



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

OCTOBER 9, 2024

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 9:30 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened in person and via electronic means as authorized by Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Lenny Zhou, Chair  
Mayor Ken Sim  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Lisa Dominato  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Peter Meiszner\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business  
– 9:30 am to 11 am)  
Councillor Brian Montague

**ABSENT:** Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Chair (Leave of Absence – Civic  
Business)  
Councillor Christine Boyle (Leave of Absence – Personal  
Reasons)

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Deputy City Clerk  
Cassia Nasralla, 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 team members who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

## **PROCLAMATION – International Day of Older Persons and National Seniors Day**

The Mayor proclaimed October 1, 2024, as the International Day of Older Persons and National Seniors Day. The Mayor and Councillors read the proclamation and, noting the important contributions older persons have made to the history and legacy of the City of Vancouver, invited members of the City of Vancouver’s Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee to accept the proclamation.

## **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council adopt Reports 1 to 3 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Councillor Meiszner absent for the vote)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Inappropriate Public Behaviours - Updating the City's Violence Prevention Program to Ensure a Respectful and Safe Work Environment for Employees**

Staff from the Office of the Chief Safety Officer provided a presentation and, along with the City Manager, responded to questions.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During questions to staff, it was*

MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

*THAT under section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, Council ask a second round of questions to staff.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\* \* \* \* \*

## REPORTS

### 1. **Agricultural Land Reserve – Soil Deposit at 2999 West 53rd Avenue September 26, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council forward an application to deposit soil at 2999 West 53rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC (PID: 004-419-073, LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT B BLOCK 1 DISTRICT LOT 315 PLAN 9779) to the Agricultural Land Commission, in accordance with section 34.1 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act because the soil deposit is for an agricultural purpose.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10249)  
(Councillor Meiszner absent for the vote)

### 2. **Contract Award for Value Added Reseller for Network and Data Center Hardware, Software, Services, Support & Warranty September 9, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for Value Added Reseller for Network and Data Center Hardware, Software, Services, Support & Warranty with CDW Canada Corp for an estimated total contract value of \$49,000,000 over the initial five (5)-year term, plus the four (4) possible unilateral extension terms (the "Agreement"), which will be funded from the ongoing infrastructure Maintenance/Upgrade/Expand Programs for the City, the Vancouver Police Department, and Vancouver Public Library. The estimated contract value for the entire potential nine (9)-year term, including all possible extension terms, is \$92.5 million, plus applicable taxes.
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and Deputy City Manager.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10250)  
(Councillor Meiszner absent for the vote)

### 3. **Contract Award for Construction Services for Sunset Seniors Centre Building – General Contractor September 11, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to enter into a contract with Pomerleau Inc. for

Construction Services for Sunset Seniors Centre Building – General Contractor, for a term of approximately 15 months, with an estimated contract value of \$11,671,176.30 including applicable taxes over the 15-month term, to be funded through approved REFM Capital Budget for the Sunset Seniors Centre Building.

- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer and General Manager of Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management be authorized to execute on behalf of the City the contract contemplated by A above.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City as set out in these Recommendations.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10251)  
(Councillor Meiszner absent for the vote)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

#### 1. Fee Waiver Grant to Support the "Victory Square Banner Program"

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke in support of the motion.

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*During discussion, Chair Zhou relinquished the Chair to Mayor Sim in order to participate in debate and provide comments and resumed the role of Chair prior to calling the vote on this item.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

#### WHEREAS

- 1. Vancouver's annual Remembrance Day ceremony at Victory Square is a revered city tradition and deeply ingrained in Vancouver's cultural fabric. It is the oldest continuing annual ceremony in the city and attracts thousands of people, rain or shine;
- 2. The act of Remembrance is one of the most important ways to honour and thank Veterans for their sacrifices and to ensure that Canada never forgets the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, RCMP, Peace Officers, Merchant Navy, and Reserves;

3. We also remember Canada's military families on Remembrance Day – the mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters of Canadian Veterans – who greatly appreciate this annual day of observance;
4. Vancouver's solemn Remembrance Day ceremony includes the "Last Post" and the "Lament" as well as a fly-past, the change of the guard, wreath-laying, and a parade of veterans, military units, cadets, police, brass bands, pipes, and drums;
5. The City of Vancouver has the unique distinction of being the only city in Canada that supports a civic volunteer committee – the Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee. The Remembrance Day Committee diligently and unfailingly serves to organize and conduct the annual November 11th ceremony and ensures that the legacy of our veterans is honoured by the people of our city and beyond;
6. This year, Vancouver's Remembrance Day ceremony is particularly significant as it will be the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph, Metro Vancouver's primary monument commemorating the valor and sacrifices of the Canadian Armed Forces' veterans;
7. The Cenotaph stands as a symbol of our collective memory and gratitude towards those who have served our nation, which it has done since its inception in 1924 following the City of Vancouver's acquisition of Victory Square in 1917;
8. To mark the Cenotaph centennial this year, a collaborative effort between volunteers, i.e., the Legion's BC/Yukon Command and ANAVETS BC Command, has given rise to the "Victory Square 100" project which aims to commemorate our veterans' heroism in a distinctive and memorable manner;
9. A key feature of the "Victory Square 100" project is the installation of banners adorned with photographs of veterans. These banners will be prominently displayed on street lamp posts along major thoroughfares in the city, with a special focus on Victory Square and the Chinatown Memorial Square. This visual homage will not only enhance the cityscape but will also serve as a constant reminder of the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans to residents and visitors alike;
10. Following the Victory Square ceremony, many dignitaries participate in a remembrance ceremony held at Chinatown's Memorial Square. The ANAVETS Pacific Unit # 280 has therefore proposed to put up additional banners in Chinatown to honour Chinese Canadian veterans who fought for Canada in both World Wars and other conflicts where Chinese Canadians also served;
11. The valiant contributions of Chinese Canadian veterans stand alongside the long, proud tradition of military service to our country by Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis people), as well as Japanese, Sikh, and other diverse groups that have been instrumental in our nation's military efforts during times of war. Their sacrifices and dedication are a testament to the strength and resilience of Canada's multicultural fabric;

12. In order to help bring the Victory Square Banner vision to life and ensure that the program is executed with the dignity and respect it deserves, The Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee has requested a \$15,000 grant from the City (nominally divided into a \$10,000 grant to the Legion and a \$5,000 grant to the ANAVETS for the Chinatown initiative);
13. By supporting additional "Victory Square 100" banners in Chinatown, we not only recognize the valour, sacrifices, and military service of Chinese Canadians during both World Wars and in other conflicts, we also acknowledge the pivotal role Chinese Canadian veterans played in our nation's history. Their contributions not only secured citizenship and voting rights for Chinese Canadians, they also paved the way for equal professional opportunities in sectors previously closed to them such as law, engineering, and medicine;
14. The "Victory Square Banner Program" is a fitting tribute to our veterans and a testament to Vancouver's commitment to honouring our history and those who have shaped it; and
15. Under Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council has the authority to deem any organization that is to receive a grant, which is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), to be an organization contributing to the health or welfare of the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT in recognition of our veterans in this centennial year of the Victory Square Cenotaph, Council direct staff to apply one-time grants to offset costs related to the banner installation, including rental fees for the Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command and the ANAVETS Pacific Unit #280's Remembrance Day commemorations.
- B. THAT Council approve one-time grants of \$10,000 to the Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command and \$5,000 to the ANAVETS Pacific Unit #280 to offset costs related to the banner installation, including rental fees. The funding source for these one-time grants is the Engineering Services operating budget.
- C. THAT pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is not a charity registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, and that is to receive a grant pursuant to this motion, to be an organization contributing to the culture or welfare of the city.
- D. THAT Council authorize the General Manager, Engineering Services to negotiate and execute agreements or documents to support the grants described in this motion on terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager, Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.

- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of A through D unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
AND BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 10240)

**2. Potential to Update the Vancouver Building Bylaw to enable Single Egress Stairs Low & Mid-Rise Buildings to Align with Provincial Changes to the BC Building Code and Deliver Better Quality Housing Options**

The Committee heard from two speakers who spoke in support of the motion and one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. This Council has committed to and is advancing work on streamlining policies, processes and permitting, in order to deliver more housing faster to help address the housing crisis in Vancouver;
2. Missing middle housing options and options for families and family-sized units are an important part of the housing continuum, and are options that are sorely needed in Vancouver;
3. In October 2023, Council passed the motion entitled "Accelerating Housing Delivery Through Transformative Change" where Council directed staff to explore the steps and measures to harmonize and otherwise align the Vancouver Building By-law (VBBL), which regulates the design and construction of buildings (including administrative provisions related to permitting, inspections, and the enforcement of these requirements), with the BC Building Code (BCBC), which governs how new construction, building alterations, repairs and demolitions are completed, for a more rapid delivery of housing in the City of Vancouver. And the motion directed that staff outline the differences and distinctions between the City's By-law and the Province's Building Code, along with the impacts of these differences and distinctions in terms of the timely delivery of housing;
4. On August 29, 2024, the Province of BC and BC Minister of Housing announced changes to the BC Building Code (BCBC) allowing single egress stair (SES) designs in low and mid-rise buildings, with the intention of having larger layouts and more multi-bedroom apartment options available for families and people who need them, and where development was previously not possible due to lot size, cost and other limitations.

The Provincial updates to the BCBC removed the code requirement for a second egress, or exit, stairwell per floor in buildings up to six (6) stories, to make it possible to build housing projects on smaller lots and in different configurations, while allowing more flexibility for multi-bedroom apartments, more density within areas of transit-oriented developments and the potential to improve energy efficiency in buildings. Previously, the BCBC called for at least two egress stairwells in buildings three storeys and higher.

To ensure the continuing safety for residents, updated BCBC requires that all new SES designed buildings will require specific safety measures, including sprinklers, smoke-management systems and wider stairwells;

5. The BCBC SES changes were drafted following the release of the report, "Single Egress Stair Building Designs: Policy and Technical Options", in June 2024 that included engagement with representatives of the fire services community amongst other stakeholders; and
6. On September 3rd, the Fire Chiefs Association of BC (FCABC) and the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association (BCPFFA) raised concerns regarding the BC Provincial Government amendment of the BCBC to allow a Single Exit Stairway (SES) in multi-residential buildings, indicating that the changes responded to some of the fire service's concerns identified in the report authored for the Province on June 25, 2024 by Robert Heikkila, with Jensen Hughes entitled Single Egress Stair Building Designs: Policy and Technical Options Report, but did not go far enough to address all life safety concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q4 2024 on the potential to and required changes needed to align the Vancouver Building By-law with the BC Building Code, in order to permit single egress stairs in low & mid-rise buildings in buildings up to six (6) stories to enable larger layouts and more multi-bedroom apartment options for families and people who need them.
- B. THAT the report back be guided by advice of Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and consideration of VFRS concerns, or recommendations with respect to the identification or potential inclusion of supporting life safety and firefighting measures.

amended

AMENDEDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the words "and IAFF18 representatives" be added to B between the words "Services" and "and".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10241)



AMENDEDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the words “architects with code and accessibility expertise,” be added to B between the words “of” and “Vancouver”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10242)

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10243).

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

#### WHEREAS

1. This Council has committed to and is advancing work on streamlining policies, processes and permitting, in order to deliver more housing faster to help address the housing crisis in Vancouver;
2. Missing middle housing options and options for families and family-sized units are an important part of the housing continuum, and are options that are sorely needed in Vancouver;
3. In October 2023, Council passed the motion entitled “Accelerating Housing Delivery Through Transformative Change” where Council directed staff to explore the steps and measures to harmonize and otherwise align the Vancouver Building By-law (VBBL), which regulates the design and construction of buildings (including administrative provisions related to permitting, inspections, and the enforcement of these requirements), with the BC Building Code (BCBC), which governs how new construction, building alterations, repairs and demolitions are completed, for a more rapid delivery of housing in the City of Vancouver. And the motion directed that staff outline the differences and distinctions between the City’s By-law and the Province’s Building Code, along with the impacts of these differences and distinctions in terms of the timely delivery of housing;
4. On August 29, 2024, the Province of BC and BC Minister of Housing announced changes to the BC Building Code (BCBC) allowing single egress stair (SES) designs in low and mid-rise buildings, with the intention of having larger layouts and more multi-bedroom apartment options available for families and people who need them, and where development was previously not possible due to lot size, cost and other limitations.

The Provincial updates to the BCBC removed the code requirement for a second egress, or exit, stairwell per floor in buildings up to six (6) stories, to make it possible to build housing projects on smaller lots and in different configurations, while allowing more flexibility for multi-bedroom apartments, more density within areas of transit-oriented developments and the potential to improve energy efficiency in buildings. Previously, the BCBC called for at least two egress stairwells in buildings three storeys and higher.

To ensure the continuing safety for residents, updated BCBC requires that all new SES designed buildings will require specific safety measures, including sprinklers, smoke-management systems and wider stairwells;

5. The BCBC SES changes were drafted following the release of the report, "Single Egress Stair Building Designs: Policy and Technical Options", in June 2024 that included engagement with representatives of the fire services community amongst other stakeholders; and
6. On September 3rd, the Fire Chiefs Association of BC (FCABC) and the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association (BCPFFA) raised concerns regarding the BC Provincial Government amendment of the BCBC to allow a Single Exit Stairway (SES) in multi-residential buildings, indicating that the changes responded to some of the fire service's concerns identified in the report authored for the Province on June 25, 2024 by Robert Heikkila, with Jensen Hughes entitled Single Egress Stair Building Designs: Policy and Technical Options Report, but did not go far enough to address all life safety concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q4 2024 on the potential to and required changes needed to align the Vancouver Building By-law with the BC Building Code, in order to permit single egress stairs in low & mid-rise buildings in buildings up to six (6) stories to enable larger layouts and more multi-bedroom apartment options for families and people who need them.
- B. THAT the report back be guided by advice of architects with code and accessibility expertise, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and IAFF18 representatives and consideration of VFRS concerns, or recommendations with respect to the identification or potential inclusion of supporting life safety and firefighting measures.

**3. Reviewing Council's Committees & Structure to Enhance Decision-Making Processes**

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke in support of the motion and one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the motion.

MOVED by Mayor Sim

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Committees allow boards and elected government bodies, such as municipal Councils, to split up tasks to get their work accomplished, while enabling a more granular level of community and stakeholder engagement. As a rule, committees

are not decision-making bodies. Rather, they make recommendations to a board or Council which then make the final decisions;

2. Committees are a practical way to divide the work of a board into manageable tasks that structure the work. Committees can be smaller groups that can be more focused and efficient in dealing with specific issues than a full Council or board, allowing time to thoroughly discuss issues in support of good decision making;
3. Section 159 of the *Vancouver Charter* authorizes Council to provide for any such committees it may see fit to establish and to refer any matter to a committee for report. Likewise, section 161 authorizes Council to delegate any of the executive or administrative powers exercisable by the Council, with or without restrictions or conditions, to any committee comprised of members of the Council, employees of the city, or members of the Council and employees of the City;
4. Council also has the authority to establish (and to disband) committees, whether they be ad-hoc, time-limited committees or standing advisory committees, as well as the power to strike task forces to explore specific questions;
5. There are approximately 30 civic agencies (Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels) appointed by City Council, most of which are advisory to Council and/or staff, while some are administered by external organizations such as the PNE or the Vancouver Public Library;
6. The City's Procedure By-law (BY-LAW NO. 12577) includes several definitions relevant to committees under section 1.2 including "advisory committee" which means a committee of persons, who are not Council members or staff members, and who are appointed by Council to advise the Mayor, Council, or staff. Likewise, "standing committee" means a Council committee established by Council;
7. As a matter of good governance practices, boards are frequently encouraged to be self-reflective and ask themselves key questions on a periodic basis such as (but not limited to):
  - Does the board have too many committees such that board members are being stretched thin and having to attend too many meetings?
  - Are committee assignments distributed evenly across the board so that every member has a chance to be involved in committee work?
  - Are there committees that could be turned into task forces or ad-hoc committees with a specific objective to be accomplished within a specific time frame?
  - Are committees focused on policy and strategic items, or are they getting involved in operations?
  - Are any committees duplicating another committee's work or the staff's work?

8. Although the City's Advisory Committees and civic agencies provide valuable insights and recommendations to the Council, there is a continuous need to evolve and adapt municipal governance structures to meet the changing needs and demands of the city and its residents. As with any governance body, it is incumbent upon Council to pay close attention to the changing needs of the organization and to make sure that its committees and committee structures continue to meet those needs effectively;
9. The City's current committee structure has been in place for a significant period of time and would therefore benefit from a comprehensive review, with an eye to potential renewal and reorganization, to ensure that it meets the evolving needs of the City's from a governance and community engagement perspective;
10. A streamlined and efficient committee structure has the potential to enhance the work of City committees, as well as the decision-making processes of Council, and foster more direct and effective communication between the public and Council; and
11. It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that the governance structures in place are efficient, effective, and provide the best possible framework for decision-making and public participation and are in alignment with the strategic priorities of the City and Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q1 2025 with a review and assessment of the City's current committee structure(s) and system(s), including options for alternative approaches to efficiently align committee structure(s) and system(s) with the strategic priorities of the City and Council.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the words “, with the intention to increase focused public engagement.” be added to end of the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED clause;

FURTHER THAT the words “and equitably” be added to the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT clause between the words “efficiently” and “align”;

AND FURTHER THAT the following be added as an additional clause:

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to include a jurisdictional scan of best practices for representative democratic engagement in their review and assessment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10244)

\* \* \* \* \*

*At this point in the meeting it was,*

*MOVED by Councillor Montague*

*SECONDED by Councillor Fry*

*THAT the Committee extend the meeting past noon in order to complete the items on the agenda.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added as an additional clause:

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with current advisory committees and incorporate their recommendations for improvement into the review.

CARRIED (Vote No. 10245)

(Councillor Montague opposed)

The amendments having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10246).

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

#### WHEREAS

1. Committees allow boards and elected government bodies, such as municipal Councils, to split up tasks to get their work accomplished, while enabling a more granular level of community and stakeholder engagement. As a rule, committees are not decision-making bodies. Rather, they make recommendations to a board or Council which then make the final decisions;
2. Committees are a practical way to divide the work of a board into manageable tasks that structure the work. Committees can be smaller groups that can be more focused and efficient in dealing with specific issues than a full Council or board, allowing time to thoroughly discuss issues in support of good decision making;
3. Section 159 of the *Vancouver Charter* authorizes Council to provide for any such committees it may see fit to establish and to refer any matter to a committee for report. Likewise, section 161 authorizes Council to delegate any of the executive or administrative powers exercisable by the Council, with or without restrictions

or conditions, to any committee comprised of members of the Council, employees of the city, or members of the Council and employees of the City;

4. Council also has the authority to establish (and to disband) committees, whether they be ad-hoc, time-limited committees or standing advisory committees, as well as the power to strike task forces to explore specific questions;
5. There are approximately 30 civic agencies (Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels) appointed by City Council<sup>1</sup>, most of which are advisory to Council and/or staff, while some are administered by external organizations such as the PNE or the Vancouver Public Library;
6. The City's Procedure By-law (BY-LAW NO. 12577) includes several definitions relevant to committees under section 1.2 including "advisory committee" which means a committee of persons, who are not Council members or staff members, and who are appointed by Council to advise the Mayor, Council, or staff. Likewise, "standing committee" means a Council committee established by Council;
7. As a matter of good governance practices, boards are frequently encouraged to be self-reflective and ask themselves key questions on a periodic basis such as (but not limited to):
  - Does the board have too many committees such that board members are being stretched thin and having to attend too many meetings?
  - Are committee assignments distributed evenly across the board so that every member has a chance to be involved in committee work?
  - Are there committees that could be turned into task forces or ad-hoc committees with a specific objective to be accomplished within a specific time frame?
  - Are committees focused on policy and strategic items, or are they getting involved in operations?
  - Are any committees duplicating another committee's work or the staff's work?
8. Although the City's Advisory Committees and civic agencies provide valuable insights and recommendations to the Council, there is a continuous need to evolve and adapt municipal governance structures to meet the changing needs and demands of the city and its residents. As with any governance body, it is incumbent upon Council to pay close attention to the changing needs of the organization and to make sure that its committees and committee structures continue to meet those needs effectively;
9. The City's current committee structure has been in place for a significant period of time and would therefore benefit from a comprehensive review, with an eye to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://vancouver.ca/your-government/civic-agencies.aspx>

potential renewal and reorganization, to ensure that it meets the evolving needs of the City's from a governance and community engagement perspective;

10. A streamlined and efficient committee structure has the potential to enhance the work of City committees, as well as the decision-making processes of Council, and foster more direct and effective communication between the public and Council; and
11. It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that the governance structures in place are efficient, effective, and provide the best possible framework for decision-making and public participation and are in alignment with the strategic priorities of the City and Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q1 2025 with a review and assessment of the City's current committee structure(s) and system(s), including options for alternative approaches to efficiently and equitably align committee structure(s) and system(s) with the strategic priorities of the City and Council, with the intention to increase focused public engagement;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to include a jurisdictional scan of best practices for representative democratic engagement in their review and assessment;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to engage with current advisory committees and incorporate their recommendations for improvement into the review.

The Committee adjourned at 12:09 pm.

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

**OCTOBER 9, 2024**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 12:09 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 Ken Sim, Chair  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Lisa Dominato  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Rebecca Bligh (Leave of Absence – Civic Business)  
Councillor Christine Boyle (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons)

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

Lesley Matthews, Deputy City Clerk  
Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
Wednesday, October 09, 2024

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

Presentations:

1. Inappropriate Public Behaviours - Updating the City's Violence Prevention Program to Ensure a Respectful and Safe Work Environment for Employees

Reports:

1. Agricultural Land Reserve – Soil Deposit at 2999 West 53rd Avenue
2. Contract Award for Value Added Reseller for Network and Data Center Hardware, Software, Services, Support & Warranty



3. Contract Award for Construction Services for Sunset Seniors Centre Building – General Contractor

Council Members' Motions:

1. Fee Waiver Grant to Support the "Victory Square Banner Program"
2. Potential to Update the Vancouver Building Bylaw to enable Single Egress Stairs Low & Mid-Rise Buildings to Align with Provincial Changes to the BC Building Code and Deliver Better Quality Housing Options
3. Reviewing Council's Committees & Structure to Enhance Decision-Making Processes

MOVED by Councillor Montague

SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of October 9, 2024, as contained in Presentation 1, Reports 1 through 3 and Council Members' Motions 1 through 3, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### URGENT BUSINESS

1. **Resolution – Closure of a Portion of Road Adjacent 525 Powell Street**

MOVED by Councillor Klassen

SECONDED by Councillor Montague

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is the owner of all the streets and lanes lying within the limits of the City of Vancouver;
2. There is a proposal to develop a mixed-use social housing development over:
  - a. [PID: 015-603-911] Lot 26, Except the South 7 Feet Now Road, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
  - b. [PID: 015-603-954] Lot 27, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
  - c. [PID: 007-640-501] Lot 28, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
  - d. [PID: 015-603-962] Lot 29, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
  - e. [PID: 015-603-971] Lot 30, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
  - f. [PID: 015-603-997] Lot 31, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196; and
  - g. [PID: 015-604-021] Lot 32, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196; collectively, the "Development Lots";

3. The City, as owner of the Development Lots, wishes to consolidate an abutting 16.2 square meter portion of road with the Development Lots in order to maximize the available site area to support the development;
4. The said portion of road to be closed and stopped-up is legally described as [PID: 015-603-652] The South 7 feet of Lot 26, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196;
5. The said portion of road to be closed was established as road by Resolution of Council in 1941 (DF32801);
6. The said portion of road to be closed is no longer required for municipal or highway purposes; and
7. The said portion of road to be closed will be consolidated with the Development Lots to form a single parcel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT [PID: 015-603-652] The South 7 feet of Lot 26, Block 42, District Lot 196, Plan 196 established as road by document filed DF32801 be closed and stopped-up;

FURTHER THAT the said portion of road to be closed is to be consolidated with the Development Lots to form a single parcel, as shown within the heavy bold outline on the Reference Plan prepared by Carl A. Bjarnason, B.C.L.S., completed on the 13th day of March, 2024, and numbered Plan EPP136463, a copy of which is attached hereto, to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10252)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 12:11 pm.

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