

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, September 28, 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 Kim Capri
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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION1. **Garbage Container Licence Program - 2007 Permit Fee (VanRIMS No. 13-6200-10)**

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 7, 2006, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services sought Council's approval to amend the Container Licence Agreement (CLA), and to increase the CLA permit fee from the current rate of \$122 to a new fee of \$157 effective January 1, 2007, to provide funding for additional staff and program delivery costs.

Chris Underwood, Solid Waste Management Engineer, provided an overview of the report and responded to questions regarding the workings of a bin free system, the City's ability to revoke a permit if the services of the waste management company are no longer required, the educational component of the program, the need to require locks on bins, and source of funds for dealing with abandoned garbage.

The following expressed concerns related to staff's recommendations:

Dave Jones, Downtown Vancouver BIA (material circulated and on file)
Sharon Townsend, South Granville BIA
Leanore Sali, Gastown BIA

Points raised by speakers included:

- license agreements are seldom complied with; it is impossible to Keep Vancouver Spectacular with the mess found in lanes;
- there is a correlation between dumpster locations and drug use incidents;
- alternatives, similar to programs underway in Seattle and Kelowna, which provide for hand pick-up service, need to be pursued;
- staff need to work with the BIAs to establish designated areas within their boundaries where dumpsters will be replaced with alternative waste collection program;
- the \$15,000 education component set out in staff's report should include funding for alternative waste disposal discussion;
- a large percentage of garbage found in lanes is not commercial, but rather residential garbage such as garbage furniture, etc.; businesses should not have to cover this cost on their own;
- educational material is valuable, but requires clear and careful wording to assist those from different cultures and backgrounds;
- we need to educate our residents that back lane bins are not free for dumping;
- a dumpster-free alley program is the only way to address the problems of garbage thrown from bins, graffiti on bins, and cost of replacing broken locks on bins, all of which increase costs to businesses; and
- a task force to bring together the haulers, BIAs and the City to look at garbage management alternatives is a good way to move forward on this issue.

Tom Timm, General Manager, Engineering Services, in response to recommendations put forward by Mr. Jones, provided Council with suggested wording to assist BIAs in pursuing alternate waste collections systems.

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the creation of one regular full-time Clerk Typist III position to support the Clean Streets Program in the Solid Waste Management Branch (SWMB) at an annual cost of \$44,200 including salary and fringe benefits. Funding for this position will come from a \$22 increase in Container Licence Agreement (CLA) permit fee. This position is subject to classification by the Director of Human Resources.
- B. THAT a budget of \$15,000 be established to provide for Clean Streets Program educational materials with funding from an \$8 increase in the CLA permit fee.
- C. THAT Engineering Services increase the CLA permit fee by a total of \$35 effective January 1, 2007 based on anticipated inflationary increases for 2007 of \$3, increased staff costs of \$24, and \$8 to establish a budget for educational materials as noted in Recommendation B of the Administrative Report dated September 7, 2006, entitled "Garbage Container Licence Program - 2007 Permit Fee".

- D. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to amend the CLA between the City and participating solid waste service companies generally in accordance with Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated September 7, 2006, entitled "Garbage Container Licence Program - 2007 Permit Fee".
- E. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to also amend the Container Licence Agreement between the City and waste companies if possible such that a permit can be transferred or cancelled on notice in the event an alternative waste collection system is being implemented.
- F. THAT staff work with Business Improvement Associations to consider alternative waste collection programs.
- G. THAT staff report back to Council prior to January 2007 on progress.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. City of Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission (VanRIMS No. 08-3000-01)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated September 11, 2006, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services and Director of Finance provided Council with a recommended process for establishing and supporting a Property Tax Policy Review Commission, including Terms of Reference, a membership appointment process and a preliminary budget for the Commission. The City Manager recommended approval and noted through the work of this Commission, Council will be in a better position to make long-term tax policy decisions that will affect the City and its taxpayers.

Karen Levitt, Manager of Financial Planning, provided Council with an overview of the report and responded to questions on the internal workings of the Commission.

Judy Rogers, City Manager, and Estelle Lo, General Manager and Director of Finance, in response to comments from Council, noted it would be cumbersome for the technical working committee to be in open meetings and, after consultation with Legal Services, suggested Council may wish to make the Commission a Consultant to address potential issues related to this matter.

The following offered comments related to staff's recommendations:

Bob Laurie, Co-Chair, Vancouver Fair Tax Coalition
Dave Park, Vancouver Board of Trade
Sharon Townsend, South Granville BIA
Ed Des Roches, Vancouver Fair Tax Coalition

Points raised by speakers included:

- Mom and Pop businesses help our neighbourhoods flourish; it is important the selection criteria for the Commission address public policy, with expertise in social as well as technical elements;
- as a point of clarification, the Board of Trade does not head the Fair Tax Coalition, and would not act as secretariat or draft the Commission's report;
- look forward to the creation of the Commission and working with City staff;
- fair and equitable tax is key to keeping our neighbourhoods vibrant;
- members of the Commission must have both the skills and motivation to consider both the social health as well as the opportunity for a clear vision of what is best for Vancouver;
- an expertise in public policy needs to be included in the selection criteria;
- action needs to be taken on the Commission's final report; and
- this is an opportunity to correct a great inequity within our city - businesses are anxiously awaiting the outcome.

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the establishment of a Property Tax Policy Review Commission as Consultant, whose mandate will be to recommend to Vancouver City Council:
 - i. a long-term policy for defining and achieving a "fair" distribution of the property tax levy and addressing the perceived inequity in the share of the City of Vancouver's property tax levy that is paid by the non-residential property classes, as compared to the share paid by the residential property class, and
 - ii. a strategy to enhance the stability and predictability of property taxes for individual properties, in the face of sudden, large year-over-year increases in market value within property classes.
- B. THAT Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Property Tax Policy Review Commission as laid out in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated September 11, 2006, entitled "City of Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission", as amended this day with the addition of the words "public process minuted" in 4.6 to read:

4.6 **Transparency** - The work done by the Commission should be transparent, with the Commission's public process minuted and recommendations reported to Council and available to the public.
- C. THAT City Council direct its Nominations Sub-Committee to report to Council by October 31, recommending a Chairperson and two additional members to make up the City of Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission, following the nominations process and selection criteria laid out in Appendix B

of the Administrative Report dated September 11, 2006, entitled "City of Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission", as amended this day with the addition of the words "public policy" in 4.a. to read:

4.a. have a strong technical expertise in taxation, public policy, finance and/or economics,

- D. THAT Council approve a \$100,000 preliminary budget for the Property Tax Policy Review Commission, with source of funds to be the 2006 Contingency Reserve, and instruct the Commission Chairperson, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to report back to Council with any further financial requirements of the Commission.

carried

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman,

THAT A. above be amended by inserting the words: "to hold its meetings and deliberations in public in compliance with the rules of Council for any in camera discussion", to read as follows:

- A. THAT Council approve the establishment of a Property Tax Policy Review Commission as Consultant, whose mandate will be to hold its meetings and deliberations in public compliance with the rules of Council for any in camera discussion, and to recommend to Vancouver City Council:

LOST

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

The amendment having LOST, Councillor Capri's motion was put and CARRIED with Councillor Cadman opposed.

3. Infrastructure Management Strategy (VanRIMS No. 04-4400-50)

Due to time constraints this item was referred to the afternoon meeting of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment.

4. Improving Citizen Accessibility to Information and Services (VanRIMS No. 04-4400-50)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on September 26, 2006, received a Report Reference on a plan to implement a consolidated citizen service contact centre and 311 service for the City of Vancouver, and referred discussion and decision on this matter to the Standing

Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting on September 28, 2006, to hear from speakers.

Accordingly, the Administrative Report dated September 12, 2006, entitled "Improving Citizen Accessibility to Information and Services" was before Council for consideration.

Marg Coulson, Deputy City Clerk, in response to questions raised at the September 26th Council meeting, provided clarification on the ability of cell phone users to access the 311 centre, and advised details on the number of calls coming in to City Hall after hours were not available.

Paul Faoro, President, Local 15 CUPE, spoke in opposition to staff's recommendations, which would radically alter City operations and employee jobs, and result in whole or partial position redundancies. Mr. Faoro noted non-market housing, childcare, and public transit are of greater importance than a consolidated citizen service centre and 311 service and suggested this matter should go before the citizens of Vancouver to decide as part of the 2008 Capital Plan. A verbal list of City services readily accessible after hours was also provided by Mr. Faoro.

Mike Zora, General Manager, Human Resource Services, responded to points raised by Mr. Faoro. A number of Council members, while recognizing the 311 service as an amazing tool, discussed the need for clarity on financial benefits of the service and the need to move forward immediately, especially in light of the overruns Vancouver now faces as an Olympic City.

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council delay the planned implementation of a consolidated citizen accessibility service 311 Centre for Vancouver as described in the Administrative Report dated September 12, 2006, entitled "Improving Citizen Accessibility to Information and Services" and ask for voter approval as part of the 2008 Capital Plan.

LOST
(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and the Mayor opposed)

MOVED by Councillor Lee
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve in principle the plan to implement a consolidated citizen service centre and 311 service for Vancouver as described in the Administrative Report dated September 12, 2006, entitled "Improving Citizen Accessibility to Information and Services"; and

FURTHER THAT the City Manager report to Council no later than November 30, 2006, with the complete business proposal, implementation strategy, operating and capital costs and the sources of funding for the project, for Council's final consideration.

- B. Council approve capital funding in the amount of \$200,000 as advance funding for interim activities, source of funding to be the inflation funding in the 2006-2008 Capital Plan and allocation in the 2006 Capital Budget.
- C. THAT Council authorize the City Manager and the Director of Legal Services to give notice to telephone service providers that Vancouver wishes to implement 311 service within the Vancouver telephone exchange, and to proceed with any necessary applications to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).
- D. THAT Council authorize staff to prepare and issue Requests for Proposal related to site preparation, workstations, hardware and software, subject to Council approval of related awards of contract, as required.

carried

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT E. be added to the above as follows:

- E. THAT staff also return a budget for implementing 24/7 phone service and for providing an effective multilingual phone system.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and the Mayor opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT B. above be amended to read as follows:

- B. Council approve capital funding in the amount of \$200,000 as advance funding for interim activities, source of funding to be \$100,000 from the Strategic Initiatives Fund and \$100,000 from Contingency Reserve.

LOST

(Councillors Anton, Ball, Capri, Ladner, Lee and the Mayor opposed)

The amendments having LOST, Councillor Lee's motion was put and CARRIED with Councillors Cadman, Chow, Deal, Louie and Stevenson opposed.

The Committee adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

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

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, September 28, 2006, at 1:33 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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

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
September 28, 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. Garbage Container Licence Program - 2007 Permit Fee
2. City of Vancouver Property Tax Policy Review Commission
3. Infrastructure Management Strategy
4. Improving Citizen Accessibility to Information and Services

Items 1-4

MOVED by Councillor Capri

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of September 28, 2006, as contained in items 1-4, 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 Louie
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

None

B. Motions on Notice

1. Naming of Island - South East False Creek (VanRIMS No. 11-2000-14)

Due to time constraints this item was referred to the afternoon meeting of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment.

The Council adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

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