



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

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Ladner, Chair
*Mayor Sam Sullivan
Councillor Suzanne Anton, Acting Chair (*Item 1*)
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Kim Capri
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor B.C. Lee

ABSENT: Councillor George Chow (Leave of Absence)
Councillor Raymond Louie, Vice-Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager
James Ridge, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, 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 October 18, 2007, were adopted.

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At this point in the proceedings Councillor Ladner relinquished the Chair to Councillor Anton in order to participate in debate on Item 1.

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RECOMMENDATION

1. Vancouver Economic Development Commission - Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Council for Vancouver's Business Climate (VanRIMS No. 08-3000-11)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated October 29, 2007, in which the General Manager of Corporate Services presented to Council the *Blue Ribbon Council Report for the City of Vancouver on Business Climate Strategy*. The City Manager, in her comments, provided an overview of this initiative and thanked members of the Blue Ribbon Council and other business and community leaders that participated.

Karen Levitt, Manager of Financial Planning, briefly reviewed the Report on Business Climate Strategy and introduced Maureen Kirkbride, Board Member, Vancouver Economic Development Commission (VEDC).

Ms. Kirkbride introduced Phil Heard, CEO, VEDC; Rosalyn Kunin, Special Advisor to the VEDC Board of Directors; Sarah Morgan-Silvester, Blue Ribbon Council; John Tylee, Consultant, VEDC; as well as VEDC Board Members: Gordon Stewart, Mark Betteridge and Robert Fitzgerald. Ms. Kirkbride thanked Council for its collective leadership and support in recognizing economic development as one of the key priorities for the City of Vancouver and introduced the Report on Business Climate Strategy. Mr. Heard reviewed the findings of the current business climate and the next steps. Ms. Kunin outlined specific recommendations for improvement. Members responded to questions regarding the report and, in particular, further measures to improve the economic climate.

MOVED by Councillor Ladner

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive for information the *Blue Ribbon Council Report for the City of Vancouver on Business Climate Strategy*, attached in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated October 29, 2007, entitled "Vancouver Economic Development Commission - Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Council for Vancouver's Business Climate".
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back, in consultation with the Vancouver Economic Development Commission, with analysis and comment on the recommended actions contained in the *Blue Ribbon Council Report for the City of Vancouver on Business Climate Strategy*.
- C. THAT the City Manager present a plan to Council in early 2008, before the budget is finalized, to:
 - simplify business licensing and create a regional business license, starting with mobile businesses;
 - improve services and save costs through improved shared corporate and support services among city departments, agencies, boards and commissions;
 - propose any other measures for innovative service delivery; and

- strengthen the city's economic analysis capacity.
- D. THAT staff work with the Vancouver Economic Development Commission to establish a networking mechanism for key business leaders to update Mayor and Council on recent business developments and issues, and to provide economic policy input.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Sullivan absent for the vote.)

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At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Ladner resumed the Chair.

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2. Winter Farmers Market - Event Approval (VanRIMS No. 13-4800-10)

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

3. Year 2008 Zoning, Building and Trade Permit Fee Increases (VanRIMS No. 11-4200-01)

The Committee had before it an Administrative Report dated October 29, 2007, in which the Co-Director of Development Services sought Council's approval for an inflationary adjustment in zoning, subdivision, sign, tree removal, secondary suite inspection, building and trade permit "base/flat fees", and miscellaneous fees, to reflect increased costs due to inflation in the year 2008 and as the cost-recovery revenue stream for operating costs related to phased implementation of AMANDA. She also sought Council's approval for increases in Development Permit Fees and Zoning By-law Amendment (Rezoning) Fees to provide improved service to development permit and rezoning applicants. The General Manager of Community Services recommended approval of the foregoing.

Chris Warren, Co-Director of Development Services, reviewed the rationale for staff's recommendations and, together with Judy Rogers, City Manager, and Rob Jenkins, Assistant Director - Current Planning, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve an across-the-board 2.75% increase in all zoning, subdivision, sign, tree removal, secondary suite inspection, "base/flat fee" building and trade permit fees, and miscellaneous fees, to compensate for inflationary increases to the City's costs;

- B. FURTHER THAT Council approve an additional across-the-board 1.0% fee increase in all zoning, subdivision, sign, tree removal, secondary suite inspection, building and trade permit, and miscellaneous fees to provide revenue required to recover the additional, on-going operating costs of providing an enhanced IT system for permitting, inspection and compliance services using AMANDA;
- C. FURTHER THAT, subject to Council's approval of the identified staff positions requested in the upcoming "Planning Department Resource Proposals" report:
 - (i) a 1.0 % increase in Development Permit Fees (Zoning and Development Fee By-law #5585 - Schedule 1) to provide revenue to recover the cost of a new Planning Assistant III position; and,
 - (ii) a 10.0% increase in Zoning By-law Amendment Fees to provide revenue to recover the cost of a new Rezoning Planner I position and .5 FTE Clerk Typist II position.
- D. FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services bring forward for enactment the necessary by-law amendments to By-laws Nos. 5585, 5208, 9419, 5563, 6553, 3507, 6510, 7347 and 5644, generally in accordance with the fee schedules attached to the Administrative Report dated October 29, 2007, entitled "Year 2008 Zoning, Building and Trade Permit Fee Increases", to be effective January 1, 2008;
- E. AND FURTHER THAT the Director of Development Services and the Chief Building Official advise the development and building community of these changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Enactment of a New Energy Utility System By-law (VanRIMS No. 08-4000-10)

The Committee had before it a Policy Report dated October 29, 2007, in which the General Manager of Engineering Services sought Council's approval to enact a new Energy Utility System By-law in order to set the regulatory conditions for the establishment and operation of the Neighbourhood Energy Utility in Southeast False Creek.

Brian Crowe, Assistant City Engineer - Water and Sewers, provided a brief review of the report and responded to questions.

Council heard from one speaker who requested clarification on whether enforcement of this new by-law will include existing buildings in Southeast False Creek. In response, Mr. Crowe advised that the new by-law specifies that all new buildings and any buildings that undergo major renovations must comply.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the form of the Energy Utility System By-law, generally as set out in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated October 29, 2007, entitled "Enactment of a New Energy Utility System By-law", that sets the regulatory conditions for the establishment and operation of the Neighbourhood Energy Utility ("NEU") in Southeast False Creek ("SEFC") and instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring the by-law forward for enactment.
- B. THAT Council direct the General Manager of Engineering Services and Director of Finance to report back, prior to the NEU beginning to operate, with a schedule of levies and charges to be appended to the Energy Utility System By-law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 11:50 a.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 Heather Deal
Councillor Peter Ladner
Councillor B.C. Lee

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

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Judy Rogers, City Manager
James Ridge, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Anton

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
November 15, 2007

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. Vancouver Economic Development Commission - Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Council for Vancouver's Business Climate
2. Winter Farmers Market - Event Approval - WITHDRAWN
3. Year 2008 Zoning, Building and Trade Permit Fee Increases
4. Enactment of a New Energy Utility System By-law

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of Thursday, November 15, 2007, as contained in Items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Lee

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Capri
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT Council vote to enact the by-law listed on the Agenda for this meeting as number 1 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A By-law to provide for the establishment and operation of an energy utility system (Southeast False Creek) (By-law No. 9552)

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

None.

B. Motions on Notice

1. Cambie Street Meters (VanRIMS No. 13-5500-31)

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on November 13, 2007, postponed consideration of the following Motion to the Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets on November 15, 2007, due to time constraints. This Motion reflects revisions to the Motion on Notice:

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Ball

WHEREAS reconstruction of Cambie Street north of 25th Avenue, including sidewalk expansion and streetscape improvements, will involve the removal of parking meters along Cambie;

AND WHEREAS the reconstruction will not be completed until at least spring 2008 although the street will be open and traffic flowing normally during the holiday season;

AND WHEREAS revenues that could be received from re-installing parking meters temporarily could be less than savings derived from waiting for a one-time permanent installation of meters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City postpone re-installing parking meters along Cambie north of 25th Avenue until full sidewalk and street restoration is complete in mid 2008; and
2. Parking Meters on streets adjacent to Cambie Village be covered to allow free parking during the month of December 2007, subject to reimbursement of costs to the City from the Canada Line Project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. Municipal Fiscal Imbalance (VanRIMS No. 01-5500-20)

MOVED by Councillor Ladner
SECONDED by Councillor Capri

WHEREAS on Friday, October 26th Metro Vancouver unanimously endorsed a motion calling upon the provincial government to address the municipal fiscal imbalance;

AND WHEREAS prior to 1997, the Revenue Sharing Act provided for a sharing of provincial revenues with municipal governments on an unconditional basis.

AND WHEREAS a share of provincial sales tax, corporate income tax and resource revenues was transferred annually to municipalities.

AND WHEREAS in 1997, the previous Provincial Government eliminated these transfers, forcing municipalities to increase their reliance on property taxes.

AND WHEREAS with the federal and provincial fiscal position greatly improved, it would be appropriate to reconsider this approach.

AND WHEREAS this program could make over \$300 million available annually to municipalities in the province and approximately \$40 million for Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS compared to growing provincial and federal surpluses, municipalities across Canada are struggling.

AND WHEREAS where senior levels of governments are able to reduce taxes, the burden on municipal taxpayers is growing as municipalities take on increasing responsibilities in social housing, child care, arts and culture, social services, transportation and regional policing.

AND WHEREAS to meet these increased service demands and a growing infrastructure deficit, municipalities have been left with little choice but to increase property and business taxes and user fees.

AND WHEREAS other revenue sources available to municipalities cannot fill the gap between growing costs to service our citizens and a sustainable level of property taxation.

AND WHEREAS municipal revenues have not kept up with federal and provincial growth.

AND WHEREAS at the same time, payments from the Provincial and Federal Governments now comprise a smaller portion of the overall revenues of many municipalities.

AND WHEREAS this decline is in contrast to the rate of federal transfer payments to British Columbia.

AND WHEREAS since 2001, our province has benefited from billions of dollars of increases in federal transfer payments (CHST and Equalization entitlements).

AND WHEREAS in 2008-09, the federal payments to British Columbia are likely to increase even more.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Council request the Province of BC take steps in their upcoming budget to address the Municipal Fiscal Imbalance by re-instating a revenue sharing program with municipalities - and that these revenues be stable over time and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be distributed to all municipalities across B.C.; and

THAT the City of Vancouver's upcoming Budget 2008 consultations with the public include information regarding the Municipal Fiscal Imbalance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Project Civil City (VanRIMS No. 08-9000-30)

Councillor Deal requested the City Manager to provide Council with the budget for Project Civil City, including a breakdown on expenses.

2. 901 Main Street (VanRIMS No. 11-1200-01)

Councillor Ball requested the City Manager to ask staff to explore the possibility of including studio space for artists in the development at 901 Main Street.

4. Police Incident at Vancouver International Airport (YVR) (VanRIMS No. 01-5500-30)

Councillor Anton referred to the recent police incident at the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) and Councillor Cadman requested the Mayor to ask the Vancouver Airport Authority to report to Council as soon as possible on this matter, including a proposal to improve security.

The Mayor agreed to communicate with the City of Vancouver's representative on the Vancouver Airport Authority.

The Council adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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