



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 25, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning, Transportation and Environment was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 9:37 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Heather Deal, Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson*
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Vice-Chair*
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie*
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Wendy Stewart, Deputy City Clerk
Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

1. **Vancouver City Planning Commission 2015 Operating Grant, 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Workplan
March 2, 2015**

Danielle Bauer, Acting Chair, Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC), provided opening comments and, along with Elizabeth Ballantyne, VCPC Manager, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Carr
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve \$59,260 as the 2015 operating grant to the Vancouver City Planning Commission; source of funds to be the grants budget within the approved 2015 Operating Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**2. Grant Request - Streetohome Foundation
February 20, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor Louie
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council approve a grant of \$125,000 to Streetohome Foundation for 2015 with the source funds to be the Community Services 2015 Operating Budget for Street Homelessness.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**3. 2015 Property Taxation: Targeted 3-year Land Assessment Averaging
March 18, 2015**

Financial Services staff, along with the General Manager, Financial Services Group, provided a presentation and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the application of targeted 3-year land assessment averaging in 2015 for the purpose of calculating property taxes for Residential (Class 1), Light Industrial (Class 5), and Business & Other (Class 6) properties.
- B. THAT, in addition to the standard exclusions as outlined in the annual Land Assessment Averaging By-laws, Council adopt a "threshold" of 10% above the property class average change for Class 1 and for Classes 5 & 6 to define eligibility for targeted averaging;

FURTHER THAT the 2015 property class average change for Class 1 and for Classes 5 & 6 be finalized upon receipt of the 2015 Revised Assessment Roll in April.
- C. THAT properties impacted by the Zoning and/or Official Development Plan changes initiated by the Director of Planning as part of the West End, Downtown Eastside and Marpole Community Plans be considered for targeted 3-year land assessment averaging subject to the "threshold" as per B above.
- D. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to prepare a by-law authorizing the use of targeted 3-year land assessment averaging that reflects Council's decision on A, B and C above.
- E. THAT, subject to adoption of the by-law, Council instruct the Director of Finance to make appropriate arrangements with BC Assessment for the production of the 2015 Average Assessment Roll at an estimated cost of \$25,000 plus applicable taxes; source of funding to be the 2015 Operating Budget.

- F. THAT Council direct staff to reaffirm the City's request to the Province for an amendment to the Vancouver Charter to enable the use of the "threshold" value as a taxable value (in addition to the assessed value provided by BC Assessment and the averaged value derived from the land assessment averaging formula) for the calculation of property taxes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillors Ball, Louie, and Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**4. 2204 York Avenue - Sunset Grill Ltd. - Increase in Capacity
(Liquor Establishment Class 2 - Pub) and New Liquor Primary Outdoor Patio
March 3, 2015**

The General Manager, Community Services, provided brief opening comments and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers; three who spoke in support of the recommendations, and one who spoke in opposition.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council, having considered the opinion of local area residents and business operators as determined by neighbourhood notification, site sign, noise impacts and relevant Council policy as outlined in the Administrative Report, dated March 3, 2015, entitled "2204 York Avenue - Sunset Grill Ltd. - Increase in Capacity (Liquor Establishment Class 2 - Pub) and New Liquor Primary Outdoor Patio", endorse the request by Sunset Grill Ltd. (Sunset Grill) for an increase in capacity for the Liquor Primary Liquor Licence (#300824) from 39 persons to 100 persons (Liquor Establishment Class 2 - Neighbourhood Pub) and for a new 20 persons outdoor patio located at 2204 York Avenue subject to:

- i. A maximum interior capacity of 100 persons and a 20 person patio;
- ii. An amendment to the existing Time-limited Development Permit;
- iii. An acoustic report to be submitted certifying that the establishment meets Noise Control By-law requirements;
- iv. The patio ceasing all liquor service and vacated by 11 pm nightly;
- v. No entertainment or music permitted on patio;
- vi. A Licence Agreement with an initial one-year term for the patio;
- vii. Food service to be provided while the patio is open;
- viii. Signing a Good Neighbour Agreement with the City prior to business licence issuance; and
- ix. The surrendering of the existing Food Primary liquor licence #026799 and the Restaurant Class 1 business licence #15-146014 at the time of issuance of the amended Liquor Primary liquor licence #300824.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

**5. Updates to Taxi Regulations and Procedures for Chauffeur's Permits
March 11, 2015**

The General Manager, Community Services, provided brief opening comments, and along with the Director, Licensing, Property Use Inspection and Animal Services, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from four speakers in general support of the recommendations.

Prior to voting on this item, Councillor Meggs requested that staff provide additional language for recommendation A in the Administrative Report dated March 11, 2015, entitled "Updates to Taxi Regulations and Procedures for Chauffeur's Permits". The Committee agreed to vary the order of agenda in order to deal with item 6 first, then return to item 5 for the vote.

For ease of reference, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-law as described in the Administrative Report dated March 11, 2015, entitled "Updates to Taxi Regulations and Procedures for Chauffeur's Permits", with the following changes: A1 Customer Service Improvements - Lost and Found be amended to require lost items be retained for three months and that GPS data be retained for one year; A3 Modernization - the requirement for odometer or speedometer readings at the beginning or end of trips be removed.
- B. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, should the Director deem it be advisable, to bring forward a By-law to amend the Vehicles for Hire By-Law, generally in accordance with Appendix B of the Administrative Report dated March 11, 2015, entitled "Updates to Taxi Regulations and Procedures for Chauffeur's Permits".
- C. THAT Council direct staff to continue to work with the Vancouver Taxi Roundtable on other operational measures to improve customer service, especially at peak periods.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

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The Committee recessed at 12:22 pm and reconvened at 2:18 pm, with the same members present, except for Councillor Louie who was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

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**6. Response to Council Motion on City Action to Ensure Innovative, Increased Taxi Services
March 11, 2015**

The General Manager, Community Services, provided brief opening comments and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from five speakers in support of the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve an amendment to the Vehicles for Hire By-law, as described in the Administrative Report dated March 11, 2015, entitled "Response to Council Motion on City Action to Ensure Innovative, Increased Taxi Service" and included in Appendix A of the above noted report, to extend the moratorium and suspend issuance of any new taxi licences until October 31, 2015.
- B. THAT Council approve an extension of the deadline for staff to respond to Council's motion of October 1, 2014, and report back to Council with a comprehensive response prior to October 31, 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

7. Resourcing Local Governments for Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Emergency Planning and Response

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) are being transported through or near communities in British Columbia, and proposals to increase the volume of these substances are currently being considered without adequate consideration for the risks to local communities;
2. The increased transport of these products translates to an increased risk to local communities from incidents such as fires, explosions and spills, with the potential to cause significant impacts to health and safety of citizens, first

responders and the environment, and require the involvement of local governments to minimize the consequences to their communities;

3. Despite their vital role in safeguarding their communities and identifying the local risks and consequences of potential incidents, local governments have not been adequately involved in risk assessment and response planning carried out by industry, project proponents and other tiers of government, and are not sufficiently resourced to participate in the risk assessment and planning process, let alone respond to the impacts of oil and HNS incidents on their communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) call on the provincial and federal governments to expand the scope of oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) risk assessment and response planning to include all impacts and consequences on local communities and governments, and introduce additional funding for the resources and locally-specific capacity building required to ensure that municipalities are in the best possible position to plan for and protect communities and the environment in the event of fires, explosions, spills and related incidents as a result of increasing transportation of oil and HNS;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration at their 2015 Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

8. Increase Protections for Vancouver Renters

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of the motion.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Renters make up more than half of all Vancouver households;
2. Vancouver has an unhealthy vacancy rate, which is as low as 0.7% in English Bay in the West End;
3. The average monthly rent in Vancouver is \$1176, while the median renter household income is \$41,433;
4. A lack of new rental housing built in the 1990s and 2000s has left aging rental stock as a prime source of low-income and affordable housing in Vancouver;

5. Aging rental housing is leading to an increase in renovations, which can dislocate long-term tenants in affordable housing who have limited options to move to other rental homes;
6. The City of Vancouver has, under the Vancouver Charter, limited legal powers to protect renters, as residential tenancies are governed by the Province's Residential Tenancy Act;
7. There have been examples of landlords who knowingly disobey city bylaws and the Rental Tenancy Act, such as evicting tenants for short-term stays, who face no penalty for their actions;
8. The City has advocated for changes to the RTA over the last six years, including better protections for renters, a full-time Residential Tenancy Office in Vancouver, and specific protections for tenants in SROs;
9. City Council recently appointed the City's first Renters Advisory Committee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council ask the Renters Advisory Committee to review the Residential Tenancy Act and identify potential changes to increase resources and strengthen protections for renters and affordable rental housing, which City Council could advocate to the Provincial Government for;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Renters Advisory Committee complete their recommendations for Council by the end of June 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

9. Support 100% Renewable Energy in Vancouver

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, to hear from speakers.

The Committee heard from six speakers in support of the motion.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. As a result of the combustion of fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere, each of the last three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than any preceding decade since records began being kept in the 1850s, with the warmest year on record being 2014;

2. The impacts of climate change and resulting extreme weather are increasingly being felt as rising economic impacts, social conflicts, damaged infrastructure and loss of human life with adaptation costs in Metro Vancouver being pegged at \$9.5 billion at a minimum;
3. In December 2015, national leaders will meet in Paris to negotiate a global agreement that endeavours to decrease GHG emissions to a level where it is possible to cap average global temperatures at two degrees above normal or lower;
4. In 2010 Vancouver City Council formally adopted a set of long term environmental goals recommended by the Greenest City Action Team that included a goal on Climate Action to eliminate dependence on fossil fuels and as a result of comprehensive actions has been able to reduce GHGs in the city by 6% from 1990 levels;
5. In the intervening years at least 10 other world-class leading cities including San Francisco, Sydney, Stockholm, and Copenhagen have adopted Council approved targets to shift to 100% Renewable Power and/or go fossil fuel free by or before 2050;
6. 32% of Vancouver's current energy need is met by renewable energy (including electric power, heating and cooling);
7. As part of the Greenest City Action Plan, City of Vancouver staff are currently developing a long range Climate Action Plan to meet the 100% renewables mandate.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- Vancouver City Council re-commit to the long term goal of deriving 100% of Vancouver's energy from renewable sources;
- Staff bring back the long-range Climate Action Plan to Council by fall 2015 with a clear articulation of the date by which a shift to 100% renewable energy sources is feasible;
- Vancouver advocate to regional, provincial and national governments to support an international agreement that commits to 100% renewable energy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Councillor Louie absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

MARCH 25, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 4:20 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Raymond Louie

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager
Sadhu Johnston, Deputy City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Wendy Stewart, Deputy City Clerk
Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment
March 25, 2015

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment. Its items of business included:

1. Vancouver City Planning Commission 2015 Operating Grant, 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Workplan
2. Grant Request - Streetohome Foundation

3. 2015 Property Taxation: Targeted 3-year Land Assessment Averaging
4. 2204 York Avenue - Sunset Grill Ltd. - Increase in Capacity (Liquor Establishment Class 2 - Pub)
5. Updates to Taxi Regulations and Procedures for Chauffeur's Permits
6. Response to Council Motion on City Action to Ensure Innovative, Increased Taxi Service
7. Resourcing Local Governments for Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Emergency Planning and Response
8. Increase Protections for Vancouver Renters
9. Support 100% Renewable Energy in Vancouver

Items 1 to 9

MOVED by Councillor Ball
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment at its meeting of March 25, 2015, as contained in items 1 to 9, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT Council enact the by-laws listed on the agenda for this meeting as numbers 1 and 3, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A By-law to Average Land Assessments for 2015 (By-law No. 11187)
2. A By-law to amend Vehicles for Hire By-law No. 6066 regarding chauffeur's permits and part-time taxicabs - **WITHDRAWN**
3. A By-law to amend Vehicles for Hire By-law No. 6066 regarding licenses for taxicabs and dual taxicabs (By-law No. 11186)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 4:23 pm.

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