



## **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

### **SIGN BY-LAW APPEAL HEARING**

**JUNE 30, 2020**

A Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, at 6:00 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, for the purpose of considering an applicant request for reconsideration of the decision of the Director of Planning in refusing to issue a Sign Permit. This Special Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*, the City of Vancouver Electronic Meetings Regulation, and the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of the Province of British Columbia – Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192.

**PRESENT:**

- Mayor Kennedy Stewart
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Melissa De Genova
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe

**ABSENT:** Councillor Christine Boyle – Leave of Absence

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Denise Swanston, Meeting Coordinator

### **WELCOME**

The Mayor acknowledged we are on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Mayor also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's staff who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

#### **1. Applicant request for Council reconsideration of refused Sign Permit SI 2019 0078, 654 Nelson Street**

Grant Murray, Legal Services, provided an overview of the process whereby Council was to consider an application for reconsideration of a sign permit decision made by the Director of

Planning. Mr. Murray reviewed the sections of the *Vancouver Charter* and *Sign By-law* which govern Council's role in this regard. He noted that Council may decide to either uphold, overturn or vary the decision of the Director of Planning, and that it should provide the reasons for its decision.

### **Applicant Comments**

Jeff Leung, speaking on behalf of the Belmont Hotel, spoke to the history of the neon lights and signs and nightlife in the area and spoke to the hardship they feel they would experience in being unable to utilize the full features of the sign, and responded to questions.

### **Staff Comments**

Jason Olinek, Assistant Director of Planning, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, provided an overview of the Report dated June 2, 2020, entitled "Applicant Request for Reconsideration of Refused Sign Permit: 654 Nelson Street". Mr. Olinek reviewed the process and considerations for unnecessary hardship for this application and the rationale for the refusal of the sign permit which led to the request for reconsideration before Council. Mr Olinek along with additional staff from Planning Urban Design and Sustainability, responded to questions.

### **Speakers**

Council heard from one speaker, Charles Gauthier, President and CEO, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, who spoke in opposition of the recommendation.

### **Council Questions**

Council asked staff for additional information on upcoming changes to sign by-laws and staff agreed to provide Council with a memorandum outlining the prospective changes.

### **Council Decision**

MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT Council uphold the decision by the Director of Planning on March 26, 2020, to refuse Sign Permit SI-2019-00782 because the proposed sign does not comply with the Sign By-law and does not meet the requirements for relaxation due to unnecessary hardship.

CARRIED (Vote No. 06158)  
(Councillors Kirby-Yung and Wiebe opposed)

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor De Genova  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Special Council Meeting (Sign By-law Appeal Hearing) adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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