

These minutes will be adopted at the Regular Council meeting on March 7, 2006



REPORT TO COUNCIL
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Ladner, Chair
Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor B.C. Lee
*Councillor Raymond Louie, Vice-Chair
*Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Kim Capri (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor George Chow (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of January 19, 2006, were adopted.

RECOMMENDATION

1. **2006 Property Tax Options: Three-Year Land Averaging for Property Tax Calculations (VanRIMS No. 05-4200-10)**

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 30, 2006, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services and Director of Finance sought Council's instruction to prepare a bylaw authorizing continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program as the method for calculating property taxes for Class 01 (Residential) and Class 06 (Business and Other) in 2006.

Ken Bayne, Director of Financial Planning and Treasury, noted that approval of the recommendations does not authorize continuation of the averaging methodology in 2006 but would put in motion a process that will meet the requirements of the Vancouver Charter to advise the public that averaging is being considered by Council, of the impacts that averaging will have on sample properties in the City, and of the opportunity to make their views known prior to a Council decision to proceed. Mr. Bayne added that the bylaw will be submitted for consideration at Regular Council on March 21, 2006, and that any delegations wishing to speak on the matter will be heard at the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets on March 23, 2006.

Mr. Bayne provided a presentation, responded to questions and explained how land assessment averaging mitigates the impacts of shifts in taxation resulting from uneven assessment changes.

Bob Laurie, Co-Chair, Vancouver Fair Tax Coalition, spoke in general support of the averaging initiative but also urged Council to focus on the allocation process rather than seek an equitable smoothing over a three-year period. Mr. Laurie noted that increases based on average assessed land value over the last three years would not be sustainable by some members of the business community.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance to prepare a bylaw to authorize continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2006 for the purpose of calculating property taxes for Residential (Class 01) and Business/Other (Class 06) properties.

AND FURTHER THAT the bylaw be submitted to Council for consideration on March 23, 2006.

- B. THAT the Director of Finance be authorized to place advertisements advising the public that Council is considering enacting a land assessment averaging bylaw and inviting input at City Services & Budgets Committee on March 23, 2006.
- C. THAT, should Council approve the continuation of the land assessment averaging program on March 23, 2006, the Director of Finance be authorized to make appropriate arrangements with the BC Assessment Authority for the production of an averaged 2006 taxation roll, at an approximate cost of \$20,000; source of funding to be the 2006 Operating Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Heather Civic Marina 2006 Fees and Charges (VanRIMS No. 05-1200-42)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 13, 2006, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services and Director of Finance sought Council's approval of moorage rates and other fees and charges at the Heather Civic Marina for the period from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007.

Liz Jones, Financial Analyst, was available to respond to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the moorage rates at the Heather Civic Marina be increased by 2.8 % effective April 1, 2006 as detailed in Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated January 13, 2006 entitled "Heather Civic Marina 2006 Fees and Charges", reflecting adjustments for market conditions and for inflationary increases in anticipated expenses.
- B. THAT the electricity fees for recreational and liveaboard boaters at Heather Civic Marina be increased by 4.85% effective April 1, 2006 as detailed in Appendix B, reflecting the net increase in rates by BC Hydro in 2004-2005.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. McBride Park Traffic - Waterloo Street Closure (VanRIMS No. 12-1000-30)

At its meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Transportation and Traffic meeting on February 14, 2006, Council referred this matter to this meeting of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets.

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated January 13, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services provided a report back on the trial closure and neighbourhood survey and sought Council's approval to remove the temporary closure to vehicle traffic of Waterloo Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.

The General Manager of Engineering Services also provided Consideration Item B as an alternative to Recommendation A, should Council wish to make the trial Waterloo Street closure permanent.

Jim Hall, Neighbourhood Transportation Engineer, provided an overview of the report and rationale for removing the temporary closure. Mr. Hall also explained Consideration Item B which was provided in response to a recent request from the Park Board to permanently close Waterloo Street.

Piet Rutgers, Director of Planning and Operations, Park Board, provided an overview of the Park Board perspective and its interest in the unification of McBride Park, noting that traffic impacts would need to be addressed should closure of Waterloo Street be approved.

Messrs. Hall and Rutgers, along with Jerry Dobrovolsky, Assistant City Engineer, Transportation, responded to questions regarding the following matters:

- traffic impacts created by the closure of Waterloo Street;
- benefits of a unified McBride Park;
- survey participation and results;
- survey focus, i.e. traffic vs. park;
- survey results from previous years being consistent with this survey;
- park usage, i.e., the tennis courts and playground are mainly used by local residents and the playing field is used by teams from Vancouver and its suburbs;
- there is no record of change in park use since the closure.

The following spoke in support of removing the temporary closure of the 2000 block of Waterloo Street:

David Browne
Andrew Young
Marleen Morris (brief filed)
Maria Billion
Geoffrey Pitman (brief filed)
Judith Camozzi
Joyce Maguire
Jody Findlay
Robert Haines
Wayne Antoniak
Tessa Wilson
Lesley Laudan

Comments made by the foregoing speakers included:

- re-opening Waterloo Street would improve traffic and public safety in the neighbourhood;
- the increased traffic on neighbouring streets reduces the quality of life for residents;
- the increased traffic compromises safety near Bayview School;
- concern was expressed because the survey focused mainly on traffic issues and did not address the park usage perspective;
- concern was expressed because park users and residents north of 4th Avenue were not included in the survey;
- there was not enough public consultation; the temporary closure was implemented despite residents who clearly wanted Waterloo open; this has resulted in division within the community;

- Waterloo is the most suitable corridor because it is the widest street in the area and is the safest because of its good visibility;
- the two parks have completely different uses and should remain as two self-contained park spaces; people rarely need to cross from one park to the other;
- Waterloo should be re-opened and the matter reviewed again in five years after the impacts of the work on Broadway are known;
- the survey should have provided a third option to have nothing done;
- four-way stops should be implemented throughout the neighbourhood, especially around the schools and the park;
- in spite of the traffic light at 4th and Blenheim, there is an increase in accidents since the closure;
- the neighbourhood needs traffic calming even if Waterloo is re-opened;
- Waterloo should be re-opened because of the parking it provides;
- Waterloo is needed because the new IGA will increase traffic on Collingwood;
- the traffic and safety problems resulting from the Waterloo Street closure are not worth the benefits of a unified park;
- Waterloo should be re-opened but a traffic light should be installed at 4th and Waterloo to increase pedestrian safety.

The following spoke in support of extending or making permanent the temporary closure of the 2000 block of Waterloo Street:

Bev Ballantyne, Putting Pedestrians First
John Peters (brief filed)
Ken Webber
John Greiner (brief filed)
Delores Bate
Jan Pierce
Satia Ramira
Andrew Owen
Scott Falby
John Becker

Comments made by the foregoing speakers included:

- the park should remain unified to support the City's policy of putting pedestrians and cyclists first;
- a unified park and increased green space benefits the environment;
- cars on Waterloo make it unsafe for children who may run into the street;
- a unified park benefits the greatest number of residents and non-residents for the longest period of time;
- non-local traffic should be directed to the arterial streets;
- the survey results were biased because park users and residents north of 4th Avenue were not included;
- not providing traffic calming in conjunction with the experimental closure compounded traffic problems for residents which flawed the survey results;

- advance left turn signals should be installed at 4th and Alma and 4th and Macdonald to help alleviate cut-through traffic in the neighbourhood;
- the world is moving in the direction of closing roads and supporting cars less;
- the City should take the opportunity to use this unique piece of green space for park;
- re-opening Waterloo would be regressive; we need to look forward to the qualities Vancouver is famous for and where we want to be in the future;
- the trial closure should be continued but the traffic problems caused by the closure need to be addressed and then the residents re-polled.

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT a decision on the closure of the 2000 block of Waterloo Street be delayed for up to eight months so that staff, including Park Board staff, may provide a report back on:

- a. The opinions of park users;

LOST (tie vote)

(Councillors Ball and Lee and the Mayor opposed)

(Councillors Louie and Stevenson absent for the vote)

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT a decision on the closure of the 2000 block of Waterloo Street be delayed for up to eight months so that staff, including Park Board staff, may provide a report back on:
 - a. Traffic impacts raised in the neighbourhood;
 - b. The opinions of residents in the neighbourhood north of 4th Avenue, the area to be determined by Engineering staff.
- B. THAT the traffic calming devices as set out in the Administrative Report dated January 26, 2006 entitled "McBride Park Traffic - Waterloo Street Closure" be installed on a temporary basis.

CARRIED

(Councillor Lee opposed)

(Councillors Louie and Stevenson absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 1:14 p.m., 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 Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee

ABSENT: Councillor Kim Capri (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor George Chow (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Heather Deal (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
February 16, 2006

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. 2006 Property Tax Options: Three-Year Land Averaging for Property Tax Calculations
2. Heather Civic Marina 2006 Fees and Charges
3. McBride Park Traffic - Waterloo Street Closure

Items 1 - 3

MOVED by Councillor Anton

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of February 16, 2006, as contained in items 1 - 3, 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 Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

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