



Finance and Audit Committee

Minutes

March 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

PRESENT:

- Mayor Walker
- Councillor Chesney
- Councillor Fathers
- Councillor Johanson
- Councillor Kristjanson
- Councillor Manning
- Councillor Trevelyan

STAFF:

- Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer
- Tracey Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration
- Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations
- Carl Isaak, Director of Planning and Development Services
- Jacquie Johnstone, Director of Human Resources
- Colleen Ponzini, Director of Financial Services
- Eric Stepura, Director of Recreation and Culture
- Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief
- Chris Zota, Manager of Information Technology
- Debbie Johnstone, Deputy Corporate Officer
- Shannon Johnston, Manager of Budgets and Accounting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Chesney, Chairperson

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. **MOTION TO CONDUCT THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-045 It was MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic;

WHEREAS the City of White Rock has been able to continue to provide the public access to the meetings through live streaming;

WHEREAS holding public meetings in the City Hall Council Chambers, where all the audio/video equipment has been set up for the live streaming program, would not be possible without breaching physical distancing restrictions due to its size, and holding public meetings at the White Rock Community Centre would cause further financial impact to City Operations due to staffing resources and not enable live streaming;

WHEREAS Ministerial Orders require an adopted motion in order to hold public meetings electronically, without members of the public present in person at the meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Finance and Audit Committee (including all members of Council) authorizes the City of White Rock to hold the March 8, 2021 meeting to be video streamed and available on the City's website, and without the public present in the Council Chambers.

Motion CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-046 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the agenda for March 8, 2021 as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-047 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting as circulated

Motion CARRIED

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR PHONE-IN AND / OR WRITTEN COMMENTS / SUBMISSIONS / QUESTIONS IN REGARD TO THE 2021 – 2025 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

- a. The Director of Corporate Administration to read a statement regarding Public Comment process.
- b. The Director of Corporate Administration will state submissions that have been received.
- c. The Chairperson will invite those in attendance, via telephone participation, that want to speak to the draft Financial Plan to present their comments / questions.
- d. The Chairperson will invite those wanting to speak further in regard to the draft Financial

Plan with new information to present their comments / questions.

As of 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 there has been **one (1)** submission.

Note: Submissions received between 8:30 a.m. March 3, 2021 and 12:00 p.m. March 8, 2021 will be presented "On Table" at the meeting.

Author	Date Received	Item #
C. Curtis	Feb 28/21	C-1

In addition to the one (1) further written submission included in the agenda package, there have been **thirty-eight (38)** "On-Table" submissions regarding the Financial Plan. They were provided to Council for review earlier this afternoon and are also now posted on the City website for public view.

At this time the Chairperson called for the registered speakers to be given the opportunity to speak:

- K. Jones, White Rock, stated support for reducing taxes (no increase in homeowner taxes) and noted concerns / request to remove from the current year budget the following: \$250,000 + \$500,000 for Maccaud Park, continued rebuild of Johnston Road (Thrift Avenue to Russell Avenue) this should be paid for by property owners of that section of the street of by

development in the area, \$1M for all abilities playground for this year, pier restoration completion - unlikely all funds will be in for this year (project can be phased over future years), \$150,000 - \$200,000 each section replacement Christmas tree lights along promenade and pier, \$142,000 + funds Centennial Park retaining wall and landscaping of the oval, \$244,000 exterior of the arena (repair rather than replacement, \$200,000 bus stop accessibility (review in future) and \$908,000 pavement overlay.

- G. Wolgemuth, White Rock, stated agreement with the previous caller and would prefer a zero based budget, further noted concerns with the following noted items: \$250,000 additional parks staff, \$1M all abilities playground (no location and no design) now funds have been split up, we don't have a Utility Manager in place any longer, \$350,000 enclosure for antique fire truck, pickleball courts were set aside and they are now being considered again, regarding Community Amenity Contributions (CACs), there has not yet been anything put into a reserve for Affordable Housing, concern with staying with the plan, last year closing the parking was a loss of revenue and spending for sidewalks is needed.

Note: Following comments made by the two (2) registered speakers the Chief Administrative Officer clarified the suggestions, with the exception of the \$250,000 for parks all noted are in regard to capital projects (all ability playground, pier restoration, pavement overlay etc,) where removing them would not impact taxation and further that Community Amenity Contributions (CAC's) cannot be used to reduce taxation.

Following the Director of Financial Services providing a PowerPoint on the 2021 - 2025 Draft Financial Plan (noted as Item 6) for Public Consultation there was a further call for the public to call in at this time should they want to comment on the Draft Financial Plan.

- G. Wolgemuth, White Rock, noted concerns in regard to carry overs, staff are a large expenditure (overstaffed), the amount of inflation vs. budget which is much higher, large drainage project that impacts Semiahmoo First Nation and City of Surrey, the Pier improvements, waste vehicles (can use CAC's), and City Hall where does that stand - \$3 M for City Hall but no direction. Would like Council to consider contributions to reserves - if Council were to decide to spend less on capital projects could we not then put less in reserves.
- D. Stanoga, White Rock, stated does not agree with higher taxes, in agreement with zero % tax increase, CAC's can be used for many projects and sees a potential cost savings, utilization of the COVID grant the City

received and although there is additional tax base for next year with new builds does not seem to be help with the tax rate.

- K. Jones, White Rock, would like to see zero % tax increase for this year.

It was determined that there were no further speakers at this time.

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-048 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee direct staff to investigate how to phase or spread the spending over more years (new projects and postpone) without risking infrastructure to achieve a zero % tax increase.

Motion DEFEATED

**Councillors Chesney, Fathers, Johanson, Manning, Trevelyan
and Mayor Walker voted in the negative**

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-049 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee receive the written and verbal submissions provided, including "On-Table" information provided with available staff comments, regarding the 2021 - 2025 Draft Finance Plan.

Motion CARRIED

6. 2021-2025 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Corporate report dated March 8, 2021 from the Director of Financial Services titled "2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan for Public Consultation".

The Director of Financial Services provided a PowerPoint on the 2021 - 2025 Draft Financial Plan for Public Consultant was presented under Item 5.

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-050 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee direct staff to prepare:

1. The consolidated 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan Bylaw; and
2. The corresponding 2021 Tax Rates Bylaw.

Motion CARRIED

7. PLANNING TECHNICIAN BUDGET REQUEST

Corporate report dated March 8, 2021 from the Director of Planning and Development Services titled "Planning Technician Budget Request".

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-051 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee approve hiring a regular full-time Planning Technician, with redirected funding and reserves used for 2021 and funding for 2022 and future years through taxation revenue.

Motion CARRIED

8. CITY OWNED LAND FOR POTENTIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Corporate report dated March 8, 2021 from the Director of Planning and Development Services titled "City Owned Land for Potential Affordable Housing".

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-052 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee:

1. Receive the March 8, 2021, corporate report from the Director of Planning and Development Services, titled "City Owned Land for Potential Affordable Housing" for discussion in proposing options for Council's consideration;
2. Direct staff to include consideration of a future affordable housing site(s) on City-owned land as part of the forthcoming Facilities Master Plan.

Motion CARRIED

Councillor Johanson voted in the negative

9. CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 8, 2021 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairperson concluded the meeting at 6:38 p.m.



Councillor Chesney, Chairperson

Tracey Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration