



REPORT TO COUNCIL

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 9:38 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, Acting City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator
Maria Castro, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT item 3 be adopted on consent.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Louie

That the Committee vary the agenda to deal with Item 5 first, followed by Item 4, in order to hear from speakers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

Note: For clarity, these minutes are recorded in chronological order.

5. Humanitarian Support for Refugees

At the Regular Council meeting on September 15, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on September 16, 2015, to hear from speakers.

Mayor Robertson introduced the motion.

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

MOVED by Mayor Robertson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that the continuing humanitarian crisis facing Syria, Iraq, and the Middle East region has displaced millions of new refugees, leaving millions more stranded and at risk from armed conflict, extreme poverty, hunger, and/or unacceptably poor living conditions;
2. Canada's federal response to this global refugee crisis has not met our obligations to the international community, with Canada's commitment towards government assisted refugees (GARS) having declined from 19,233 in 1980 to 6,900 GARs in 2015;
3. Vancouver and its citizens have a proud history of welcoming refugees, and the City has recently been reviewing steps toward making Vancouver a sanctuary city, implementing "Access without Fear" policies, and constructing an innovative new Vancouver Immigrant Services Society of BC Welcome House for refugees;
4. Like all Canadians, the people of Vancouver share a deep commitment to welcoming these refugees and their families to our communities in their moment of desperate need, and Canada's big cities are mobilizing support to address the continuing humanitarian crisis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council calls upon the Government of Canada to immediately act to assist a vastly greater number of refugees from this crisis, and support the "20k2020 We can do more" campaign for the Government of Canada to establish a new baseline national target of 20,000 government assisted refugees annually by 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back with a review of how Vancouver can be of more immediate and significant assistance to refugees originating from the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq, recognizing that cities like Vancouver must play a critical role in refugee settlement and support.

amended

The Committee agreed to separate the components of the amendment for the vote.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

A. THAT the first resolved be replaced with the following:

THAT Vancouver City Council express to the Government of Canada the willingness of the people of Vancouver to support the resettlement of a greatly increased number of refugees originating from the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq and other countries in conflict and suggest a new baseline national target of 20,000 or more government assisted refugees annually by 2020 be given strong consideration;

LOST

(Mayor Robertson and Councillors Carr, Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson opposed)

B. THAT the second resolved be amended as follows:

- THAT the words "to Council" be added following the words "report back";
- THAT the words "a review of" be replaced with the words "recommendations on";
- THAT the word "major" be inserted before the word "cities"; and
- THAT the words "such as" be added following the word "cities".

LOST

(Mayor Robertson and Councillors Carr, Deal, Jang, Louie, Meggs, Reimer, Stevenson opposed)

C. THAT the following be added as the third resolved:

That staff report back to Council with recommendations on ways in which the City can encourage citizens to contribute generously to the Government of Canada's \$100 million Syria Emergency Relief Fund through established relief organizations already working with refugees on the ground.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Part "C" of the amendment having carried, the main motion as amended, was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS

1. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that the continuing humanitarian crisis facing Syria, Iraq, and the Middle East region has displaced millions of new refugees, leaving millions more stranded and at risk from armed conflict, extreme poverty, hunger, and/or unacceptably poor living conditions;
2. Canada's federal response to this global refugee crisis has not met our obligations to the international community, with Canada's commitment towards government assisted refugees (GARS) having declined from 19,233 in 1980 to 6,900 GARs in 2015;
3. Vancouver and its citizens have a proud history of welcoming refugees, and the City has recently been reviewing steps toward making Vancouver a sanctuary city, implementing "Access without Fear" policies, and constructing an innovative new Vancouver Immigrant Services Society of BC Welcome House for refugees;
4. Like all Canadians, the people of Vancouver share a deep commitment to welcoming these refugees and their families to our communities in their moment of desperate need, and Canada's big cities are mobilizing support to address the continuing humanitarian crisis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council calls upon the Government of Canada to immediately act to assist a vastly greater number of refugees from this crisis, and support the "20k2020 We can do more" campaign for the Government of Canada to establish a new baseline national target of 20,000 government assisted refugees annually by 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back with a review of how Vancouver can be of more immediate and significant assistance to refugees originating from the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq, recognizing that cities like Vancouver must play a critical role in refugee settlement and support;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council with recommendations on ways in which the City can encourage citizens to contribute generously to the Government of Canada's \$100 million Syria Emergency Relief Fund through established relief organizations already working with refugees on the ground.

4. **2016 Interest Rate on Property Tax Arrears August 10, 2015**

At the Regular Council meeting on September 15, 2015, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on September 16, 2015, to hear from speakers.

The Director of Financial Services responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who expressed concerns about the method used by the City in calculating property tax fines and arrears, and the process in place for collecting property tax and Homeowner Grant Applications. Specifically, he was concerned about the fine levied against the portion of his 2015 property tax normally covered by the grant.

The Chair agreed to meet with the speaker at a later date to review his specific concerns, and the Acting City Manager noted that he will review the processes with Financial Services staff.

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT City Council set an interest rate of 6.70% for property tax arrears to be effective January 1, 2016.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward a by-law regarding the 2016 interest rate on property tax arrears, for consideration by Council on or before September 30, 2015, in accordance with the provisions of Section 415 (2) of the Vancouver Charter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**1. Updates to Limousine Regulations
August 21, 2015**

Licence and Animal Control staff noted a change to the associated by-law.

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-law as described in this report.
- 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 A of the Administrative Report dated August 21, 2015, entitled "Updates to Limousine Regulations".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

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At 11:49 am it was

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the meeting be extended to complete all business on the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

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2. Environmental Standards for City Streets
September 8, 2015

The Manager of Environmental Planning, Facilities Planning and Development, provided a presentation and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT this policy supersede the 2001 *Soils Remediation on City Streets*.
- B. THAT contamination in City streets and laneways be remediated to Industrial Land Use Standards as defined in the BC *Contaminated Sites Regulation*, and that the top 1m of soil in boulevards and street medians be remediated to Residential Land Use Standards to protect soil quality for urban agriculture, with Industrial Land Use below the first 1m.
- C. THAT at the discretion of the City Manager or delegate, the City may accept a risk-based approach to remediation on City streets rather than physical remediation, provided the Ministry of Environment issues a risk-based Certificate of Compliance, the proponent enters into a Remediation Agreement with the City, and that the City is provided adequate financial security. The Remediation Agreement is to be on terms to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, the Manager of Environmental Planning, and the General Manager of Engineering Services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Robertson absent for the vote)

**3. Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant - 2015 Fall Intake
September 11, 2015**

THAT Council approve Sport Hosting Grants totalling \$15,000 as outlined in the body of the Administrative report dated September 11, 2015, entitled "Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant - 2015 Fall Intake". The funding source will be the 2015 Sport Hosting Grant Program budget.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

The Committee adjourned at 12:05 pm.

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

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 12:05 pm in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Acting Mayor Raymond Louie
Councillor George Affleck
Councillor Elizabeth Ball
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Melissa De Genova
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Tim Stevenson

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor Andrea Reimer

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Sadhu Johnston, Acting City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Leslie Tuerlings, Meeting Coordinator
Maria Castro, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
September 16, 2015

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

1. Updates to Limousine Regulations
2. Environmental Standards for City Streets
3. Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant - 2015 Fall Intake
4. 2016 Interest Rate on Property Tax Arrears
5. Humanitarian Support for Refugees

Items 1 to 5

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of September 16, 2015, as contained in items 1 to 5, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
ITEM 3 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

BYLAWS

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT Council enact the by-laws listed on the agenda for this meeting as numbers 1 and 2, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A By-law to amend Vehicles for Hire By-law No. 6066 regarding limousines (By-law No. 11343)
2. A By-law to provide for the imposition of interest on delinquent property taxes for 2016 (By-law No. 11344)

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 12:07 pm.

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