggested further improvements to education, warning and enforcement.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment amendments to the Solid Waste By-law, Ticket Offences By-law, Impounding By-law, Street and Traffic By-Law, and License By-law to improve and streamline solid waste management enforcement procedures, to enable ticketing using the Municipal Ticketing Information (MTI) system, to establish mandatory recycling of various materials included in current waste diversion programs, and other amendments substantially as set out in Appendixes A and

B of the Administrative Report dated January 8, 2016, entitled “Enhanced Solid Waste Management and Diversion By-law Authority”.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to investigate and report back on regulatory options to address distribution, use, and recycling of commonly disposed items designed for single use, including coffee cups, plastic shopping bags and expanded polystyrene fast food packaging, including exploring options to restrict or ban the use of these products.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Stevenson on Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

The Committee adjourned at 4:26 pm.

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 4:26 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: Deputy Mayor Heather Deal
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Andrea Reimer

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
February 3, 2016

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. 2016 Assessment Roll
2. Contract Award for Design, Supply, Install, Configure and Maintain Vehicle GPS & Telematics Solution
3. 452 SW Marine Drive - Cineplex Entertainment Limited Partnership - Liquor Primary Licence Application - Liquor Establishment Class 5 - Cineplex VIP - Movie Theatre
4. East False Creek Stewardship Group - Terms of Reference and Recommended Process
5. New Tools Needed to Make Housing More Affordable
6. Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Related Business Development Permit Applications
7. Enhanced Solid Waste Management and Diversion By-law Authority

Items 1 - 7

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of February 3, 2016, as contained in items 1 to 7, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 4:27 pm.

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