



CITY OF VANCOUVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 4, 2006

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, May 4, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor George Chow, Chair
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie

ABSENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan (Leave of Absence- Civic Business)
Councillor Suzanne Anton (Leave of Absence)
Councillor David Cadman (Leave of Absence)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence- Civic Business)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT this Council resolve itself into Court of Revision for the purpose of hearing complaints against the proposed assessments or the accuracy of frontage measurements, or any other complaint which persons interested may desire to make and which is by law cognizable by the Court, Councillor Chow in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COURT OF REVISION

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

Projects by Petition: Court No. 621
May 4, 2006

Pavement, Curbs, Trees & Bulges - Local Residential
Lane Pavement - Local Residential
Speed Humps
Sidewalk
Lane Lighting

**Projects by Initiative: Court No. 622
May 4, 2006**

Pavement, Curbs, Trees & Bulges - Higher Zoned
Pavement, Curbs, Trees & Bulges - Local Residential
Lane Pavement - Local Residential
Speed Humps
Traffic Circle

Before Council were reports from the Collector of Taxes dated May 4, 2006, with respect to Local Improvement Courts of Revision Numbers 621 and 622. Also before Council was a Late Report for Court 621/007, 013, 026, and 028 (requests for withdrawn signatures) and an Appendix #1 for Court 622/009, both dated May 4, 2006.

COURT NO. 621 - PROJECTS BY PETITION

The Collector of Taxes certified that the projects in the report dated May 4, 2006, have been requested by the majority of the assessed owners by means of a sufficiently signed petition.

In the late report dated May 4, 2006, the Collector of Taxes advised that the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended rebalot on projects 007, 013, 026, and 028, as requests for withdrawn signatures had been received.

COURT NO. 622 - PROJECTS BY INITIATIVE

In the report from the Collector of Taxes dated May 4, 2006, it was noted item numbers 002 and 004 were objected to by at least more than one half (1/2) the owners of the properties who represented at least more than one half (1/2) the total value of all the properties on the projects.

In Appendix #1, dated May 4, 2006, the Collector of Taxes noted project 009 had sufficient number of owners objecting but insufficient value to defeat, and advised that the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended this project be defeated.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT the report of the Special Assessment Roll for Courts 621 and 622, dated May 4, 2006, submitted by the Collector of Taxes, be approved, with the corrections and changes noted herein.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COURT OF REVISION

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT the Court of Revision rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL

ADOPT REPORT OF COURT OF REVISION

MOVED by Councillor Capri
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT Council adopt the report of the Court of Revision dated May 4, 2006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Administrative Report
Local Improvement Subsequent Procedure - May 4, 2006
April 12, 2006**

Prior to considering the recommendation in the Administrative Report dated April 12, 2006, David Desrochers, Streets Design Engineer, with the assistance of additional staff, showed slides of the various projects. The following delegations were heard and actions taken as follows:

COURT NO. 621 - PROJECTS BY PETITION

Project No. 621/001

Richard Spencer registered support for the project, but did not speak.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/002

Rob Blanchard registered support for the project, but did not speak.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/007

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, advised that the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended the project be reballoted, for report back to Council, as this petition now has insufficient signatures due to a withdrawn signature.

Patrick Cheng and Henry Fung, spoke in opposition to the project, advised they did not see sufficient benefits, expressed concern with accessibility issues, and supported staff's recommended reballot.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be reballoted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/008

Daniel Corrin registered support for the project, but did not speak.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/009

David Desrochers advised this project had been initiated by Windermere Secondary School Principal, Bill Hamilton, and his students had obtained the required signatures for the project to proceed. Mr. Desrochers also reminded Council of the importance of youth involvement and the upcoming Family Day this weekend.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/012

Kevin Hiebert spoke in opposition to the project and noted the current grading and drainage of the street is good and the improvement unnecessary.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/013

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, advised that the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended the project be reballoted, for report back to Council, as this petition now has insufficient signatures due to a withdrawn signature.

Peter Parrotta and Allan Wong registered their opposition to the project and noted their support for a rebalot.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be reballoted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/014

Vern Jurovich registered support for the project, but did not speak.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/015

Bianca Zanatta spoke in opposition to the project, and expressed concern with the abundance of water that collects in her back lane, and potential to flood her garage.

Linda Folk registered support for the project, but did not speak.

David Desrochers advised staff will work with Ms. Zanatta on the lane design to address drainage issues.

MOVED by Councillor Lee
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/019

Donald Stark spoke in opposition to the project and noted developers control one-third of the votes which is unfair to established property owners in the area. He suggested it is premature and a waste of money to pave the lane at this time as more development is eminent, and urged Council to rebalot when properties are sold to future residents.

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvement Clerk, advised the petition is fully signed with two-thirds of the owners, and the developer/owners are entitled to a vote.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/021

Harvey Desilets spoke in opposition to the project, and expressed concerns related to public safety due to speeding vehicles, and noted potholes have the same effect as speed humps without the cost. Mr. Desilets also noted that a paved back lane does not reflect the historic ambiance of this neighbourhood. He requested a rebalot.

Ka (Barbara) Lee spoke in support of the project and noted lane pavement would address safety issues, and address drainage problems. Ms. Lee also noted the paving would improve the aesthetics of the neighbourhood and address difficulties experienced by wheelchair users due the potholes.

MOVED by Councillor Capri
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/025

Kirsten Turolto registered support for the project, but did not speak.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/026

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

THAT this project be reballoted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/028

John McNamara spoke in opposition to the project, noted developer activity has destroyed the lane, and requested it be refilled with crushed stone and returned to its original state which has lasted 79 years. Kal Bains registered opposition to the project, but did not speak.

Paul Carter spoke in favour of the project and noted the back lane is in a terrible state of repair, with construction of two larges homes worsening the situation. Mr. Carter also noted drainage issues behind his home. George Woodburn spoke in support of the project, noted a signature had just been withdrawn, and requested time to obtain an additional signature. Mr. Woodburn suggested the need for a provision that prohibits last minute withdrawal of signatures.

In response to questions from Council, David Desrochers, Streets Design Engineer, advised of increased maintenance costs associated with gravel lanes and Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, advised the City's Works Yard would be contacted in the morning to fill the potholes.

A Council member requested staff report back with a comparison of Burnaby's method of addressing similar local improvement issues in relation to the cost of retaining gravel lanes versus paved lanes, including that City's rationale for the type of improvement chosen.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be reballoted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/033

Harvey Desilets spoke in opposition to the project, and noted concerns with increased speed and the high volume of traffic that uses the lane.

Ka (Barbara) Lee spoke in support of the project and noted installation of speed humps is imperative once the lane is paved in order to slow the traffic.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 621/044

Koshal Tersem spoke in support of the project and requested information on installation of speed humps. Kirsten Turolto registered support for the project, but did not speak.

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, advised a petition was required for speed humps.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COURT NO. 622- PROJECTS BY INITIATIVE

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Vary the Agenda

Council agreed to vary the agenda to deal with Project 009 at this point in the proceedings.

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Project No. 622/009

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, referred Council to Appendix #1 (Projects by Initiative) and advised this project has sufficient number of owners objecting but insufficient value to defeat. Due to the number of people who voted against it, the Collector of Taxes advised that the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended this project be defeated.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be defeated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 622/003

Norman Piper, Chown Memorial and Chinese United Church, spoke in opposition to the project and advised the church is operating in a deficit, and payment for the project would be a financial hardship for the congregation. Mr. Piper suggested if work is related to construction of the Canada Line, the City and Canada Line should bear more of the costs.

Blake MacLeod spoke in support of the project. Mr. MacLeod acknowledged the plight of the church, and enquired if there were a legal way the City could assist with the church's financial plight. Mr. MacLeod noted the street is hazardous due to the high volume of traffic accessing the nearby retail stores, the heavy pedestrian use from the nearby school, in addition to an untrimmed hedge that blocks site lines. Mr. MacLeod suggested the block be made one-way northbound.

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, advised of criteria for special relief and noted that while the church is exempt from property tax, it is not exempt from local improvement costs. Ian Adam, Assistant City Engineer, Streets, noted the need to contact TransLink regarding its remediation process.

A Council member requested staff report back on relevant sections of the Vancouver Charter related to local improvement fees for not-for-profit organizations, and options to add another class for these organizations.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Lee

THAT this project be postponed to the next meeting of Council following staff receipt of a response from TransLink on what possible contribution can be made to this project on the grounds that TransLink has made a commitment to provide parking and/or other amelioration to the neighbourhood.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 622/005

Anita Chan spoke in opposition to the project and noted she did not want to pay money for the loss of her two parking spaces. She advised paving without curbs would be an option she could support.

Sue Mann spoke in support of the project, noted the unsafe condition of the street, and pointed out that access to the only sidewalk along that portion of Commercial is blocked by a dumpster, and has been since the new business moved in.

David Desrochers, Streets Design Engineer, advised standard practice is to add curbs when paving. Staff advised they would follow up on the location of the dumpster.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 622/006

Anne Wong spoke in opposition to the project, and noted this street is, in fact, the back lane to her house, and narrowing due to installation of curbs would make parking difficult.

David Desrochers, Streets Design Engineer, acknowledged the unique situation on this street, in that it is the front of one street and the back of another, and noted both uses could be accommodated. Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, provided details on double fronting and impacts on costs of the project.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 622/007

Julian Christians and Zoe Hodgson registered support for the project, but did not speak. Julia Clark spoke in support of the project, and requested information on procedure for installation of speed humps and enquired on redress if developers destroy the lane during construction. Barry Hong spoke in support of the project and noted all residents are in favour of the improvements and also enquired if the potholes could be filled in prior to paving of the lane.

Elizabeth Norris, Local Improvements Clerk, explained the process for installation of speed humps and David Desrochers, Streets Design Engineer, advised if a lane is damaged by developers during construction, they must restore it to its pre-construction condition. Mr. Desrochers advised maintenance on the potholes would be done next week.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Ladner

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Project No. 622/011

Karen Gable spoke in opposition to the project, provided Council with the history and details related to the process leading to this initiative to install a traffic circle and advised stop signs have been installed and address accident concerns quite nicely. Ms. Gable noted speed humps, rather than a traffic circle, would assist in slowing traffic. Ms. Gable noted she may request a review of the process.

Mary Sherlock spoke in support of the project, and provided additional historic background. Ms. Sherlock noted this initiative is not controversial in the neighbourhood, with only three objections filed.

Ian Adam, Assistant City Engineer, Streets, explained the rationale for the project proceeding on the initiative, and a Council member advised it had been a unanimous vote of the previous Council to put this forward as a project on the initiative.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Ladner

THAT this project be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
April 12, 2006

Council then considered the Administrative Report dated April 12, 2006.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations of the General Manager of Engineering Services, as contained in the Administrative Report dated April 12, 2006, and quoted below, be approved, taking into account the specific actions taken this day:

- A. THAT the projects by "Petition" in Court #621, be approved.
- B. THAT projects by "Initiative Principle" in Court #622, be approved except for defeated Items #2 and #4 and Special Item #9 as explained in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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