

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

March 31, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.
With immediate adjournment to Special Closed Meeting
Regular Council reconvenes at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber
City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Wright
Councillor Bill Harper
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Betty McIntosh
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Councillor Lorrie Williams

REGRETS:

Councillor Jonathan Coté

STAFF:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson	- Acting Corporate Officer/Director of Legislative Services
Mr. G. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Ms. Bev Grieve	- Director of Development Services
Mr. Gary Holowatiuk	- Director of Finance & Information Technology
Mr. Jim Lowrie	- Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Stephanie Lam	- Council and Committee Clerk
Ms. Alison Worsfold	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

1. **MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Special Closed Meeting of Council immediately following the Regular Meeting of Council on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items to be considered relate to matters listed under sections 90(1)(i), (j), and (k) of the Community Charter:

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

- (j) *information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;*
- (k) *negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;*

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

Purpose of the meeting: Negotiation and legal matters

ADJOURNMENT

2. **MOTION** to adjourn the Council Meeting in open session and proceed to Special Closed Session.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Council meeting in open session be adjourned and proceed to Special Closed session.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR COUNCIL

3. **MOTION** to reconvene to the Regular Meeting of Council at 3:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be reconvened.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

4. Mayor Wayne Wright invited Fire Chief Tim Armstrong to provide an update regarding New Westminster Fire Rescue and Services. Chief Armstrong reported the following information:

- A kitchen fire occurred on the 14th floor of 71 Jameson Court on March 30, 2014, and crews arrived on site within four minutes and 56 seconds;
- A kitchen fire occurred on the second floor of 461 Griffiths Street on March 29, 2014;
- The New Westminster Fire and Rescue Service crews have undergone an aggressive training program;

- Chief Armstrong has been working with the International Association of Firefighters to establish an altered work schedule, whereby employees' regular hours of work would be increased to allow for a scheduled vacation day on a rotational basis;
- All three-storey walk-up buildings in New Westminster will be strategically investigated by the recently established Prevention Task Force;
- Once the investigation is complete, a systematic triage will be conducted and graphed to rank city buildings from a fire code perspective;
- Follow-up from the investigation will include working with the owners of problematic buildings to increase fire safety throughout the city; and,
- Chief Armstrong announced that six new recruits were brought on board the Fire and Rescue Services team.

Discussion ensued, and Council noted the following comments:

- Appreciation was expressed towards the level of response with respect to the New Westminster Fire and Rescue Service crews;
- The extensive training provided for local firefighters benefits the city and provides security to residents; and,
- The New Westminster Fire and Rescue Service department was commended for their hard work.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5. **No items.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. **No Items**

BYLAWS FOR ADOPTION

7. **Bylaws for adoption:**

- a. **Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 7668, 2014** [A Bylaw to Amend "Electrical Utility Bylaw No. 6502, 1998"]

ADOPTION

Council expressed concerns regarding Independent Power Producers, and noted the following:

- The proposed rate increase is based on the rates established by BC Hydro;

- Utility rates have increased to a record high in British Columbia;
- BC Hydro was a profitable corporation in the mid-1990s, with excess revenues being reinvested into upgrading utilities, which have now been withdrawn to balance the budget;
- The Provincial government has spent an estimated \$40 billion on private contractors to build new electrical power;
- City taxes could be increased if less than a 9% hydro increase were implemented;
- It was suggested that the 9% increase will impact the Province's economic development; and,
- It was suggested that the percentage increase be lowered.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 7688, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED.

Councillor McIntosh voted in opposition.

- b. Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area Parcel Tax Roll Bylaw No. 7671, 2014** [A Bylaw to direct the preparation of a Parcel Tax Roll for the purpose of imposing a Business Improvement Area Parcel Tax for the Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area]

ADOPTION

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area Parcel Tax Roll Bylaw No. 7671, 2014 be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

BYLAWS FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Financial Plan, 2014-2018

a. Staff report

Gary Holowatiuk, Director of Finance and Information Technology, summarized the reported dated March 31, 2014 regarding the Five-Year Financial Plan for the years 2014 – 2018.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated March 31, 2014 be received.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

- b. **Five-Year Financial Plan (2014 – 2018), Bylaw No. 7662, 2014** [A Bylaw of the City of New Westminster representing the Five-Year Financial Plan for the years 2014 – 2018, inclusive]

THREE READINGS

Members of Council suggested that the Mayor's Budget Task Force be established earlier in the year in order to allow comments and feedback prior to the provisional budget being set. It was noted that the City established the Task Force in February 2014, which was later than previous years.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Five-Year Financial Plan (2014-2018), Bylaw No. 7662, 2014 be read a first time.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Five-Year Financial Plan (2014-2018), Bylaw No. 7662, 2014 be read a second time.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Five-Year Financial Plan (2014-2018), Bylaw No. 7662, 2014 be read a third time.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

9. Correspondence for Action

a. Corporation of Delta letter dated March 12, 2014 regarding Independent Interagency Review Committee

Discussion ensued regarding the Independent Interagency Review Committee, and Council noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that the City partake in the Independent Interagency Review Committee;
- It was suggested that the Chief Medical Officer of Fraser Health be contacted, as he was denied involvement with the Environmental Review by the Fraser Port Authority;
- It was noted that Fraser Health could not provide an adequate medical opinion given the timeline provided; and,

- It was noted that the letter states that a technical staff person be appointed to the Committee.

Staff advised that a report addressing the Independent Interagency Review Committee will be presented at the April 7, 2014 meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the letter dated March 12, 2014 from the Corporation of Delta regarding the Independent Interagency Review Committee be referred to staff for consideration and response.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

- b. City of Pitt Meadows courtesy copy of letter dated March 19, 2014 regarding Fraser Health Authority Strategic Review**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the letter dated March 19, 2014 from the City of Pitt Meadows regarding Fraser Health Authority Strategic Review be referred to staff for consideration and response.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

- d. Federation of Canadian Municipalities email dated March 25, 2014, in response to correspondence from the City of New Westminister regarding New Westminister City Council resolution regarding Amendments to the Canada Postal System, with attachment: letter from FCM to Canada Post dated March 20, 2014 regarding municipal perspectives surrounding Canada Post's *Five Point Action Plan***

Council expressed concerns regarding the letter dated March 25, 2014, and advised that all municipalities should be involved in the strategic development of the resolution, adding that the matter should be considered at the 2014 Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the correspondence dated March 25, 2014 be received for information.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City respond to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities correspondence dated March 25, 2014 objecting to their recommendations, and request that the matter be considered at the 2014 Federation of Canadian Municipalities convention;

AND THAT the letter be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

Correspondence for Information

- c. **Corporation of Delta courtesy copy of letter dated March 12, 2014 regarding Fraser Surrey Docks Proposed Direct Transfer Coal Facility**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the correspondence dated March 12, 2014 be received for information.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Motion on Notice regarding BC Hydro and Independent Power Producers – Councillor Puchmayr

Council spoke to the motion on notice regarding BC Hydro and Independent Power Producers, and noted the following:

- The 9% utility rate increase is alarming;
- Utility rates have increased approximately 23% since 2010;
- It was suggested that the rate increase could force large businesses to leave the lower mainland;
- It was suggested that there should be no further expansion of the run-of-the-river hydroelectricity projects;
- The Ministry of Energy and Mines advocates the discontinuing of further development of the run-of-the-river hydroelectricity projects; and,
- It was suggested that pressure be put on the provincial government to help minimize the impact of these projects on homeowners.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ask the Provincial Government to create legislation that will address the huge utility rates paid to Independent Power Producers to allow the Province the ability to purchase electricity from the open North American Market, in the same manner as previously, if those rates are competitive.

THAT the Government take action through legislation that would permit BC Hydro to produce power from existing public facilities as opposed to forcing it to buy expensive power from Independent Power Producers at rates higher than BC Hydro's.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all Independent Power Producers contracts that have yet to be built be frozen;

AND THAT the BC Utilities Commission investigate and produce a position on the impacts of Independent Power Producers on businesses, residents and non-profits of British Columbia.

CARRIED.

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Wayne Wright expressed his condolences to the family of the late Sev Morin who was an appreciated contributor to New Westminster and the Columbia Theatre.

Condolences were also expressed to the family of the late Dr. Norman Ferguson, who operated one of the longest serving dental practices in the city.

Councillor McIntosh expressed her condolences to the families of the late Vivian Shepherd and Phyllis Boucher.

Councillor Puchmayr expressed his condolences to the family of the late Jack Campbell. Councillor Puchmayr noted that Mr. Campbell was a prominent New Westminster artist, who's art was displayed internationally.

NEXT MEETING

April 7, 2014

The proposed Regular Session convenes at 12:00 p.m. and immediately adjourns to closed session in Committee Room 2 on the 2nd Floor at City Hall; the Committee of the Whole commences at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber on 2nd Floor at City Hall. The Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel convenes at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber on the 2nd Floor at City Hall. Immediately following the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel, the proposed Regular Meeting of Council reconvenes in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Certified Correct,

WAYNE WRIGHT
MAYOR

JAN GIBSON
ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER