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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 1, 2008
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 16, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Financial Services / Director of Finance
SUBJECT: Annual Financial Authorities - 2009

RECOMMENDATION

- A. *THAT, for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009, Council authorize the Director of Finance to issue warrants for payment and to report the same in writing to the City Clerk for the information of Council as soon as possible following the month end in which the warrant is issued, in accordance with Sections 215 and 216 of the Vancouver Charter.*
- B. *THAT, for the period January 1 to July 15, 2009, Council authorize the Director of Finance to temporarily use such capital funds as are available to meet other expenditure requirements of the City pending collection of the general purpose property tax levy, in accordance with Section 259 (1b) of the Vancouver Charter.*
- C. *THAT, for the period January 1 to December 31, 2009, Council authorize the Director of Finance to invest City funds not immediately required and to vary the investments from time to time where appropriate, in accordance with Sections 201, 259 and 260 of the Vancouver Charter, as follows:*
- *securities of Canada or of a province*
 - *securities guaranteed for principal and interest by Canada or by a province*
 - *securities of a municipality, including the city, or a regional district*
 - *securities of the Greater Vancouver Water District or the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District*
 - *securities of the Municipal Finance Authority*
 - *securities of or investments guaranteed by a chartered bank*
 - *deposits in a savings institution, or non-equity or membership shares of a credit union*

- *pooled investment funds under Section 16 of the Municipal Finance Authority Act*
- *any of the investments permitted for the Municipal Finance Authority under Section 16(3) of the Municipal Finance Authority Act, including pooled investment portfolios under the Financial Administration Act*

D. *THAT, for the period January 8, 2009 to January 7, 2010, Council authorize the Director of Finance to establish a short-term borrowing facility to assist in managing the City's cash flow with the maximum outstanding amount not to exceed \$60 million.*

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council has a policy of delegating to the Director of Finance on an annual basis the financial authorities of Council under the *Vancouver Charter* to:

- approve the issuance of warrants and report the details in writing to the City Clerk for the information of Council on a monthly basis (Section 215 and 216)
- use capital funds on a temporary basis to meet other expenditure requirements of the City pending collection of the general purpose tax levy (Section 259 (1b))
- invest City funds not immediately required (Section 201)

Council also has a policy of establishing a short-term borrowing facility, by bylaw, to meet the City's expenditure requirements pending collection of the general purpose tax levy.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request that Council, for 2009, delegate to the Director of Finance the financial authorities of Council under the *Vancouver Charter* to approve issuance of warrants; use capital funds on a temporarily basis to meet other expenditure requirements of the City pending collection of the general purpose tax levy; invest City funds not immediately required; and establish a short-term borrowing facility not to exceed \$60 million.

DISCUSSION

The *Vancouver Charter* provides Council with a variety of financial authorities required for the City's operation. To allow for the effective day-to-day administration of the City, Council delegates the following authorities to the Director of Finance on an annual basis.

1) Authority to Issue Warrants

Sections 213 to 215 of the *Vancouver Charter* specify the manner in which payments are to be made by the City. Sections 213 and 214 authorize the Director of Finance to issue

warrants for payments and Section 215 stipulates that all payments be approved by Council except for amounts necessary in the case of an emergency. In every circumstance, payments by the City are approved by Council either as part of the annual budget process or through specific approvals.

This authority is administrative in nature and in no way infringes on Council's policy-making powers. The Director of Finance is seeking confirmation of this authority to make payments in circumstances where Council approval is granted for 2009.

2) Authority to Use Capital Funds Pending Collection of General Purpose Tax Levy

Section 259 of the *Vancouver Charter* authorizes Council to temporarily use the proceeds of debenture issues to meet other expenditure requirements of the City pending collection of the general purpose tax levy for each year, provided that the use of such funds be limited to the period January 1 to July 15 and that such funds be returned to the Capital Fund by that latter date.

This authority is integral to the effective management of the City's financial affairs. The Director of Finance is seeking confirmation of this authority for 2009.

3) Authority to Invest the City's Surplus Cash Balances

The *Vancouver Charter* authorizes Council to invest City funds that are not immediately required (Section 201), including proceeds from the sale of debentures (Section 259) and monies in the Sinking Fund (Section 260).

This authority is integral to the effective management of City funds. The Director of Finance is seeking confirmation of this authority for 2009.

4) Operating Line of Credit

Section 263 of the *Vancouver Charter* authorizes Council to borrow by way of promissory note or overdraft to meet the City's expenditure requirements, with repayment guaranteed by the general purpose tax levy to be collected for the year.

This authority permits the Director of Finance to borrow for short term on a day-to-day basis if the need arises. To execute this authority, Council must pass a bylaw stipulating the maximum amount of any short-term indebtedness and the period for which the authority is in effect, and that repayment of any outstanding balances be guaranteed by the general purpose tax levy.

The terms of the bylaw will authorize the Director of Finance to borrow by overdraft a sum of money not to exceed \$60 million at any one time during the period January 8, 2009 to January 7, 2010. This borrowing facility is established with the City's primary financial institution, the Bank of Montreal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The *Vancouver Charter* provides Council with a variety of financial authorities required for the City's operation. These include the authority to issue warrants, temporary use of capital funds and/or short-term borrowing by way of promissory note or overdraft to meet expenditure requirements pending collection of general purpose tax levy, and investment of surplus funds. To ensure effective day-to-day financial administration, Council delegate these financial authorities to the Director of Finance on an annual basis.

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