



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

JUNE 29, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, June 29, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

*Councillor Peter Ladner, Chair (for Portion of Meeting)
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri, Acting Chair (for Portion of Meeting)
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor B.C. Lee
*Councillor Raymond Louie, Vice-Chair
Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager
Brent MacGregor, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for portion of meeting due to Conflict of Interest.

RECOMMENDATION

1. 2006 Civic Childcare Grants - Allocation 2 of 3 (VanRIMS No. 05-5000-10)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated June 12, 2006, in which the Director of Social Planning recommended the allocations for the Civic Childcare Grants, specifically the revised Childcare Enhancement Grant, one Stabilization grant, and the revised grant criteria for determining eligibility. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval.

Carol Ann Young, Child Development Coordinator, provided an overview of the report.

The following speakers provided brief comments on the benefits of the Childcare grants to their respective groups:

Trustee Sharon Gregson, School Board, and Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Leslie Thomas, Britannia Community Services Centre
Lynne Dyson, Developmental Disabilities Association

MOVED by Councillor Capri
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve fifty one (51) Childcare Enhancement Grants totalling \$670,098. as listed in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated June 12, 2006, entitled "2006 Civic Childcare Grants - Allocation 2 of 3", with conditions as noted; source of funds: 2006 Childcare Grants Budget, 2006 Operating Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve one (1) Stabilization Grant totalling \$5,000 to Kiwassa Neighbourhood House for Harbourview Daycare; source of funds: 2006 Childcare Grants Budget, 2006 Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve the revised criteria based on community feedback, set out in the Administrative Report dated June 12, 2006, entitled "2006 Civic Childcare Grants - Allocation 2 of 3", for determining eligibility of applicants for the Childcare Enhancement Grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Vancouver Art Gallery - Annual Review & 2006 Grant Requests
(VanRIMS No. 05-5000-10)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated May 31, 2006, in which the Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, provided a review of the Vancouver Art Gallery's 2005 activities and recommended approval of the Association's 2006 Operating Grant. The General Managers of Community and Corporate Services recommended approval.

Karen Hasselfelt, Cultural Planner, provided an overview of the report and introduced representatives of the Art Gallery.

Kathleen Bartels, Director, Vancouver Art Gallery, with the aid of an overhead presentation, provided an overview of Art Gallery operations, and introduced George Killy, Board Chair, who provided highlights on the Gallery's financial position. In response to questions from Council, Ms. Bartels and Mr. Killy provided details on programs offered at the Gallery, and future plans for expansion.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve a 2006 operating grant of \$2,042,500 to the Vancouver Art Gallery Association; source of funds to be the 2006 "Other" Grants budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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NOTE FROM MEETING COORDINATOR:

As both the Chair and Vice-Chair would be absent for the next item due to Conflict of Interest, Councillor Ladner advised of the need for Council to choose a Chair for this item of business.

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MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT Councillor Capri serve as Acting Chair for this portion of the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At 10:16 a.m. Councillor Ladner and Councillor Louie declared Conflict of Interest for the Newspaper Box Policy Review item, as Councillor Ladner has residual employment interests and a small ownership in the Business in Vancouver media group and Councillor Louie's employer is the Pacific Newspaper Group. Councillors Ladner and Louie left the Council Chamber and did not return until the conclusion of the vote on this item.

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3. Newspaper Box Policy Review (VanRIMS No. 13-4700-24)

The Committee had before it a Policy Report dated June 9, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services recommended revisions to the current policy on news box placement to reduce negative impacts associated with news boxes, the deployment of 100 Multiple Publication News boxes, a revised fee structure, increases to the street cleaning budget and staff resources to manage the program.

Tom Hammel, Streets Administration Engineer, with the aid of an overhead presentation, provided an overview of the report, and together with Tom Timm, General Manager of Engineering Services, responded to questions from Council on the ability to adjust design details prior to ordering, access to those with disabilities, options to encourage the use of recycled print media, rationale for the proposed fee structure, maintenance, safety, coin collection issues, rationale for the cap on stand-alone boxes and the space allocation process. Ian Adam, Assistant City Engineer - Streets, provided details on comparable fees in other municipalities.

The following speakers expressed concerns as noted below:

Nick Collier, Georgia Straight
Scott Wheatley, Business in Vancouver
Philip Tan, 24 Hours
Gary Hutton, Manager Distribution Services, Pacific Newspaper Group

- costs, and the huge financial impact of the proposed fee schedule increase, are of major concern;
- removal of boxes will impact many of our readers;

- the new Multi Product News Boxes (MPNs) will result in additional costs, as their smaller capacity, compared to the stand-alone boxes, results in the need to restock;
- the majority of publishers do not want MPNs;
- high use locations need to be grandfathered to maintain each publication's present location and readership;
- safety is a primary concern; should not be responsible for emptying the recycle bin;
- who will bear the costs of maintenance and repairs; this is still not defined;
- concerns with enhanced restrictions in residential areas;
- the CanWest group is comprised of five papers, each of which would benefit from the cap, while putting all other publications at a disadvantage;
- capping the allowed number of boxes would disenfranchise customers;
- MPNs have a serious design flaw - papers can, and are, pulled out without payment, at a 50% loss rate; and
- the Province Newspaper does not fit into the MPN units.

The following speakers expressed general support for staff's recommendations, with comments as noted below:

Sharon Townsend, South Granville BIA
Charles Gauthier, Downtown Vancouver BIA

- given the opportunities these boxes present - boxes make publishers money - the proposed fee is more than reasonable;
- there is no capital expenditure on the MPN rack, just the fee;
- a lot of the boxes are simply used for branding;
- all BIAs support staff's recommendations 100% ;
- prefer to see Vancouver adopt Victoria's policy - no boxes at all;
- strong public support for the MPNs; and
- the new MPN units are larger and better maintained and identified than the older models.

MOVED by Councillor Lee
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT news boxes on City streets be subject to meeting the by-law provisions identified in the Policy Report dated June 9, 2006, entitled "Newspaper Box Policy Review" and the following restrictions:
 - i. Publications solely for the purpose of advertising a retail outlet or product line not be permitted to be displayed on City streets;
 - ii. Each publication be limited to no more than 700 news boxes (not including compartments within a multiple publication news box.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be directed to bring forward the necessary by-law governing policy on news boxes for Council approval as generally set out

in Appendix C of the Policy Report dated June 9, 2006, entitled "Newspaper Box Policy Review".

- C. THAT 100 Multiple Publication News boxes be deployed following completion of the trial installation of two prototype units.
- D. THAT the new fee structure for news boxes be approved as detailed in the Policy Report dated June 9, 2006, entitled "Newspaper Box Policy Review" for implementation on January 1, 2007.
- E. THAT the current newspaper vending machine fee for coin-operated news boxes on City streets in the License By-law be eliminated.
- F. THAT the Director of Legal Services be directed to amend the License By-law to repeal Section 27.1(5) regarding newspaper vending machine fees.
- G. THAT the new policy be implemented for all news boxes in the City and that the current moratorium on placement of additional news boxes be continued during the implementation period.
- H. THAT the following additional resources be approved through an increase in the budget for news box fee revenues for a net reduction of \$9,700 in the 2006 Operating Budget:
 - i. News box coordinator (RFT) subject to classification by the Director of Human Resources plus start up costs;
 - ii. Field inspector (temporary to the end of 2007) subject to classification by the Director of Human Resources plus start up costs;
 - iii. A micro compact vehicle at an annual cost of \$7,200 to fund the rental rates and operating costs for the vehicle.
- I. THAT the 2007 Engineering Operating Budget for street cleaning be increased by \$186,100 to be offset with increased revenues from news box fees.
- J. THAT the City Engineer report back in one year on the implementation of the new policy.
- K. THAT \$25,000 be allocated from the Truck & Equipment Replacement Reserve (Plant Account) to add one micro compact passenger vehicle to the vehicle fleet.

carried

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the motion be amended by striking out "700" in A ii. and inserting "900", to read:

- ii. Each publication be limited to no more than 900 news boxes (not including compartments within a multiple publication news box).

lost

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT the amendment be amended by striking out "900" in A ii. and inserting "800", to read:

- ii. Each publication be limited to no more than 800 news boxes (not including compartments within a multiple publication news box).

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Cadman, Capri, Lee and the Mayor opposed)
(Councillors Ladner and Louie absent for the vote)

The amendment to the amendment having LOST, the amendment was put and LOST with Councillors Anton, Ball, Cadman, Capri, Lee and the Mayor opposed and Councillors Ladner and Louie absent for the vote)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Chow

THAT staff be requested to report back, within two weeks, on a revised three-tiered fee structure.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Cadman, Capri, Lee and the Mayor opposed)
(Councillors Ladner and Louie absent for the vote)

The Amendments having LOST, Councillor Lee's motion was put and CARRIED, with Councillor Chow opposed and Councillors Ladner and Louie absent for the vote.

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At 12:45 p.m., Councillors Ladner and Louie returned to the Council Chamber and Councillor Ladner resumed the Chair.

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4. Capital Program Status Review - December 2005 (VanRIMS No. 05-1400-20)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated June 8, 2006, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services/Director of Finance reviewed the project status for all outstanding capital programs that are not yet completed or administratively closed as at December 31, 2005, and requested Council approve a policy requiring staff to report on the status of all capital projects on an annual basis and to regularize a Capital Budget Manager position for Corporate Budget Services.

Annette Klein, Director of Budget Services, provided an overview of the report and along with Estelle Lo, General Manager of Corporate Services and Director of Finance, responded to questions from Council on the implications of additional staff for next year's tax shift and the rationale for providing an annual, versus a quarterly, status report. Ken Bayne, Director of Financial Planning and Treasury, provided details of cost savings related to the solid waste automation process.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive the Capital Program Status Review report for information.
- B. THAT Council approve a policy that staff report annually on the status of all capital projects.
- C. THAT Council approve the creation of one new regular full-time Capital Budgets Manager position, subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources. Annual cost of the position, including benefits is \$91,200 (prorated 2006 costs of \$38,000) plus one time costs of \$8,000 for a computer and office related costs. Funding for 2006 (\$46,000) to be provided from within Corporate Services budget, and the balance for 2007 (\$45,200) to be added to the Operating Budget without offset.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

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

JUNE 29, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, June 29, 2006, at 1:05 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 Kim Capri
- Councillor George Chow
- Councillor Heather Deal
- Councillor Peter Ladner
- Councillor B.C. Lee
- Councillor Raymond Louie
- Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

"IN CAMERA" MEETING

MOVED by Councillor Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT Council will go into a meeting at 1:00 p.m., or at the conclusion of the meeting, which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph(s):

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2006 UBCM Resolutions (Vancouver Police Department) (VanRIMS No. 01-1500-10)

At its Regular Council meeting on June 27, 2006, Council agreed to postpone discussion and decision on this matter to a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, June 29th.

Accordingly, Council had before it for consideration a memorandum dated June 16, 2006, from the City Clerk's Office, forwarding the 6 resolutions received from the Vancouver Police Department.

Inspector Daryl Weibe, Vancouver Police Department, in response to questions from Council, advised of his priority resolutions.

A. "NON-RETURNABLE WARRANTS"

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the following resolution be submitted to the 2006 Union of BC Municipalities Convention:

WHEREAS, the courts and the Crown, when issuing or requesting a warrant for the arrest of an offender, often impose a geographical limitation on the warrant where the practical effect of this geographical limitation encourages the offender to flee the jurisdiction in which the warrant is valid, and that these types of outstanding warrants, which are generally referred to by the police community as "non-returnable warrants," are left unenforced by police officers who contact these offenders in jurisdictions beyond the radius of the warrant;

AND WHEREAS, a 2005 study conducted by the Vancouver Police Department found that 84% of these offenders had more than one prior criminal conviction, while at least 55% of these offenders had 11 or more prior criminal convictions, and that permitting violent and/or chronic offenders to avoid prosecution through inter-provincial flight endangers the safety of Canadians and brings the administration of justice into disrepute:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Association of Police Boards call upon the appropriate Provincial Minister(s), the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Public Safety to:

- take affirmative action to prevent the threat to public safety and the erosion of public confidence in the criminal justice system caused by the proliferation of "non-returnable" warrants; and
- assist in developing and funding an operationally practical and cost effective, national transportation system that will ensure that those individuals who are arrested on inter-provincial warrants are brought before the justice system.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. ELECTRONIC SECOND-HAND PROPERTY REPORTING LEGISLATION

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the following resolution be submitted to the 2006 Union of BC Municipalities Convention:

WHEREAS the significant problem of property crimes negatively impacts the citizens of British Columbia, costs the economy millions of dollars annually and causes police to expend tremendous resources investigating property crimes and the closely linked illegal drug trade;

AND WHEREAS the electronic reporting technology exists to facilitate the reporting of second-hand property to police, is in use in several jurisdictions across Canada, and has a positive impact on the problem by assisting police with the identification of active criminals and the return of stolen property to victims.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Provincial Government to enact legislation making it mandatory for businesses to report second-hand property transactions to police using the electronic reporting software, Xtract.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. WELFARE SHELTER BENEFITS

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the following resolution be submitted to the 2006 Union of BC Municipalities Convention:

WHEREAS it is recognized by municipal police that some welfare recipients, and often those with serious substance abuse issues, convert the shelter portion of their welfare benefits (a month's rent) for a small fraction of its value to purchase illicit drugs, and through this practice become institutionally homeless, and that addiction experts state that the essential first requirement for a person recovering from a drug addiction or mental illness is the provision of safe and stable housing;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that the cost to a municipality for providing emergency support for each homeless person is \$40,000 per year, and that welfare fraud contributes to the underground economy and tends to entrench some communities in the drug trade, making them resistant to economic or social renewal, and that inadequate controls on welfare funds results in unintended and significant costs to Health and Municipalities struggling to deal with homelessness issues, substance abuse, and the underground economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance, Provincial Government of British Columbia, obtain and utilize "resource allocation software" to efficiently, effectively, and economically manage the shelter portion of welfare benefits in the Province of British Columbia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance implement policy whereby the shelter portion of welfare benefits will not be authorized if local government or Health issues a notice confirming that liveability standards are not met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance adopt the policy that shelter cheques will be issued to landlords, holding them accountable, rather than to individual welfare recipients, where ever possible.

LOST UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Cadman, Capri, Chow, Deal, Ladner, Lee, Louie, Stevenson and the Mayor opposed)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets June 29, 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 Civic Childcare Grants - Allocation 2 of 3**
2. **Vancouver Art Gallery - Annual Review & 2006 Grant Requests**

3. **Newspaper Box Policy Review**
4. **Capital Program Status Review - December 2005**

Items 1-4

MOVED by Councillor Ball

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of June 29, 2006, as contained in items 1-4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
ITEMS 1 AND 2 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

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 Chow
SECONDED by Councillor Anton

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Provincial Property Assessment Process (VanRIMS No. 01-1500-10)**

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Ladner for submission to the 2006 Union of BC Municipalities Convention. Councillor Cadman called Notice under Section 5.4(c) of the Procedure By-law. The motion will be considered at the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting of June 29, 2006.

WHEREAS the property assessments developed by British Columbia Assessment (a Provincial Crown Corporation), is required for budgeting and property tax purposes;

AND WHEREAS the City's relies on receiving accurate information from BC Assessment for developing a significant portion of its annual revenue budget;

AND WHEREAS Council would like to have the Operating Budget approved in December of the prior year;

AND WHEREAS the final property assessment information for budget purposes is not available until March of the budget year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request BC Assessment review its processes to accommodate municipal budget approval by December 31st of the prior year.

Notice

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. **Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy - Park Board (VanRIMS No. 03-1200-01)**

Councillor Cadman noted the Park Board had passed a motion to change their approach toward the Council-approved Ethical and Sustainable Purchasing Policy, and enquired as to the Board's ability to change this policy, and potential impacts on upcoming Olympic events.

The City Manager advised she would follow up with Legal Services on this matter.

2. **Indemnification of Community Clean Up Participants (VanRIMS No. 13-6200-20)**

Councillor Louie enquired on the status of his earlier request regarding indemnification of community clean-up participants.

The City Manager advised this is a work in progress.

The Council adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

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