

REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON CITY SERVICES AND BUDGETS

APRIL 23, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Raymond Louie, Chair
Mayor Gregor Robertson*
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs, Vice-Chair
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Councillor Andrea Reimer (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting of April 9, 2009, were adopted.

**1. 2008 City of Vancouver Annual Financial Report
April 8, 2009**

The Committee also had before it the Annual Financial Report 2008 (*limited distribution - on file*).

The Director of Financial Services, along with the Auditor from KPMG, provided an overview of the report and responded to questions. The City Manager and the General Manager of Business Planning and Services also provided comments.

Councillor Anton rose on a point of order in regard to the amount of time allowed for speaking. The Chair advised the Procedure By-law limits speaking times in debate.

Councillor Anton challenged the decision of the Chair.

The Chair then put the question:

Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(The Mayor absent for the vote)*

A two-thirds majority of those present is required to overrule the ruling of the Chair, therefore the ruling of the Chair was sustained.

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The Committee agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion.

MOVED by Councillor Anton
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive for information the City of Vancouver Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2008.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(The Mayor absent for the vote)

- B. THAT the Auditors be requested to meet with Council 'In Camera' to discuss internal financial controls of the City of Vancouver.

CARRIED
(Councillors Chow, Jang, Louie and Stevenson opposed)
(The Mayor absent for the vote)

**2. 2009 Property Taxation: Distribution of Property Tax Levy
April 14, 2009**

The Manager, Financial Policy and Projects, and the General Manager of Business Planning and Services responded to questions.

The Committee heard from two speakers in general support of staff's recommendations, with concerns raised that the shift does not do enough.

MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City of Vancouver instruct the Director of Finance to defer the tax shift of 1% from non-residential to residential property for one year.

Not Put

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The Chair ruled the motion out of order as Council considered a similar motion at its Regular Council meeting on April 7, 2009.

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MOVED by Councillor Deal
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council instruct the Director of Finance to calculate the 2009 general purpose tax rates incorporating a one percent shift of tax levies from non-residential properties (Classes 2, 4 5 and 6) to residential properties (Classes 1, 8 and 9) to achieve a distribution of approximately 50% residential and 50% non-residential.

CARRIED
(Councillors Cadman and Woodsworth opposed)

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MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT, under Section 2.3 (c) of the Procedure By-law, Council extend the length of the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets meeting by one hour or less.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

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3. Bottled Water in Civic Facilities April 7, 2009

The Assistant City Engineer, Water and Sewers, provided an overview of the report.

The Committee heard from three speakers, two in support of staff's recommendations, and one in opposition.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT the City of Vancouver adopt Metro Vancouver's Tap Water Declaration and immediately eliminate the Civic purchase of single serving sized bottled water for Staff and delegation consumption, and substitute with tap water options.
- B. THAT staff incorporate access to municipal drinking water into designs for new civic facilities and those scheduled for renovation, such as City Hall and Crossroads at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Source of funds to be the 2009 Facilities Capital Budget, subject to approval of the 2009 Basic Capital Budget.
- C. THAT staff pilot options for year-round access to municipal drinking water in outdoor public spaces at an estimated cost of \$35,000. Source of funds to be a reallocation of \$5,000 from the 2009 Waterworks Operating budget and \$30,000 from the 2009 Waterworks Capital Budget, subject to approval of the 2009 Basic Capital Budget.

- D. THAT Council forward A, B and C above to the Board of Parks and Recreation, PNE Board, Library Board, and Police Board for their consideration.
- E. THAT staff report back on options that will promote access to municipal drinking water in all new buildings.
- F. THAT staff prepare an inventory of existing public access options (e.g. fountains) to municipal drinking water supplies across the City and develop a plan that prioritizes the installation and activation of public access options taking into account the unique needs of each neighbourhood; and

FURTHER THAT staff also identify venues where less healthy beverages will be sold in place of bottled water and make recommendations on strategies to ensure drinking water remains available in those venues.

Referred

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Woodsworth
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the City of Vancouver mount a "use tap water" education campaign to explain why we are encouraging people to use our tap water rather than bottled water.

Not Put

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The Chair ruled the amendment redundant and out of order as an active education campaign is already underway in Metro Vancouver.

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REFERRAL MOVED by Councillor Cadman
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT, due to time constraints, further discussion and decision on this matter be referred to the afternoon's Planning and Environment Committee meeting, as its first item of business.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(The Mayor absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

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

APRIL 23, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 12:59 p.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: Councillor Raymond Louie, Acting Chair
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Geoff Meggs
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson (Civic Business)
Councillor Andrea Reimer (Leave of Absence - Civic Business)
Councillor George Chow

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Penny Ballem, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Denise Salmon, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Cadman
SECONDED by Councillor Meggs

THAT this Council resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Councillor Louie in the Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
April 23, 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. 2008 City of Vancouver Annual Financial Report
2. 2009 Property Taxation: Distribution of Property Tax Levy
3. Bottled Water in Civic Facilities

Items 1-3

MOVED by Councillor Deal

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets at its meeting of April 23, 2009, as contained in items 1-3, 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 Jang
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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