



CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

SPECIAL OPEN MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 5:05 p.m.
Committee Room No. 2, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Wayne Wright
Councillor Jonathan Cote
Councillor Calvin Donnelly
Councillor Bill Harper
Councillor Bob Osterman
Councillor Lorrie Williams

REGRETS:

Councillor Betty McIntosh

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Daminato	- City Administrator
Mr. Rick Page	- Corporate Officer
Mr. Jim Lowrie	- Acting Director of Development Services
Mr. Steven Lan	- Acting Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Gary Holowatiuk	- Director of Finance
Mr. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Joanna Federici	- Recorder

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

1(a) High Water Flood Situation Report Update (Acting Director of Engineering Services)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the High Water Flood Situation Report Update be added to the Agenda.

CARRIED.

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

BUSINESS

1(a). High Water Flood Situation Report Update (Acting Director of Engineering Services)

Steven Lan, Acting Director of Engineering Services provided Council with a brief verbal summary of the Fraser River Freshet for the coming weekend. He reported that projections are based on information from the Province which noted that the river is at 7 – 7 1/2 metres at the Mission Gauge benchmark. Because of these high levels the City has initiated closures of gaps in access along the riverfront, which is the first stage in response. The second stage, if levels continue to rise, is to close roads and rail corridors. He advised that the City will be undertaking dyke inspections which will be ongoing and continuous. The City will also advise residents that the Esplanade will be closed on Friday, June 8, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. as a precautionary approach. Resident's have also been warned to stay away from the river's edge for the foreseeable future.

During a question period and the following topics were discussed:

- The Royal City Star Riverboat Casino have their own plans to deal with the flood preparation;
- Kruger Products (formerly known as Scott Paper) are taking their own measures;
- The City will be issuing a technical advisory on June 6, 2007, and regular issues thereafter;
- Once EOC is activated, Corporate Officer Rick Page, will be the spokesperson for the City;
- Emergency Response provisions have been made for the Animal Control Shelter in Queensborough;
- Radio and telephone systems are in place, current telephone lines are being checked and messages are being responded to;
- All Committee meetings may be cancelled on short notice should Committee Room No. 2 be needed;
- The Mayor, Councillors Donnelly, Osterman and Harper will be available in case of any emergency.
- The City Radio Station and High Water Hotline is activated and the City Web site will be regularly updated.

1. Presentation of Strategic Communication Plan – Kennerley Communications

Paul Daminato, City Administrator introduced Terry Kennerley and Charlene Chiang of the Kennerley Consulting group who have prepared an overall assessment of the City's communication practices, approaches and recommendations for consideration.

Mr. Kennerley and Ms. Chiang distributed the Corporate Communications Plan for the City of New Westminster (which will be added to the Agenda package) and gave a PowerPoint presentation, followed by a discussion period.

The Corporate Communications Plan addressed the following areas:

- Overview of New Westminster
- Project Approach
- Situation Analysis
- Needs Analysis
- SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis
- Guiding Principles
- Communications Goals and Objectives
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Key Messages
- Communications Approach
- Action Plan
- Changer Leadership
- Next Steps
- Summary.

Council were advised that research and interviews were conducted with groups of residents, consultants, constituents, stakeholders, other cities and municipal governments, as well as members of Council and Senior City Staff.

It was noted that the goal of good communication practices is to instill public confidence and to provide quality civic services that drive the corporate vision. The recommendation to centralize communications and creative services as a communications office to better meet stakeholder needs, gain economies of scale, and develop more effective communications practices was reviewed. It was further noted that the recommended communications model is a blended internal and outsourced model, which would be the most economical and sustainable option for the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Corporate Communications Plan prepared by Kennerley Consulting Group be received.

CARRIED.

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

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Certified Correct,

WAYNE WRIGHT
MAYOR

RICK PAGE
CORPORATE OFFICER