



CITY OF VANCOUVER
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 22, 2006

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, November 22, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of hearing from members of the public on the 2007 Operating Budget.

PRESENT: Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
*Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee
Councillor Raymond Louie

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Elizabeth Ball (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Chow absent for the vote.)

1. 2007 Operating Budget: Preliminary Estimates (File 05-1000-30)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on July 20, 2006, instructed the Director of Finance to proceed with a public consultation process on the 2007 Operating Budget, including a public meeting to be held in the Council Chamber.

Accordingly, Annette Klein, Director of Budget Services, presented an overview on the 2007 Operating Budget - Preliminary Estimates, which included a summary of the 2007 budget position, additional funding requests and the 2007 City Choices process.

Ms. Klein responded to questions regarding the public consultation.

The following provided comments on the 2007 Operating Budget challenges and priorities:

Bob Whitney, CUPE Local 1004
Paul Faoro, CUPE Local 15
Randy Puder
Celena Benndorf
Ellen Woodsworth
Bernie Williams, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Elder's Council and Membership
Rider Coeey
May Kossoff
Paul Sullivan, Vancouver Fair Tax Coalition
Sharon Townsend, South Granville BIA
Chery Easton, Kitsilano/West 4th Avenue/West Point Grey BIA's
Gladys Radek, Downtown Eastside Elder's Council
Reta Blind, Downtown Eastside Elder's Council
Cynthia Low, Downtown Eastside Elder's Council
Bill Saunders, Vancouver and District Labour Council
Weslie Stern, Lower Mainland Network
Rod MacDonald, Firefighter's Union

Speakers' comments included the following:

- suggest obtaining funds from the Property Endowment Fund to keep Vancouver going for the Olympics;
- previous public service cuts have had a devastating impact on the residents of this city; public services should not be cut at the expense of the 2010 Olympic games;
- the proposed police surveillance cameras will not accomplish any goals dealing with public rowdiness and drunkenness - a more simple and logical approach would be to enforce existing by-laws and have zero tolerance towards bar owners for over serving alcohol and serving to minors; the City's budget should not be allocated to this;
- rather than reducing services, recommend taxes be reduced and services improved - the City can achieve this through tapping into revenue growth opportunities and finding operational deficiencies;
- asking for funding for a Downtown Eastside women's shelter, to be open 24 hours, seven days a week - clearly there must be funding for this if the City is considering putting aside Olympic Legacy funds of 5 million a year for the next four years;
- concern was expressed with regard to the public consultation process; the public meetings were unsuccessful primarily because of the lack of public notification;
- as this city grows there is a need for an advisory committee on environmental issues;
- the budget survey didn't include a question on whether business owners wanted to see a tax increase; businesses already subsidize the City services for residents, with an estimated ratio of 6 to 1 - businesses cannot afford more tax increases; and

- if Council wants to make a legacy with the Olympics, make Vancouver better by encouraging options and housing the homeless before the games begin.

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

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 Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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