



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 5, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vice-Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of February 19, 2009, were adopted.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

MOVED by Councillor Chow
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT items 1 and 2 be adopted on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. **2009 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging Program
February 24, 2009**

- A. THAT Council approve the continuation of the three-year land assessment averaging program in 2009 for the purpose of property tax calculations for Residential (Class 1), Light Industrial (Class 5) and Business & Other (Class 6) properties; and

FURTHER THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to prepare a bylaw authorizing the use of such a mechanism and bring it forward to Council for consideration on March 24, 2009.

- B. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council instruct the Director of Finance to make appropriate arrangements with the BC Assessment Authority for the production of an Averaged 2009 Assessment Roll at an estimated cost of \$20,000; source of fund to be 2009 Operating Budget.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

**2. Award of Contract for ITT PS08080 Contracting Services -
Landfill Phase 1 Closure Construction and Gas Control Upgrades
February 23, 2009**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the Landfill Phase 1 Closure Construction and Gas Control Upgrades Project (the "Project") scope be revised from the original scope approved by Council in June 2005 (RTS No. 05067, Vancouver Landfill Capital Projects) at a revised total Project budget of \$15,620,000; with the additional budget of \$3,745,000 to be funded from the Solid Waste Capital Reserve with partial cost recovery from the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District.
- B. THAT subject to the conditions set out in C, D, and E, of the Administrative Report dated February 23, 2009, entitled "Award of Contract for ITT PS08080 Contracting Services - Landfill Phase 1 Closure Construction and Gas Control Upgrades", the General Manager of Engineering Services be authorized to enter into a contract with TYAM Construction Ltd. for construction services on the Landfill Phase 1 Closure Construction and Gas Control Upgrades Project at an estimated cost of \$13,192,893 (including applicable taxes and fees) with funding to be provided by the budget established pursuant to A.
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all legal documents required to implement B above.
- D. THAT all such legal documents be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services, Manager of Supply Management and the Director of Legal Services.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of Recommendations B, C and D above unless and until such legal documents are executed and delivered by the Director of Legal Services.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3. Small Business Tax Bracket

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on February 19, 2009, referred this matter to a future Standing Committee meeting due to time constraints.

The Committee heard from three speakers in opposition to the motion.

The following motion reflects amendments to the original motion which were accepted by the Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS:

1. Small businesses in Vancouver are suffering from the economic down turn;
2. Small businesses deserve a share of the tax responsibility commensurate with the size of their businesses;
3. Only the Province has the ability to amend/create new property classes under Section 19(14) of the BC Assessment Act[RSBC 1996] and the Community Charter, Municipal Tax Regulation that define tax classes;
4. The 2002-2005 Council requested changes from the provincial government to create a new tax class for small business;
5. A report back was requested from staff during the 2005-2008 term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. THAT Council direct staff to investigate and report back on the definition of "small business".
2. THAT Council renew its request for City staff to investigate and report back on measures that would target support to small businesses in the City of Vancouver including possible changes to City by-laws and policies.
3. THAT City staff coordinate with the UBCM and the FCM to create a position paper recommending Provincial and Federal legislative changes that would support small businesses, including the possibility of an additional small business property class.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Neighbourhood Energy Utility ("NEU") - Operating Plan and Customer Rates
February 25, 2009

Staff from the Engineering and Business Planning Departments presented the report, and along with a representative from Compass Resource Management, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker in support of staff's recommendations.

MOVED by Mayor Robertson

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve the amendments to the *Energy Utility System By-law*, generally as set out Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated February 25, 2009, entitled "Neighbourhood Energy Utility ("NEU") - Operating Plan and Customer Rates", including the establishment of 2009 customer rates and fees, the implementation of an extension policy to serve potential customers outside of Southeast False Creek ("SEFC"), and various housekeeping amendments.
- B. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring the By-law amendment, generally as set out in Appendix A of the Administrative Report dated February 25, 2009, entitled "Neighbourhood Energy Utility ("NEU") - Operating Plan and Customer Rates", forward for enactment.
- C. THAT Council instruct the General Manager of Business Planning and Services and the General Manager of Engineering Services to report back to Council annually on adjustments to the Neighbourhood Energy Utility rates, and to bring a comprehensive NEU rate review to Council every five years.
- D. THAT Council instruct the Director of Finance to create and oversee a Neighbourhood Energy Utility (NEU) Rate Stabilisation Reserve, to a maximum balance of \$8 million, with the source of funds to be the Capital Financing Fund, and the terms and conditions to be consistent with those described in this report.
- E. THAT staff report back to Council on alternate approaches to adjusting Neighbourhood Energy Utility rates that minimize political conflict and maximize the sustainability of the business case.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

MARCH 5, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 11:34 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Suzanne Anton (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Raymond Louie (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor Tim Stevenson (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Lori Isfeld, Meeting Coordinator

"IN CAMERA" MEETING

MOVED by Councillor Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Cadman

THAT Council will go into a meeting later this day which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraph(s):

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mayor Robertson in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
March 5, 2009

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

1. 2009 Property Taxation: Land Assessment Averaging Program
2. Award of Contract for ITT PS08080 Contracting Services - Landfill Phase 1 Closure Construction and Gas Control Upgrades
3. Small Business Tax Bracket
4. Neighbourhood Energy Utility ("NEU") - Operating Plan and Customer Rates

Items 1 - 4

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of March 5, 2009, as contained in items 1 - 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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