



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2021

A Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 9:30 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of the Province of British Columbia – Emergency Program Act, updated Ministerial Order No. M192.

PRESENT: Mayor Kennedy Stewart*
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
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*

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Rosemary Hagiwara, Deputy City Clerk
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Victims of the Lynn Valley Library Stabbing

The Mayor recognized the tragedy that took place this past week at the Lynn Valley Library in North Vancouver and Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the loss of life and those injured, as well as for the community affected by this event.

IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council will go into meetings later this week which are closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;

(c) labour relations or other employee relations;

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city;

(i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Public Hearing – February 11, 16, 23, 24, March 2, and 4, 2021

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Minutes of the Public Hearing of February 11, 16, 23, 24, March 2, and 4, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Council – March 9, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Minutes of the Council meeting of March 9, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Public Hearing – March 9, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the Minutes of the Public Hearing of March 9, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Council (Policy and Strategic Priorities) – March 10, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Minutes of the Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting of March 10, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Auditor General Recruitment Committee – March 12, 2021

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the Minutes of the Auditor General Recruitment Committee meeting of March 12, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT Council adopt Reports 4, 5, and 6, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND REPORT 5
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

At 9:39 am, prior to the start of Report 1, Councillor Wiebe a declared conflict of interest on Report 2 – One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing and Moratoria, due to having a business interest in an establishment in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).

REPORTS

1. 2020 Statement of Financial Information March 16, 2021

Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management, introduced the item, and Julia Aspinall, Director, Financial Services, together with Colin Knight, Director, City-Wide Financial Planning and Analysis, provided a presentation, and along with Lloyd Lee, Monitoring and Reporting Planner, Sustainability Group, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

- A. THAT Council approve the 2020 Statement of Financial Information for filing with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing pursuant to the *Financial Information Act*.
- B. THAT Council receive for information the portion of the 2020 Statement of Financial Information, which represents the report of the City's auditors on the 2020 financial statements of the City pursuant to Section 231 of the *Vancouver Charter*.
- C. THAT Council receive for consideration the portion of the 2020 Statement of Financial Information as it pertains to the remuneration and expenses of Council members pursuant to Section 196A of the *Vancouver Charter*.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added as D:

THAT Council direct staff to report back at the earliest opportunity on the potential to and impact of deferring the 2021 property tax payment due date to the Fall 2021;

FURTHER THAT the report back include information on the potential for specifically deferring business class taxes versus residential.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following be added at the end:

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor contact the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in order to explore coordination and alignment of potential tax due and transfer dates.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07088)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07089).

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07090).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve the 2020 Statement of Financial Information for filing with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing pursuant to the *Financial Information Act*.
- B. THAT Council receive for information the portion of the 2020 Statement of Financial Information, which represents the report of the City's auditors on the 2020 financial statements of the City pursuant to Section 231 of the *Vancouver Charter*.
- C. THAT Council receive for consideration the portion of the 2020 Statement of Financial Information as it pertains to the remuneration and expenses of Council members pursuant to Section 196A of the *Vancouver Charter*.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to report back at the earliest opportunity on the potential to and impact of deferring the 2021 property tax payment due date to the Fall 2021;

FURTHER THAT the report back include information on the potential for specifically deferring business class taxes versus residential;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor contact the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in order to explore coordination and alignment of potential tax due and transfer dates.

Prior to the start of Report 2, due to conflict of interest, Councillor Wiebe left the meeting and did not return until the completion of the item.

**2. One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing and Moratoria
March 12, 2021**

Kathryn Holm, Chief Licence Inspector and Director, Licensing and Community Standards, Development, Buildings and Licensing, provided a presentation, and along with staff from Development, Buildings and Licensing and Paul Mochrie, Acting City Manager, responded to questions.

Council heard from one speaker in support of the report recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

- A. THAT Council approve a change to the moratoria in the Granville Entertainment District and the Downtown Eastside to allow one-time exceptions for occupant increases at Liquor Establishments as described in the Report dated March 12, 2021, entitled "One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing and Moratoria".
- B. THAT Council approve a change to the City's Distancing requirements for Liquor Establishments to allow one-time exceptions for occupant load increases of up to 30% of current occupant load for establishments in conflict with Distancing, as described in the Report dated March 12, 2021, entitled "One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing and Moratoria".
- C. THAT Council approve, in principle, changes to the *License By-law No. 4450* that enable the Chief Licence Inspector to permit an increase in the seating capacity above the licence class maximum for a liquor establishment without requiring that liquor establishment to change its class;

FURTHER THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment amendments to the *License By-law No. 4450*, as generally outlined in Appendix A of the Report dated March 12, 2021, entitled "One Time Exceptions to Liquor Primary Establishment Distancing and Moratoria".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07091)
(Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

**3. Approval of 2021-22 Business Improvement Area (BIA) Budgets
March 2, 2021**

Council heard from one speaker in support and one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the report recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council approve the 2021-22 fiscal year Business Improvement Areas (BIA) Budgets as described in the Report dated March 2, 2021, entitled "Approval of 2021-22

Business Improvement Area (BIA) Budgets”, and approve grants to 22 BIAs totalling \$15,255,091 (to be disbursed as outlined in Table 1, column A, of the above-noted report);

FURTHER THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward the appropriate rating by-laws to recover the amounts of these grants.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07092)

**4. Funding Application to FCM’s Green Municipal Fund Sustainable Affordable Housing Program for the Coal Harbour Mixed-Use Project
March 8, 2021**

THAT Council approve an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund Sustainable Affordable Housing Program for a loan of up to \$3.7 million and a grant of up to \$3.7 million for the Affordable Housing component of the Coal Harbour School, Childcare and Affordable Housing Project.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 07102)

**5. 2021 Animal Welfare Grant
February 27, 2021**

THAT Council approve four (4) Animal Welfare Grants totalling \$12,174, the total amount allocated in the 2021 budget for this purpose, to the following organizations:

i.	Vancouver Orphan Kitten Rescue Association (VOKRA)	\$4,000
ii.	Greyhaven Exotic Bird Sanctuary	\$4,000
iii.	British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) – Charlie’s Food Bank	\$2,152
iv.	Critter Care Wildlife Society	\$2,022

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 07103)

**6. Amendment to Resolutions for 313 and 309 Alexander Street Lease
March 19, 2021**

A. THAT Council approve Atira Development Society, an affiliate of Atira Women’s Resource Society (the originally approved lessee), as the selected non-profit partner to operate the 24-room Single Room Occupancy (SRO) located at 313 Alexander Street and legally described as PID: 015-818-535, Lot 2, Block 39, District Lot 196, Plan 196 (the “Ross-Aoki House”) and the adjacent parking lot, located at 309 Alexander Street and legally described as PID: 015-818-551, Lot 3, Block 39, District Lot 196, Plan 196.

- B. THAT Council authorize the Director of Real Estate Services to negotiate and execute a lease with Atira Development Society for the Ross-Aoki House consistent with the lease terms described in the Council Report regarding the Ross-Aoki House dated February 9, 2021.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 07103)

BY-LAWS

Councillor Bligh advised to have reviewed the proceedings related to By-law 15 and would be voting on the enactment.

At the Council meeting on March 9, 2021, Councillor Wiebe advised to have reviewed the proceedings related to By-law 16 and would be voting on the enactment.

MOVED by Councilor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council enact the by-law listed on the agenda for this meeting as number 16, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07094)
(Councillors Hardwick and Swanson opposed)

MOVED by Councilor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council enact the by-law listed on the agenda for this meeting as number 20, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-law.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07096)
(Councillors Hardwick and Swanson opposed)

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council, except for those members ineligible to vote as noted below, enact the by-laws listed on the agenda for this meeting as numbers 1 to 15, 17 to 19, and 21 to 23, inclusive, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07106)

1. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as Hastings Crossing (By-law No. 12921)
2. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12922)

3. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as Kerrisdale (By-law No. 12923)
4. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the Kerrisdale Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12924)
5. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as Kitsilano 4th Avenue (By-law No. 12925)
6. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the Kitsilano 4th Avenue Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12926)
7. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as Mount Pleasant (By-law No. 12927)
8. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12928)
9. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as West Broadway (By-law No. 12929)
10. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the West Broadway Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12930)
11. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as Hastings North Expansion #2 (By-law No. 12931)
12. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the Hastings North Expansion #2 Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12932)
13. A By-law to Designate a Business Improvement Area in that area of the City known as West End (By-law No. 12933)
14. A By-law to Grant Money for a Business Promotion Scheme in the West End Business Improvement Area (By-law No. 12934)
15. A By-law to amend Zoning and Development By-law No. 3575 to rezone an area to CD-1 regarding 2499 East 48th Avenue (By-law No. 12935)
16. A By-law to amend Sign By-law No. 11879 regarding 3680 East Hastings Street (By-law No. 12936)
17. A By-law to assess real property to defray 2020 costs for the East Hastings Street Collective Parking Project (By-law No. 12937)
18. A By-law to assess real property to defray 2020 maintenance costs for the Trounce Alley and Blood Alley Square Local Improvement Project (By-law No. 12938)

19. A By-law to amend Zoning and Development By-law No. 3575 to rezone an area from RS-1 to RM-8AN regarding 6750-6770 Oak Street and 975 West 52nd Avenue (By-law No. 12939)
(Councillors Fry and Swanson ineligible for the vote)
20. A By-law to amend Zoning and Development By-law No. 3575 to rezone an area to CD-1 regarding 5055 Joyce Street (By-law No. 12940)
21. A By-Law to enact a Housing Agreement for 1425 and 1451 East 12th Avenue (By-law No. 12941)
22. A By-Law to enact a Housing Agreement for 1102-1138 East Georgia Street (By-law No. 12942)
23. 2021 Land Assessment Averaging By-law (By-law No. 12943)

MOTIONS

A. Administrative Motions

1. **Approval of Form of Development – 2495 East 48th Avenue (Previously 2499 East 48th Avenue)**

MOVED by Councillor Carr

SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the form of development for this portion of the site known as 2495 East 48th Avenue (previously 2499 East 48th Avenue) be approved generally as illustrated in the Development Application Number DP-2020-00020, prepared by Integra Architecture Inc. and uploaded on November 20, 2020, provided that the Director of Planning may impose conditions and approve design changes which would not adversely affect either the development character of the site or adjacent properties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07107)

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Council recessed at 11:56 am and reconvened at 6:02 pm.

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The meeting reconvened with Deputy Mayor Wiebe in the Chair.

B. Council Members' Motions

1. Request for Leave of Absence

MOVED by Councillor Carr
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT Councillor Fry be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on May 18, 2021, from 10:30 am to 12 pm, and from 3 pm to 4:30 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07108)
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

2. Increasing Public Access to Information About False Creek South

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

WHEREAS

1. In principle, as much City information as possible should be made public, unless there's a legal reason not to make it public, as outlined in Section 165.2 of the *Vancouver Charter*, and
2. Many residents of False Creek south are worried that too many decisions about their neighbourhood will be made In Camera.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff examine reports regarding the future of South False Creek, including negotiations, consultations and visioning with area residents and residents of other parts of the city, and options for decisions, to determine which components relate to City policies that must be public, and which are more appropriately discussed at a closed meeting of Council.
- B. THAT staff ensure that reports and information that can legally be made public are made public.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Swanson
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the motion entitled "Increasing Public Access to Information About False Creek South" be referred to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 31, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, debate and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

3. Turning Construction Hoarding into a Canvas for Public Art in Vancouver

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. A quality public realm helps deliver dynamic, engaging and active urban and neighbourhood experiences at a human scale. It can encourage people to use sustainable transportation modes – to walk, cycle or use transit – by creating accessible and memorable spaces;
2. Vancouver's public spaces – our plazas, squares, streets, laneways, pathways, and waterfront – are where public life happens. These spaces are where we connect with the city and with each other. They are where community is created;
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on our city. Every resident and every business has struggled or had to adapt. Vancouver's response to the pandemic has been significant focusing on supporting and accelerating economic and community recovery, and on helping people, organizations and businesses recover and move forward;
4. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver City Council consider arts and culture to be vitally important to the city's liveability, and recognize the value the arts bring to the lives of residents and our city. The sector has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic;
5. Vancouver is a city that prides itself on being alive with creativity, offering music, dance, new media, theatre, festivals, film, design, exhibitions, galleries, museums, and special events. The City encourages people to "Go out and explore arts and culture in Vancouver.";
6. In September 2019, Council approved a new culture plan. *Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture* provides a framework with strategic directions and actions that seeks to include previously under-represented voices and constituencies, build partnerships across communities and sectors, and develop strategies that place arts and culture at the forefront;
7. The City's support for public art takes many forms with a variety of Public Art Programs that support excellence in public art by emerging and established artists, in new and traditional media, and through award-winning commissions and artist collaborations that produce contemporary art for public spaces throughout the city;
8. In May 2020, amid the challenges presented by the pandemic, Council and the City reaffirmed Vancouver's commitment to supporting arts and culture during this crisis and noted that supporting artists and arts and culture organizations in our community continues to be a priority;

9. In terms of the economic standing of the arts and artists in Vancouver, the *Employment Lands and Economy Review* research conducted by the City last year noted that Vancouver "has the highest concentration of artists per capita of major cities with 8,800 artists making up 2.4% of the local labour force." The majority of artists live under the poverty line with 63 percent of artists reporting an income of less than \$40,000 per year. The median income of Vancouver artists is \$22,116, which is 44 percent less than all Vancouver workers. These workers face multiple barriers to participating in the Vancouver economy – the effects of COVID-19 have only added additional hardship for this sector;
10. In response to the challenges brought about by COVID-19 and social distancing requirements, a wide variety of public art expressions emerged serving as a beacon of hope and connection. For example, the Robson Street Business Association, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, and South Granville Business Improvement Association worked early on during the pandemic with the Vancouver Mural Festival to connect artists with business owners in order to create murals on temporary hoarding on storefronts that were forced to close due to COVID-19. Plain plywood was transformed into colourful murals and city streets became outdoor public art galleries;
11. In addition to support from local BIAs for hoarding murals and expressions of public art during the pandemic, the City of Vancouver and other sponsors helped to fund storefront mural projects by covering the costs of supplies and paying each artist an honorarium. As part of the City's Mural Support Program, the City was able to provide paint and supplies to the local businesses and artists spearheading this inspiring community initiative. To date, over 100 applicants have been approved to receive a \$400 voucher for paint and supplies to create a public art piece during the pandemic;
12. Plywood and other hoarding materials are not restricted to temporary storefront protection. Signs attached to temporary construction fences and temporary covered construction walkways are called "Hoarding Signs." The City of Vancouver has a guide that summarizes the regulations and permitting process for hoarding signs on private property (as a companion to but not as a substitute for the Sign Bylaw);
13. As we've seen during COVID-19 with storefront hoarding murals, construction hoarding offers a potential new "canvas" for the city's artists and arts and culture organizations to bring to life in terms of fostering a quality public realm that contributes to engaging, active cultural experiences in our urban spaces;
14. Currently, under the City of Vancouver *Sign By-Law* (and in the City's hoarding signs guide), hoarding signs may list the names of consultants or contractors working on the property, and may only be displayed while the project is being constructed. Hoarding signs must not be illuminated;
15. A City of Vancouver permit is required for all large hoarding signs and the signs are subject to size, height, and location criteria. The rules for large hoarding signs are the same for all Sign By-law Districts across the city, with the exception of residential properties along non-arterial streets. The allowed size of large

hoarding signs is determined by a property's frontage. For each one metre of frontage, one square metre of sign copy area is permitted. Properties in the Residential Sign District along a non-arterial street are allowed 0.6 square metres per frontage;

16. In 2014, the City of Toronto implemented a new public art initiative that requires 50 percent of the surface area of construction hoarding along public right of ways be used for community art; the program has received positive public response and supported a number of artists to gain exposure and share their work with new audiences;
17. Toronto's construction hoarding mural art program operates at no cost to the City while enhancing the public realm and creating opportunities and support for local artists and arts organizations. Developers and construction site owners in Toronto commission local artists through a number of ways, including utilizing a non-profit arts group such as STEPS to connect with artists or by engaging directly with artists should they choose to do so; and
18. Given the high concentration of artists per capita in Vancouver and the multiple barriers they face to participate in the Vancouver economy, notwithstanding the additional hardships the arts and culture sector has experienced due to COVID-19, a program that would facilitate the use of construction hoarding as a canvas for Public Art could provide a significant and enduring source of income for many artists and creatives living and working in Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back in Q1 2022 on options for requiring the use of portions or a percentage of construction hoarding on private property construction and development sites in Vancouver for murals and public art, with the goal of making these spaces available to local artists and arts and culture organizations to support recovery of the cultural sector and provide new opportunities for artists to show their work, including recommendations for any by-law changes to enable the permitted use of construction hoarding for public art;

FURTHER THAT recommendations and options aim to dovetail with the existing safety or engineering (structural/sightline) requirements for such hoarding, aiming for ease of administration within the existing hoarding requirements and permitting process;

AND FURTHER THAT staff consult with stakeholders as part of the exploration of options for a hoarding mural program including but not limited to the city's development and construction sector, representatives from the visual arts community such as the Vancouver Mural Festival, BIA's and the City's Public Art Committee.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the motion entitled "Turning Construction Hoarding into a Canvas for Public Art in Vancouver" be referred to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

meeting on March 31, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, debate and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Calling for a Plan to Clear Vancouver's Permit and License Backlog and Revamp this Critical City Service

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. Construction projects and any change of land use or occupancy on private property require a building permit. All projects must comply with the *Vancouver Building By-law* to meet life safety, livability, accessibility, and sustainability requirements. In the case of large-scale projects, and/or where zoning relaxations or particular types of land uses are proposed, a separate development permit is required before a building permit application can be submitted;
2. The layering of policy and regulations is a significant contributor to permit processing delays. Over the course of many years, the City has endeavoured to introduce various measures to decrease the length and complexity of Vancouver's permitting process such as online services, more efficient procedures, a regulatory review, the ASAP pilot and programs such as the Certified Professional (CP) Program;
3. Currently there is a significant backlog of building and development permit applications. Based on data up to 2018, building and development permit application volumes have gone up by 30 percent since 2007, and trades permit volumes have gone up nearly 40 percent over the same span;
4. The 2018 and 2019 Civic Service Satisfaction Surveys found that building and development services ranked near the bottom by both residents and businesses. In 2018, more than 50% of businesses expressed dissatisfaction with development and building permit services. And 78 percent of residents felt the City should invest more in development and building permit service; 85 percent of businesses said this was critical;
5. Vancouver is not unique in facing a permit application backlog. The cities of Toronto and Markham in Ontario underwent extensive development process reviews by KPMG in 2019. These reviews led to a series of recommendations designed to help ensure that the development review process in these two cities remains efficient, effective, and impactful as the volume, pace, and complexity of development evolves;
6. In Metro Vancouver, permit application backlogs have also been experienced over the past decade by municipalities large and small such as Surrey, Coquitlam, White Rock, and Abbotsford. For example, a cyclical review in

Coquitlam made 21 recommendations that included organizational changes and more customer service and proactive problem solving, in order to handle the unprecedented high levels of permit and inspection activity in the city;

7. In response to public concerns, in 2019, City staff began laying out a plan to simplify and reduce development processes, including speeding up permits, leveraging technology to deliver services online and improving the overall customer experience;
8. The current backlog situation represents a watershed moment for our city and requires urgent attention. The Covid-19 pandemic has created a perfect storm due to the volume and complexity of projects requiring permits, while at the same time resulting in a dramatic shift in City staff working from home but without the necessary, supporting technology infrastructure. Available staff resources are currently fully allocated to processing permit applications from previous years. Yet new applications continue to flood in and the situation has been further exacerbated by an increased emphasis on new rental housing projects, combined with a similar increase in demand and interest from homeowners looking to improve make home improvements to better cope with pandemic challenges;
9. In response to queries from Council and others, staff point to the need to establish and implement new and better systems to clear the permitting backlog. By focusing on the backlog of smaller-scale projects and clearing those expeditiously, it would free up resources to concentrate on more complex larger-scale housing projects that are also backlogged including urgently needed non-profit, social and market rental housing;
10. Moving forward, separating permit processes into two streams – one that is specific to smaller-scale development such as improvements to single family homes, duplexes and smaller rental projects, condo improvements, laneway houses and small-scale commercial projects, and a second stream for larger-scale development - could support ongoing, quicker turnaround of permit approvals;
11. The City's permit application backlog is having serious financial and other negative effects for applicants and City staff alike. For example, a recent study by LOCO BC in partnership with the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, the Building Owners and Managers Association of BC, and the Vancouver BIA Partnership among others, found that the average wait time for permits and licensing in Vancouver is 8.2 months. The average corresponding economic loss per business permit or licence is estimated to be in excess of \$720,000. Delayed permits have contributed to an environment of instability and uncertainty for businesses in addition to escalating costs;
12. On March 5, 2021, the Provincial Government began accepting applications for a \$15-million program to help local governments improve their development approvals processes, such as upgrades to a digital or online development application process or conducting internal reviews of current development approvals processes to identify opportunities for improvement; and

13. Addressing the City's permit backlog and investing in the technological and other transformative changes will pay dividends not only in the short-term, but also the long term to help meet the City's housing goals and better serve residents and businesses alike. It will also significantly strengthen post-pandemic economic recovery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back within 30 days with an action plan to clear the City's permit and license backlog by or before the end of Q3 2022;

FURTHER THAT the proposed action plan consider a range of options to address the existing backlog, including but not limited to, streamlining and simplifying regulations, expanding use of credentialed professionals to reduce the need for a secondary review by staff, seconding other municipal employees or retired employees, reallocating resources, and/or adopting new tools and technology.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to develop a medium term plan in 2021 that identifies strategies for systemic changes with respect to the City's development and permit system, including but not limited to, organizational restructuring, new technology adoption, client navigation support, defined service standards, and an accountability and monitoring framework;

FURTHER THAT the plan include considerations for the 2022 budget, including identifying the required multi-year technology investments necessary to improve overall service delivery.

- C. THAT staff identify and pursue funding opportunities to support this work, such as the recently announced Provincial Government program to help local governments improve their development services and approvals processes.

referred

REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the motion entitled "Calling for a Plan to Clear Vancouver's Permit and License Backlog and Revamp this Critical City Service" be referred to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 31, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, debate and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections - WITHDRAWN

Prior to the start of Notice of Council Member's Motions, Mayor Stewart resumed the Chair.

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTIONS

1. Preserving Bus Ridership During COVID and Beyond

Councillor Swanson submitted a notice of Council Members' Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion may be placed on the Council meeting agenda of April 13, 2021, as a Council Members' Motion.

2. Enhancing Organizational Governance and Development

Councillor Dominato submitted a notice of Council Members' Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion may be placed on the Council meeting agenda of April 13, 2021, as a Council Members' Motion.

3. Joint Vancouver City Council-Vancouver School Board Committee to Collaborate on Capital Projects

Councillor Carr submitted a notice of Council Members' Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion may be placed on the Council meeting agenda of April 13, 2021, as a Council Members' Motion.

4. Accessible Voting Options for Municipal Elections

Councillor Wiebe submitted a notice of Council Members' Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion may be placed on the Council meeting agenda of April 13, 2021, as a Council Members' Motion.

5. Breaking Glass Ceilings: Advocating for Social Media Platforms and Appropriate Web Based Forums to be Considered Publishers

Councillor De Genova submitted a notice of Council Members' Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion may be placed on the Council meeting agenda of April 13, 2021, as a Council Members' Motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Leave of Absence

MOVED by Councillor De Genova
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT Councillor Kirby-Yung be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on March 31, 2021, from 3:30 pm to 5 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07113)

At 6:22 pm, Councillor Wiebe declared conflict of interest on New Business 2 – Additional Emergency COVID-19 Measures, due to having an open petition related to some aspects noted in this item. Councillor Wiebe left the meeting and did not return until the completion of the item.

In order to introduce New Business 2, Mayor Stewart relinquished the Chair to Councillor Carr until the completion of the item, and Council agreed.

2. Additional Emergency COVID-19 Measures

MOVED by Mayor Stewart

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its second year with provincial health orders announced March 29, 2021, requiring businesses and other organizations to take additional measures to contain the spread of the virus at least until April 19, 2021, due to rising case counts and new variants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council:

1. Indicate its support for the new preventative measures announced by the Province on March 29, 2021;
2. Direct staff to waive associated fees for those private and non-profit organizations requesting the temporary use of public outdoor spaces for patios and other similar purposes within existing by-laws for the duration of the recent provincial restrictions on indoor activities;
3. Direct staff to work with industry associations to explore altering or suspending by-laws regulating the use of public space by businesses and organizations should health order restrictions extend past April 19, 2021;
4. Direct the Mayor to request the Province to review, by the earliest possible date, the decision to prohibit breweries, wineries, and tasting rooms not offering full-meal service from offering patio service;
5. Direct the Mayor to reiterate Council's request to the Province allowing municipalities to lessen the tax burden on small businesses by enacting legislation enabling "split assessment" and separating development potential from existing use;
6. Direct the Mayor to request the Province to explore allowing municipalities to lessen the tax burden on small business by enacting legislation enabling a small-business property subclass and allowing municipalities to set different tax rates on small, medium and large businesses; and
7. Seek new and expanded support, including additional wage supports for employees, from the Province and the Federal Government for businesses and organizations impacted directly by new public health orders.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as clause 8:

Direct staff to report back with by-law amendments to waive the annual fees for regular patio/large patio permits for 2021, recognizing that due to COVID restrictions closures and limited capacities were experienced by operators last year, and will be again in 2021, with continued uncertainty due to the pandemic and options to cover the associated revenue reduction.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07097)
(Councillors Fry and Swanson abstained from the vote)
(Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as clause 9:

Direct staff to allow existing windbreak walls for existing patios, as well as windbreak walls for temporary and new patios, in order to increase dining comfort and patio use so that patios can be seated in all weather, subject to and based upon approval by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service, recognizing that Vancouver Coastal Health and WorkSafeBC also conduct inspections to ensure health and safety.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the words “and report back on allowing”, replace the words “as well as”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07098)
(Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amendment as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07099) with Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the following we added as clause 10:

Direct staff to revisit the 2020-approved “Alcohol consumption in public spaces pilot” to consider timely reactivation of the four pilot plazas as well as any new locations that might equitably support both local food and drink services that

cannot otherwise provide patio spaces, and Vancouverites hoping to safely socialize.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07100)
(Councillor Hardwick abstained from the vote)
(Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07101) with Councillor Wiebe absent for the vote due to conflict of interest.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its second year with provincial health orders announced March 29, 2021 requiring businesses and other organizations to take additional measures to contain the spread of the virus at least until April 19, 2021, due to rising case counts and new variants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council:

1. Indicate its support for the new preventative measures announced by the Province on March 29, 2021;
2. Direct staff to waive associated fees for those private and non-profit organizations requesting the temporary use of public outdoor spaces for patios and other similar purposes within existing by-laws for the duration of the recent provincial restrictions on indoor activities;
3. Direct staff to work with industry associations to explore altering or suspending by-laws regulating the use of public space by businesses and organizations should health order restrictions extend past April 19, 2021;
4. Direct the Mayor to request the Province to review, by the earliest possible date, the decision to prohibit breweries, wineries, and tasting rooms not offering full-meal service from offering patio service;
5. Direct the Mayor to reiterate Council's request to the Province allowing municipalities to lessen the tax burden on small businesses by enacting legislation enabling "split assessment" and separating development potential from existing use;
6. Direct the Mayor to request the Province to explore allowing municipalities to lessen the tax burden on small business by enacting legislation enabling a small-business property subclass and allowing municipalities to set different tax rates on small, medium and large businesses;
7. Seek new and expanded support, including additional wage supports for employees, from the Province and the Federal Government for businesses and organizations impacted directly by new public health orders;

8. Direct staff to report back with bylaw amendments to waive the annual fees for regular patio/large patio permits for 2021, recognizing that due to COVID restrictions closures and limited capacities were experienced by operators last year, and will be again in 2021, with continued uncertainty due to the pandemic and options to cover the associated revenue reduction;
9. Direct staff to allow existing windbreak walls for existing patios, and report back on allowing windbreak walls for temporary and new patios, in order to increase dining comfort and patio use so that patios can be seated in all weather, subject to and based upon approval by Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service, recognizing that Vancouver Coastal Health and WorkSafeBC also conduct inspections to ensure health and safety; and
10. Direct staff to revisit the 2020-approved “Alcohol consumption in public spaces pilot” to consider timely reactivation of the four pilot plazas as well as any new locations that might equitably support both local food and drink services that cannot otherwise provide patio spaces, and Vancouverites hoping to safely socialize.

ENQUIRIES AND OTHER MATTERS

1. Downtown Eastside Seniors Shuttle to Vaccines Centres

Councillor Kirby-Yung enquired if there is a way to advocate to the Province or Vancouver Coastal Health, for the creation of a shuttle service to safely transport seniors living in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) to vaccination centres. Councillor Kirby-Yung noted that in light of recent anti-Asian crimes, this is an important service to offer especially for senior Chinese residents of Chinatown. The Acting City Manager agreed to follow-up with Vancouver Coastal Health.

2. Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

Councillor Wiebe enquired when staff will report back on the Council initiative “A Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The Acting City Manager agreed to follow-up with staff.

3. Update on Gastown Public Realm Plan

Councillor Wiebe enquired about the timeline for the Gastown Public Realm Plan, in particular the update of Maple Tree Square. The Acting City Manager agreed to follow-up with staff.

4. General Manager’s Report

Councillor Wiebe enquired if it would be possible for the City to have a routine General Manager’s Report, similar to the Park Board, as it could be a great opportunity to showcase and lift up all the great work City staff is doing. The Acting City Manager agreed to follow-up with staff.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick
SECONDED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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