

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

OCTOBER 8, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Planning and Environment was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 2:06 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall.

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

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: David McLellan, General Manager, Community Services Group

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cobi Falconer, Meeting Coordinator (Minutes)
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting of July 23, 2009, were adopted.

1. Vancouver Fire and Rescue Aid to National Fire Services in El Salvador

The Director of Firefighters Without Borders B.C. provided a presentation highlighting the assistance given to the Fire Fighters of El Salvador and how the City of Vancouver has made a contribution.

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VARY THE AGENDA

The Committee agreed to vary the agenda in order to deal with Item 3 prior to Item 2. For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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3. Rental Housing and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

At the Regular Council meeting on October 6, 2009, Vancouver City Council referred the following Motion to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting on October 8, 2009, in order to hear from speakers.

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

MOVED by Councillor Anton
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

WHEREAS

1. Rental housing is an essential element of Vancouver's affordable housing supply;
2. Rents charged for rental housing in Vancouver are not subject to Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) or Provincial Sales Tax (PST), and will not be subject to the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST);
3. Rental housing operators and landlords pay GST on operating costs such as water, garbage, recycling, service contracts, maintenance, and supplies and can not offset these costs due to no input tax credits and BC Provincial rent control legislation;
4. The operating costs mentioned above are not subject to PST but will be subject to HST; and
5. The HST will increase the operating costs of rental housing operators and landlords by 1.5% - 2.5% with no ability to offset the increases.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council requests the Province, in its negotiations with the Federal Government, to seek to "zero rate" the rental apartment industry in order to protect the existing and future rental housing stock.
- B. THAT Council requests the Province to investigate ways to offset the additional cost of the HST as it relates to rental housing.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2. Hours of Liquor Service and Revised Business License Categories and Fees for Restaurants
September 22, 2009**

Licenses and Inspections staff provided an overview of the report and, with Liquor Licensing staff, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from 20 speakers, several of whom spoke in support of staff's recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Louie

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve an amendment to the License By-law providing hours of liquor service and additional regulations for food primary liquor establishments, as outlined in Appendix A of the Policy Report dated September 22, 2009, entitled "Hours of Liquor Service and Revised Business License Categories and Fees for Restaurants".
- B. THAT Council approve an amendment to the License By-law to assign to the Chief License Inspector the executive or administrative power of Council, set out in Sections 11.1 and 11.3 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, to provide to the General Manager under that Act comments on any proposed license application, or amendment to a license issued under Section 12 of that Act, so long as the Chief License Inspector may choose to refer any particular application or amendment to Council for comment.
- C. THAT Council revise business license categories for restaurants as outlined in Appendix A, of the Policy Report dated September 22, 2009, entitled "Hours of Liquor Service and Revised Business License Categories and Fees for Restaurants", and increase annual business license fees for restaurants with liquor service by \$3.00 per seat, with increased estimated revenues of \$450,000 annually commencing in 2010.
- D. THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to bring forward a License By-law amending by-law, generally as outlined in this report and in Appendix A, to implement Recommendations A, B, and C as set out above.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Councillor Cadman and the Mayor absent for the vote)

The Committee adjourned at 5:58 pm

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REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

OCTOBER 8, 2009

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 5:59 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Raymond Louie
Councillor George Chow
Councillor Heather Deal
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Andrea Reimer
Councillor Tim Stevenson
Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

ABSENT: Mayor Gregor Robertson
Councillor Suzanne Anton
Councillor David Cadman
Councillor Geoff Meggs

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: David McLellan, General Manager, Community Services Group

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cobi Falconer, Meeting Coordinator (Minutes)
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Deal
SECONDED by Councillor Jang

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
October 8, 2009

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

1. Vancouver Fire and Rescue Aid to National Fire Services in El Salvador

2. Hours of Liquor Service and Revised Business License Categories and Fees for Restaurants
3. Rental Housing and Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

Items 1-3

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment at its meeting of October 8, 2009, as contained in items 1-3 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RISE FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Jang

THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
SECONDED by Councillor Deal

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 6:01 pm

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