



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

MARCH 31, 2021

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 9:32 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:

- Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Chair
- Mayor Kennedy Stewart*
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Melissa De Genova*
- Councillor Lisa Dominato*
- Councillor Pete Fry, Vice-Chair
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung* (Leave of Absence for Civic Business from 3:30 to 5 pm)
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

WELCOME

The Chair 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 Chair 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. Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response
February 12, 2021**

Lon LaClaire, General Manager of Engineering Services reviewed the report and, along with Taryn Scollard, Deputy General Manager of Engineering Services and staff from Engineering Services, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who expressed concerns with a number of recommendations in the report.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849, as generally shown in Appendix G of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response", to support increased safety and compliance.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Ticket Offences By-law No. 9360, as generally shown in Appendix H of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response", to align with A above.
- C. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the necessary by-law amendments, as approved in A and B above and as generally shown in Appendices G and H of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response", respectively.
- D. THAT Council approve the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy as generally shown in Appendix I of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled "Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response", which outlines City of Vancouver service levels for snow and ice treatment services.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT D be amended as follows:

- D. THAT Council approve the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy as generally shown in Appendix I, which outlines City of Vancouver service levels for snow and ice treatment services, with the following change to section 4. b):
 - insert the words "pedestrian, cyclist and" after the word "prudent";
 - delete the words "cyclist, and pedestrian"; and
 - insert the words "in keeping with the City's transportation hierarchy" following the word "Conditions".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07115)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07116).

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849, as generally shown in Appendix G of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled “Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver’s Winter Weather Protocol and Response”, to support increased safety and compliance.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Ticket Offences By-law No. 9360, as generally shown in Appendix H of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled “Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver’s Winter Weather Protocol and Response”, to align with A above.
- C. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the necessary by-law amendments, as approved in A and B above and as generally shown in Appendices G and H of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled “Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver’s Winter Weather Protocol and Response”, respectively.
- D. THAT Council approve the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy as generally shown in Appendix I of the Report dated February 12, 2020, entitled “Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver’s Winter Weather Protocol and Response”, which outlines City of Vancouver service levels for snow and ice treatment services, with the following change to section 4. b):
 - insert the words “pedestrian, cyclist and” after the word “prudent”;
 - delete the words “cyclist, and pedestrian”; and
 - insert the words “in keeping with the City’s transportation hierarchy” following the word “Conditions”.

2. Report Back on Council Motion *“Beyond 2010: Consideration for the City of Vancouver to Participate in a Future Olympic Winter Games Bid”* November 4, 2020

The Deputy City Manager provided opening comments and, along with the Michelle Collens, Manager, Sport Hosting Vancouver, presented the report and responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council direct staff to stop the work on bringing the Olympics to Vancouver and pursue other Council priorities such as dealing with climate change and getting affordable housing.

amended

Councillor Kirby-Yung rose on a point of order under Section 8.7 (f) of the *Procedure By-law* and questioned whether the motion was in order as the City of Vancouver is not pursuing work on this right now. The Chair called for a recess to confer with staff on whether the motion was in order.

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 11:10 am and reconvened at 11:20 am.

* * * * *

Following the recess, the Chair ruled the motion in order as there is no recommendation associated with the report.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following wording:

THAT Council receive this report for information.

out of order

The Chair ruled Councillor De Genova's amendment out of order as a motion to receive for information is not required, and added that the same objective could be achieved by voting against the motion.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT Council receive this report for information;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to prepare a critical cost-benefit analysis of the 2010 Olympics and specifically any evidenced or assumed impacts on housing, affordability, environment and climate; and that this critical analysis be extrapolated to inform any future regional Olympic bid consideration and reporting.

withdrawn

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT Council recess and reconvene at 3 pm.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07117)
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr and Swanson opposed)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung abstained for the vote)

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 11:53 am and reconvened at 3:10 pm.

* * * * *

Following the recess, the Chair ruled the first clause of Councillor Fry's proposed amendment out of order as a motion to receive for information is not required.

MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the proposed amendment be withdrawn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

THAT in the event of any future consideration for a 2030 bid, Council direct staff to prepare a critical cost-benefit analysis of the 2010 Olympics and specifically any evidenced or assumed impacts on housing, affordability, environment and climate;

FURTHER THAT this critical analysis be extrapolated to inform any future regional Olympic bid consideration and reporting.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07118)
(Councillors Boyle, Hardwick and Swanson opposed)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 07119) with Councillors Boyle, Hardwick and Swanson opposed.

**3. Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Membership Fees for 2021 to 2022
February 18, 2021**

As the registered speaker was not on the line, the Committee began debate.

MOVED by Councillor Carr
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT grants to the following organizations for the 2021 to 2022 membership fees be approved; the source of funds the 2021 Operating Budget:

a.	Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	\$ 129,709.04
b.	Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)	\$ 60,000.00*
c.	Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA)	\$ 7,400.00*

(*approximate).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 07120)

4. Solidarity with Indian Farmers (Member's Motion B.3)

At the Council meeting on March 9, 2021, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on March 10, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

On March 10, 2021, the Committee completed hearing from speakers and began debate. Subsequently, as a motion to extend the meeting past 10 pm was lost, debate and decision on this item continued at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 31, 2021, with the following amended motion on the floor:

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The Indian government made changes to the agricultural laws without consulting the farmer's organizations;
2. These changes, in the opinion of the farmers, severely negatively impact their livelihood by:
 - a) Not granting minimum support price in the law;
 - b) Allowing traders to stockpile product to create shortages in the market place to increase price to the consumer;
 - c) Having dispute resolution between farmers and corporations under contract farmers handled by a committee rather than the judicial system;
3. A majority of Indian farmers are small farmers looking after less than 5 acres of land. They decide what they want to plant to meet their family needs rather than plant crops to fulfill corporate needs;
4. More than 60% of the Indian population relies on farming;
5. Due to high unemployment in the unskilled labour pool, the livelihood of families displaced by these laws will be severely negatively impacted;
6. The suicide rates amongst Indian farmers show the current fragility of the agriculture industry, which is battling the effects of climate change and massive crop failures;
7. During the ongoing protest in New Delhi the government is depriving the protesters of basic necessities and is violating their basic human rights;
8. Lending our voice to support India's farmers would lend support for the principle that in Canada and around the world local farmers are indispensable to the social fabric of any country must be supported and protected; and
9. The BC Provincial Government has joined all major federal political parties in speaking out against these legislative changes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council stands in solidarity with the Indian farmers and directs the Mayor to write to the provincial and federal governments and ask them to support Indian citizens' rights to expression and liberty, and to accelerate the message of concern to the Indian government.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07121) - *reconsidered*
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Wiebe abstained from the vote)
(Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

RECONSIDERATION MOVED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the vote on the motion as amended be reconsidered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The reconsideration having passed, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07122) with Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Hardwick and Wiebe abstaining for the vote; Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote, and Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business.

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

AMENDMENT MOVED by Cllr Fry

THAT WHEREAS clause 1 be amended to insert the word "adequately" before the word "consulting";

CARRIED (Vote No. 07123)
(Councillor Swanson opposed)
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Hardwick abstained from the vote)
(Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

FURTHER THAT WHEREAS clause 7 be struck from the motion;

CARRIED (Vote No. 07125)
(Councillor Swanson opposed)
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Hardwick abstained from the vote)
(Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

AND FURTHER THAT WHEREAS clause 9 be struck from the motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07126)
(Councillors Bligh, De Genova and Hardwick abstained from the vote)
(Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07127) with Councillors Bligh, De Genova, Fry, Hardwick and Wiebe abstaining from the vote; Councillors Dominato and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote, and Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote due to Civic Business.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

WHEREAS

1. The Indian government made changes to the agricultural laws without adequately consulting the farmer's organizations;
2. These changes, in the opinion of the farmers, severely negatively impact their livelihood by:
 - a) Not granting minimum support price in the law;
 - b) Allowing traders to stockpile product to create shortages in the market place to increase price to the consumer;
 - c) Having dispute resolution between farmers and corporations under contract farmers handled by a committee rather than the judicial system;
3. A majority of Indian farmers are small farmers looking after less than 5 acres of land. They decide what they want to plant to meet their family needs rather than plant crops to fulfill corporate needs;
4. More than 60% of the Indian population relies on farming;
5. Due to high unemployment in the unskilled labour pool, the livelihood of families displaced by these laws will be severely negatively impacted;
6. The suicide rates amongst Indian farmers show the current fragility of the agriculture industry, which is battling the effects of climate change and massive crop failures;
7. Lending our voice to support India's farmers would lend support for the principle that in Canada and around the world local farmers are indispensable to the social fabric of any country must be supported and protected; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council stands in solidarity with the Indian farmers and directs the Mayor to write to the provincial and federal governments and ask them to support Indian citizens' rights to expression and liberty, and to accelerate the message of concern to the Indian government.

5. Understanding COVID-19 Recovery through Economic and Cultural Stimulus Projects (Member's Motion B.4)

At the Council meeting on March 9, 2021, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on March 10, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

Subsequently, on March 10, 2021, a motion to extend the meeting past 10 pm and refer this item to a future meeting was lost; therefore, this item was considered at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on March 31, 2021.

As the registered speakers had since withdrawn, the Committee began debate.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Economic decline in 2020 in BC real GDP growth was negative six percent (-6.0%);
2. COVID-19 has adversely impacted Vancouver's economy and dramatically increased local unemployment rates with an estimated 32,000 jobs lost since February 2020 – many of which are in the construction industry;
3. The unemployment rate in BC is forecast to remain high at 6.8% in BC in 2021 according to the Business Council of BC;
4. Employment and revenue has dropped notably in the arts and cultural sector which has been one of the hardest hit due to the closure of performance venues and COVID safety restrictions; specific segments of the retail trade have also suffered;
5. Vancouver's *Culture|Shift* plan and vision for arts, culture and creativity sets Vancouver's first arts and cultural space targets including a goal for 800,000 square feet of new, repurposed or expanded, affordable City-owned, non-profit and private space over the next ten years;
6. Vancouver City Council's COVID-19 Recovery Committee report identifies economic recovery as a priority recovery theme;
7. As is the case with accelerating affordable and rental housing construction, the construction of commercial and cultural revitalization projects, including expanded cultural space projects, could have an equally positive impact on Vancouver's COVID-19 recovery and would present similar opportunities to assist with the creation of a "new, better 'normal'" for our city;
8. Information relevant to the construction of new commercial projects and new or revitalized cultural projects, including expanded cultural space, has direct impact on the speed and strength of Vancouver's COVID-19 economic recovery;

9. Private and non-profit entities may have potentially submitted proposals that do not fall under established rezoning enabling policy that may help to meet unemployment challenges and contribute to the creation of a “new, better ‘normal’” for our city;
10. Obtaining information with respect to new commercial and new or cultural revitalization projects, including new or expanded cultural space, is needed for council to properly assess opportunities for economic and cultural stimulus in our city and how these projects might positively impact Vancouver’s COVID-19 recovery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back with a memo (and attached Excel searchable and sortable pre-application list), prepared in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, identifying potential commercial projects and new cultural or cultural revitalization projects, including new or expanded cultural space, for all letters of enquiry, pre-enquiries and informal expressions of interest (excluding those projects for which established rezoning-enabling policy currently applies) by the end of Q1 2021 (or as soon as possible) and to be updated quarterly;

FURTHER THAT such information would include:

1. Project proponent
2. Project address
3. Pre-application enquiry type (i.e. LOE, pre-enquiry, informal EOI)
4. Submission date
5. Approximate number of buildings included in proposed project
6. Proposed office, industrial or retail square footage
7. Proposed rehearsal, production or performance/show space square footage
8. Associated economic activity including project value, number of construction jobs, number office jobs, number cultural jobs, number industrial jobs, retail spend, cultural spend, etc. as applicable
9. Paying-for-growth opportunities:
 - a. Fixed rate CAC (Yes/No/Don’t Know)
 - b. Negotiated CAC (Yes/No/Don’t Know)
 - c. DCLs and UDCLS (Yes/No/Don’t Know)
 - d. In-Kind or other community benefits (Yes/No/Don’t Know)

- B. THAT Council acknowledge that the above-referenced information is likely confidential and proprietary and therefore is likely to be provided only In Camera, and therefore not available for posting or communication to the public.
- C. THAT staff advise what data on an individual project basis or in aggregate may be made public from the provided information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07128)
(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)

6. Don't Feed the Wildlife (Member's Motion B.6)

At the Council meeting on March 9, 2021, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on March 10, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

Subsequently, on March 10, 2021, a motion to extend the meeting past 10 pm and refer this item to a future meeting was lost; therefore, this item was considered at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting March 31, 2021.

* * * * *

*Prior to hearing from speakers, the Committee recessed at 4:23 pm
and reconvened at 4:32 pm.*

* * * * *

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

MOVED by Councillor Fry
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver enjoys proximity to a spectacular natural environment with an abundance of natural wildlife species that coexist within our urban ecosystem, including: bald eagles, bats, beavers, coyotes, harbour seals, otters, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and a variety of birds;
2. Wild animals in the urban ecosystem often engage in opportunistic feeding, the taking of food without marked preferences as it becomes available. Humans, as the source of opportunistic feeding, often indulge this behaviour in an effort to admire or interact with wild animals;
3. Wild animals can suffer when they get used to eating human food instead of their natural diet. When people feed wildlife, the animals become habituated and can lose their healthy fear of people, this increases their chances of being injured or killed. Feeding wildlife can also directly or indirectly cause aggression in animals, attract vermin and other pests, and transmit diseases;

4. Within the City of Vancouver the feeding of wildlife is variously regulated and prohibited on land, at sea, and in parks by:
 - a. BC Wildlife Act¹ Section 33.1(1)(a)(b) stating: A person must not intentionally feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife, or provide, leave or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises with the intent of attracting dangerous wildlife. Where “dangerous wildlife” is defined as bear, cougar, coyote or wolf;
 - b. Canada Fisheries Act Marine Mammal Regulations² stating: No person shall disturb a marine mammal, including approaching the marine mammal, or attempt to feed it;
 - c. Parks Control by-law³ indirectly prohibits feeding wildlife in parks through section 14(l) stating: No person shall deposit food or grain on any area in a park except in litter cans provided by the Board for the purpose of receiving garbage and litter
5. The City of Vancouver has no municipal by-law directly prohibiting the feeding of wild animals, although Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849⁴ does restrict littering on streets and has been partially relied on for the enforcement of feeding wild animals in the city;
6. Victoria, BC, through its Animal Control By-law⁵ explicitly prohibits the feeding of deers, raccoons, squirrels or rabbits anywhere in the City, and additionally pigeons, crows and gulls within a prohibited downtown core area;
7. In Vancouver, public education and enforcement around feeding of wildlife in the urban ecosystem is inconsistent and ineffective:
 - a. Vancouver residents feeding wild visitors to their yards or outdoor spaces have resulted in injuries to people and pets, for example from 2017 at 1st and Arbutus a woman and her dogs attacked by food-habituated and aggressive raccoons: “Vancouver woman attacked by raccoons says they’re being fed by a neighbour”⁶ (2017, Global BC);
 - b. Indiscriminate bird feeding in public spaces (including but not limited to parks and schoolyards) has been observed to lead to an increase in rats and other opportunistic feeders;
 - c. In recent months, a number of aggressive coyote interactions in Stanley Park have resulted in bites, trail closures, and a number of coyotes being euthanized. According to the Park Board, “Aggressive behaviour is often the result of animals being fed by people.” As of February 22, 2021, there have been 15 attacks by coyotes in Stanley Park, though to date no deaths or serious injuries;
8. In response to a Freedom of Information request from the Fur-Bearers organization there have been no tickets (fines and warnings) issued by Vancouver By-law Officers, regarding wildlife feeding in Stanley Park, between January 1, 2018 to January 19, 2021. Similarly, the Board of Parks and Recreation confirms there are no responsive records for the same time period.

There have been no fines from BC's Conservation Office for feeding coyotes;

9. The BC SPCA encourages municipalities to adopt bylaws that prohibit intentional wildlife feeding and encourage the management of wildlife attractants as unintentional feeding sources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council directs staff to report back on Council's authority to prepare a by-law to prohibit intentional wildlife feeding, and encourage the management of wildlife attractants as unintentional feeding sources, pursuant to Vancouver's authority to create by-laws for preventing, abating, and prohibiting nuisance or other authority;

FURTHER THAT, if authorized by the *Vancouver Charter* or other authority, staff prepare for consideration a by-law that includes terms such as:

- a. No person shall knowingly or willingly feed any wildlife, or in any manner provide them or allow access to food or any other edible substance;
 - b. No person shall store any attractant or waste in such a manner that it is accessible to wildlife;
 - c. No person shall attract wildlife onto a property such that these wildlife create a nuisance for other properties; and
 - d. Exemptions for hummingbird feeding by way of liquid feeders, and songbird feeding by way of wildlife-proof feeders (specifically designed to prevent access by squirrels and rats).
- B. THAT subject to Council's approval of A above, staff consider and prepare amendments to the Ticket Offences By-law No. 9360 to create a ticket offence for intentional wildlife feeding.
 - C. THAT subject to Council's approval of A above, and the enactment of any proposed by-laws, staff prepare appropriate signage when and where necessary to promote the new by-law with updated, clear and easy to comprehend signage in areas where feeding is common.
 - D. THAT upon enactment of any new by-laws contemplated by A and B above, City staff share this information with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, CMHC Granville Island Administration, and Vancouver School Board District 39 for their consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07129)
(Councillors Dominato and Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)
(Councillor Hardwick abstained for the vote)

-
1. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96488_01#section33.1
 2. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2018/2018-07-11/html/sor-dors126-eng.html>
 3. <https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/files/BYLAW-ParksBylawsConsolidated-20170515.pdf>
 4. <https://bylaws.vancouver.ca/2849c.pdf>
 5. <https://www.victoria.ca/assets/City-Hall/Bylaws/bylaw-11-044.pdf>
 6. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3843464/vancouver-raccoon-attack/>

* * * * *

The Committee recessed at 4:56 pm, and reconvened at 6:01 pm.

* * * * *

7. Increasing Public Access to Information about False Creek South (Member's Motion B.2)

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

MOVED by Councillor Swanson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07130)
(Councillor De Genova abstained for the vote)

8. Turning Construction Hoarding into a Canvas for Public Art in Vancouver (Member's Motion B.3)

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

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

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;

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.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the motion be amended to add the following clause at the end:

AND FURTHER THAT consistent with the goals of Culture/Shift, the report back on options give consideration to encouraging support for BIPOC artists to reflect the City's rich cultural diversity and ensure diverse representation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07131)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07132).

9. Calling for a Plan to Clear Vancouver's Permit and License Backlog and Revamp this Critical City Service (Member's Motion B.4)

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

MOVED by Councillor Dominato
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

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.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Mayor Stewart

THAT the motion be amended to strike and replace A and B with the following:

- A. THAT Council direct the City Manager to strike an internal development application and permitting modernization task force to be headed by the City Manager;
- B. THAT Council mandate the task force to:
- i) consolidate and integrate all work related to Council motions and internal work regarding modernizing the city's development application and permitting and licensing processes;
 - ii) produce relevant data and, where legally feasible, make these data publicly available;
 - iii) provide Council with recommendations as to how to best modernize development application and permitting processes, including quick start options;

- iv) provide recommendations as to related user fee adjustments;
- v) provide bi-monthly updates to Council.

FURTHER THAT the motion be amended to add C as follows:

- C. THAT Council grant staff immediate access to up to \$1 million from Council contingency funds to kick start task force work.

AND FURTHER THAT C of the original motion be lettered D as follows:

- D. 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.

amended

The Committee agreed to sever the components of the following amendment to the amendment for the vote.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the proposed B (i) be struck.

LOST (Vote No. 07133)
(Councillors Bligh, Boyle, Carr, Fry, Swanson, Wiebe and the Mayor opposed)

FURTHER THAT the following be added as E:

- E. THAT Council direct the task force to endeavour to substantially reduce the existing backlog of permits and licenses for smaller scale projects by end of Q2 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07134)

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor De Genova

THAT the following be added as F:

THAT Council direct staff to continue with the direction given in the November 2018 motion "Setting New Standards: Expediting Development and Building Permits and Examining Fees to Improve Affordability in the city of Vancouver";

FURTHER THAT Council clarify that this task force will not delay the ongoing work of staff on these recommendations.

withdrawn

Following discussion, Councillor De Genova asked to withdraw the proposed amendment to the amendment and Council unanimously agreed.

The amendments having lost or carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 07135) with Councillors Dominato, Hardwick and Kirby-Yung opposed and Councillor De Genova absent for the vote.

Councillor Bligh relinquished the Chair to Councillor Fry as Vice-Chair in order to participate in debate and resumed as Chair when completed.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Bligh

THAT the following be added as F.

- F. THAT Council affirm its unequivocal support to prioritize the work currently underway in Development, Permitting and Licensing by initiating a moratorium on any new member motions put on notice that would otherwise result in new work for the staff involved in issuing development and building permits and business licenses until the end of 2021.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07136)

(Councillors De Genova, Dominato, Hardwick and Kirby-Yung opposed)

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put, with the Committee agreeing to sever the components of the vote as outlined below.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

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 the City Manager to strike an Internal Development Application and Permitting Modernization Task Force to be headed by the City Manager.
- B. THAT Council mandate the Internal Development Application and Permitting Modernization Task Force to:
 - i) consolidate and integrate all work related to Council motions and internal work regarding modernizing the city's development application and permitting and licensing processes;
 - ii) produce relevant data and, where legally feasible, make these data publicly available;
 - iii) provide Council with recommendations as to how to best modernize development application and permitting processes, including quick start options;
 - iv) provide recommendations as to related user fee adjustments; and
 - v) provide bi-monthly updates to Council.

- C. THAT Council grant staff immediate access to up to \$1 million from Council contingency funds to kick start the Internal Development Application and Permitting Modernization Task Force work.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07137)
(Councillors Dominato, Hardwick and Kirby-Yung opposed)
(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

- D. 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.
- E. THAT Council direct the Internal Development Application and Permitting Modernization Task Force to endeavour to substantially reduce the existing backlog of permits and licenses for smaller scale projects by end of Q2 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07139)
(Councillor Hardwick abstained from the vote)
(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

- F. THAT Council affirm its unequivocal support to prioritize the work currently underway in Development, Permitting and Licensing by initiating a moratorium on any new member motions put on notice that would otherwise result in new work for the staff involved in issuing development and building permits and business licenses until the end of 2021.

CARRIED (Vote No. 07138)
(Councillors Dominato, Hardwick and Kirby-Yung opposed)
(Councillor De Genova absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 9:46 pm.

* * * * *



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

MARCH 31, 2021

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 9:46 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: Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
Councillor Lisa Dominato
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Colleen Hardwick
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Jean Swanson
Councillor Michael Wiebe

ABSENT: Councillor Melissa De Genova

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

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Tina Hildebrandt, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

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. Increasing Priority for Pedestrians in Vancouver's Winter Weather Protocol and Response
2. Report Back on Council Motion "*Beyond 2010: Consideration for the City of Vancouver to Participate in a Future Olympic Winter Games Bid*"
3. Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Membership Fees for 2021 to 2022
4. Solidarity with Indian Farmers (Member's Motion B.3)
5. Understanding COVID-19 Recovery Through Economic and Cultural Stimulus Projects (Member's Motion B.4)

6. Don't Feed the Wildlife (Member's Motion B.6)
7. Increasing Public Access to Information about False Creek South (Member's Motion B.2)
8. Turning Construction Hoarding into a Canvas for Public Art in Vancouver (Member's Motion B.3)
9. Calling for a Plan to Clear Vancouver's Permit and License Backlog and Revamp this Critical City Service (Member's Motion B.4)

Items 1 to 9

MOVED by Councillor Wiebe
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of March 31, 2021, as contained in items 1 to 9, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
ITEM 3 BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 9:48 pm.

* * * * *