



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 9:38 am in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

**PRESENT:**

- Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Chair
- Mayor Kennedy Stewart\*
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Melissa De Genova\* (Leave of Absence for Civic Business from 12:30 pm onwards)
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry, Vice-Chair
- Councillor Colleen Hardwick
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung\* (Leave of Absence for Civic Business from 10:30 am to 1 pm)
- Councillor Jean Swanson
- Councillor Michael Wiebe

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting

## WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. 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.

## **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council adopt Item 2, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

### **1. Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Update**

Doug Smith, Director, Sustainability Group, introduced the item and along with Brad Badelt, Assistant Director, Sustainability Group, and Matt Horne, Climate Policy Manager, Sustainability Group, provided a presentation. Subsequently, along with staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, Engineering Services, and Real Estate and Facilities Management, responded to questions.

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*Due to technical issues, the Committee recessed at 10:20 am and reconvened at 10:35 am.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*At 10:38 am, during questions to staff, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Carr*

*THAT the Committee be permitted to ask a second round of questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)*

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The presentation on Item 1 entitled "Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Update", was received for information.

### **2. Renewal of the Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant Program October 5, 2021**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT pursuant to section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council approve a money grant of \$526,000 (the "Grant") to the Vancouver Heritage Foundation to renew the Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant program. The source of funding is the Building Energy Retrofit Fund approved by Council in 2016 (RTS No. 11239), with additional funds from the Sustainability Reserve.

- B. THAT, pursuant to and for the purposes of section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems the Vancouver Heritage Foundation to be contributing to the welfare of Vancouver.
- C. THAT the Grant made to the Vancouver Heritage Foundation be subject to the Vancouver Heritage Foundation executing and delivering to the City of Vancouver a grant letter agreement received from the City of Vancouver.
- D. THAT the grant letter agreement executed by the Vancouver Heritage Foundation be on the terms generally outlined in the Report dated October 5, 2021, entitled "Renewal of the Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant Program", and otherwise satisfactory to the City of Vancouver's General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and the Director of Legal Services.
- E. THAT, on behalf of the City of Vancouver, the General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, be authorized to execute any grant letter agreement governing the terms of the Grant.
- F. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of A and B above unless and until an actual grant letter agreement is executed and delivered by the City and the Vancouver Heritage Foundation.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT AND A AND B BY  
THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 07772)

**3. Interim Update: Accessibility Strategy, Phase 1 Development  
October 22, 2021**

Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services, introduced the item and along with Karen Lai, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects Division, provided a presentation.

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*At 11:57 am, during the staff presentation, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor De Genova*

*THAT the Committee extend the meeting past noon in order to finish hearing the staff presentation.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillor Kirby-Yung and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)*

*The Committee recessed at 12:13 pm and reconvened at 1:17 pm.*

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Wilma Clarke, Assistant Director, and Karen Lai, Social Planner, within the Social Policy and Projects Division, responded to questions.

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*At 1:35 pm, during questions to staff, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Boyle*

*THAT the Committee be permitted to ask a second round of questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

*(Councillor De Genova and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive this interim report, as outlined in the Report dated October 22, 2021, entitled "Interim Update: *Accessibility Strategy, Phase 1 Development*", as an update of work to date on the development of Phase I of the Accessibility Strategy, including:
  - i. the draft accessibility commitment statements; and
  - ii. the attached engagement summary.
- B. THAT Council provide provisional approval of the proposed Accessibility Commitment Statements, subject to final community engagement.
- C. THAT Council approve the proposed Action While Planning priority actions that can be achieved within existing resources for immediate implementation.
- D. THAT Council receive for consideration the proposed Action While Planning priority actions that require additional funding of \$200,000 which has been identified as a potential investment for evaluation as part of the 2022 Operating Budget process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07770)

(Councillor De Genova and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

#### **4. Plant-Based Purchasing Savings for City and Climate (Member's Motion B.3)**

At the Council meeting on November 2, 2021, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 3, 2021, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

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

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

##### WHEREAS

1. Anthropogenic climate change is forcing governments and systems to consider how human behaviour and consumption can be modified in order to help meet the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 target to limit global warming to 1.5 °C;
2. The IPCC has advised that a plant-based diet can help fight climate change, specifically as the West's high consumption of meat and dairy produce is fuelling global warming;  
  
Livestock farming (the management and breeding of domestic, livestock, or farm animals for the purpose of obtaining their meat and products) is estimated to take up around 30% of the earth's surface and contribute 18% of all global greenhouse gas emissions;
3. The City of Vancouver declared a Climate Emergency in January 2019, and on November 17, 2020, Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). The Big Moves articulated in the Plan focus on zero emissions in transportation, heating systems, and construction;

The CEAP Report acknowledges one main lever to reduce food system emissions is adopting diets low in animal products (particularly beef, pork and dairy) and working towards a low-carbon food system for Vancouver will require:

- a. Identifying potential changes to City procurement and practices through the new Green Operations Plan; and
  - b. Actions to support urban agriculture as one means of increasing opportunities for sustainable food production and the harvesting and availability of plant-based foods;
4. The City of Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy articulates the goal of Feeding Ourselves Well: through a healthy, just, and sustainable food system;
  5. Plant-based diets are increasingly seen as a healthier option by Canadians, as excessive meat consumption has been shown to increase saturated fat intake and is linked to obesity and a variety of diseases;

6. Plant-based diets are driving profits and growth in the grocery and food services industry<sup>1</sup> and creating a variety of local business success stories. Vancouver is consistently named as a global plant-based foodie capital<sup>2</sup>;
7. Vancouver's status as an economic centre for plant-based products is growing. Setting targets for plant-based options in the City's food procurement can send a powerful signal to the food production and processing industries of further growth potential;
8. The Vancouver Humane Society (VHS) report Increasing Plant-Based Purchasing at the Municipal Level<sup>3</sup> is urging the City of Vancouver to incorporate meat-reduction efforts into the City's greater ecological objectives;

In the report, VHS has conducted an analysis of the City of Vancouver's current food purchasing activities including: Vancouver Civic Theatres concessions, City event catering contracts, low-cost meal programs, Parks Board concession services and golf course food service, and the Vancouver School Board's Food4School program; and

9. The Vancouver Humane Society analysis has proposed three alternative City of Vancouver procurement/replacement options for a 20% reduction in animal-based products. Implementing just one of these options would save up to \$99,000 in procurement costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 500 tonnes. Additionally, the replacement of 20% animal-based options with plant-based options is projected to increase sales revenues by 14% (\$400,000) and save the equivalent of nearly 400 farmed animals a year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council declare that plant-based procurement can result in cost and budget efficiencies, help to promote healthier choices for Vancouverites, support local plant-based businesses, meet demonstrated food and dining trends, and respond to the Climate Emergency.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back with policy on how a partial shift to plant-based procurement can save the City on costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and consider one or all of the Vancouver Humane Society proposed policy change options, including:
  - a. a 20% reduction in all animal-based products;
  - b. a 20% reduction in the most cost-intensive animal-based products; or
  - c. a 20% reduction in the most carbon-intensive animal-based products.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to share the report back with Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Economic Commission, and Vancouver School Board for information.

1. Plant-based goes mainstream  
<https://ccentral.ca/plant-based-goes-mainstream>
2. Vancouver ranked one of the world's most popular cities for vegans  
<https://biv.com/article/2021/01/vancouver-ranked-one-worlds-most-popular-cities-vegans>
3. Vancouver Humane Society report  
[Increasing Plant-Based Purchasing at the Municipal Level](#) (PDF)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 07771)  
(Councillor De Genova and Mayor Stewart absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 2:33 pm.

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

**NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 2:34 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:**

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:**

Mayor Kennedy Stewart  
Councillor Melissa De Genova (Leave of Absence for Civic Business from 12:30 pm onwards)

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk  
Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
Wednesday, November 3, 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. Climate Emergency Action Plan Annual Update
2. Renewal of the Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant Program
3. Interim Update: Accessibility Strategy, Phase 1 Development
4. Plant-Based Purchasing Savings for City and Climate (Member's Motion B.3)



Items 1 to 4

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Hardwick

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of November 3, 2021, as contained in items 1 to 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Hardwick  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 2:35 pm.

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