



## Finance and Audit Committee

### Minutes

March 9, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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

PRESENT: Mayor Walker  
Councillor Chesney  
Councillor Johanson  
Councillor Kristjanson  
Councillor Manning  
Councillor Trevelyan

STAFF: Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations  
Eric Stepura, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Shannon Johnston, Acting Director, Financial Services  
Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief  
Kale Pauls, Staff Sargent  
Debbie Johnstone, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Janessa Auer, Committee Clerk

GUEST: Paul Murray, Budget Consultant

PUBLIC: 3

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#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Kristjanson, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-026** It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the agenda for **March 9, 2022**, as circulated.

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

3. **BUDGET PRESENTATION RECAP AND DISCUSSION**

P. Murray, Consultant, provided a summary of the previous budget presentations. Two (2) changes to the budget have been proposed at this time:

- Funding for half of the warming shelter (to be shared with the City of Surrey); and,
- Bright Walk in White Rock – budget to remain the same for 2022 as it was in 2021.

The city is currently sitting at a 6.31% overall tax increase.

The following discussion points were noted:

- For the Community Response Team Constable, what other duties would the position have?

Staff confirmed that the position is a full-time constable, and this would be the primary role of the position. Additional duties and assistance to others in the department take place when required/ time permits.

There is uncertainty with the Surrey Police Service as to how this will affect White Rock. It is important to ensure roles are being covered and there isn't any negative affect for White Rock when Surrey Police Service is fully operational.

- What would the impact be to the Financial Services Department if the Purchasing Specialist position was deferred or eliminated? What are the cost savings this position would realize for the City?

Staff noted deferring or eliminating this position would have an impact on all City departments, not just Finance. Purchasing is specialized and this position would create efficiencies for many departments.

Staff clarified that in many cases it would be a cost savings in capital. This position could assist with Request for Proposals (RFPs) for various

departments and would likely allow staff to accomplish additional work that they are currently unable to do.

- Does the position need to be full-time, or could a part-time position be considered for this role? And further, could this type of position merge with the Grant-Writer position?

Staff noted that it would be challenging for this work to take place on a part-time basis. Both the Purchasing Specialist position and the Grant-Writer position would have a separate skill set. So finding one (1) candidate to do both roles would be challenging.

- The vacant Building Official 1 position was discussed.

Staff noted current delays in the Planning and Development Services Department with respect to building permits. Not filling this position would slow the process even further.

- For the additional Rec Attendant hours at the Centre for Active Living - what would the impact be to remove this from the budget?

Staff noted that most of the programs offered at the facility occur in the afternoons and evenings for drop-in classes. Not having a Rec Attendant working the front desk could have safety concerns (would not be able to see people coming and going from the facility) and there would be no staff there to greet people, answer any questions etc.

- The Special Event Assistant position was discussed, and the potential impact for not hiring this position in 2022.

Staff clarified that this position would alleviate overtime currently accrued by the Special Events Coordinator due to a number of events taking place on the weekends and evenings.

It was suggested that fewer events could take place in order to assist with this.

Staff noted that the special events schedule for 2022 has already been approved by Council for the upcoming year; however, events that are to go ahead could be scaled back to address workload issues.

- Reducing the number of Council members attending conferences in B.C. and having no members costs' covered for conferences outside of B.C. was suggested.

There is benefit for members of Council to attend conferences, such as UBCM. Conferences act as an important way to network and build relationships with other municipalities.

- Questions were asked regarding the impacts for reducing the annual transfer to the capital works reserve.

Staff confirmed once the \$100,000 is removed it continues to be removed through the budget five (5) years unless Council were to provide direction to add it back into the financial plan.

Council could choose to increase the transfer to the capital works reserve in 2023 to compensate for the reduction in 2022.

- What would the impact on capital projects be if this funding was deferred or was removed for the next 5 years?

Staff noted that some projects in the Capital Plan would be delayed further down the road. By delaying these projects, however, there is always a risk that something could happen.

- A suggestion was made to consider canvassing commercial property owners to gauge their support for the White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA). While this would not reduce household taxes, it could help commercial property owners.

Staff noted that currently there is a Bylaw in place for the establishment of the Business Improvement Association Area Bylaw which expires in 2024.

- What would the impact be for reducing contracted road maintenance and what that would look like?

Staff advised that this type of work includes pothole patching, sidewalk patches, asphalt repairs, road end brush maintenance, line painting etc. Reducing this work would reduce the level of services for this.

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-027** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee remove the Community Response Team Constable Member position and associated costs for the position from the 2022 budget.**

Voted in the Negative (5): Mayor Walker, Councillor Johanson, Councillor Kristjanson, Councillor Manning, and Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion DEFEATED (1 to 5)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-028** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer or eliminate the hiring of a Purchasing Specialist from the 2022 budget.**

Voted in the Negative (2): Mayor Walker, and Councillor Chesney

**Motion CARRIED (4 to 2)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-029** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer the hiring of a Building Official 1 position to 2023.**

Voted in the Negative (5): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Johanson, Councillor Kristjanson, and Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion DEFEATED (1 to 5)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-030** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer or eliminate the hiring of a Special Events Assistant.**

Voted in the Negative (3): Mayor Walker, Councillor Kristjanson, and Councillor Manning

**Motion DEFEATED (3 to 3)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-031** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT Council limit conference registration to two (2) members of Council per conference in B.C. and no council registration be covered for conferences outside of B.C.**

Voted in the Negative (3): Mayor Walker, Councillor Johanson, and Councillor Kristjanson

**Motion DEFEATED (3 to 3)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-032** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce the annual transfer to the Capital Works Reserve for 2022 in the amount of 100,000.**

Voted in the Negative (4): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Manning, and Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion DEFEATED (2 to 4)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-033** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce Parks Workshops.**

Voted in the Negative (4): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Johanson, and Councillor Kristjanson

**Motion DEFEATED (2 to 4)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-034** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce the combined operating consulting budget by 10% for 2022.**

Voted in the Negative (2): Mayor Walker, and Councillor Chesney

**Motion CARRIED (4 to 2)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-035** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee ask commercial property owners if they want to maintain their funding for the White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA) levy, requiring a 50% +1 approval rating to continue.**

Voted in the Negative (2): Mayor Walker, and Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion CARRIED (4 to 2)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-036** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce the number of hard copy Recreation Guides by 50%**

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-037** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce contracted roads maintenance for 2022.**

Voted in the Negative (5): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Johanson, Councillor Kristjanson, and Councillor Manning

**Motion DEFEATED (1 to 5)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-038** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee reduce parks temporary full-time wages.**

Voted in the Negative (5): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Johanson, Councillor Kristjanson, and Councillor Manning

**Motion DEFEATED (1 to 5)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-039** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer hiring the additional Fire Fighter position and Building Official 1 position to June of this year (2022).**

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

**Motion Number: 2022-F&A-040** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT a Finance and Audit Committee meeting be scheduled prior to the March 28th Regular Council meeting (5:00 p.m. for one hour).**

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

Staff noted that, with these changes, the current tax rate is 5.37%. Staff can bring a report back to a future Finance and Audit Committee meeting on how this would look. Following that, it was suggested that public input on the 2022 Budget take place on Monday, April 4, 2022.

4. **CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 9, 2022 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting was concluded at 7:03 p.m.



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Councillor Kristjanson, Chairperson

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Debbie Johnstone, Deputy  
Corporate Officer