



Finance and Audit Committee

Minutes

February 3, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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

PRESENT:

- Councillor Chesney, Chairperson
- 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
- Jacque Johnstone, Director of Human Resources
- Colleen Ponzini, Director of Financial Services
- Eric Stepura, Director of Recreation and Culture
- Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief
- Kale Pauls, Staff Sargent
- Shannon Johnston, Manager Budgets and Accounting
- Debbie Johnstone, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Chesney, Chairperson

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.1 MOTION TO CONDUCT FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-015 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 February 3, 2021 meeting to be video streamed and available on the City's website, and without the public present in the Council Chambers.

Motion CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Note: This meeting was scheduled to complete the January 25, 2021 Finance and Audit Committee meeting agenda.

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-016 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the agenda for February 3, 2021 as circulated.

Motion CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-017 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting as circulated

Motion CARRIED

4. CORPORATE REPORTS

4.1 2021 - 2025 Draft Financial Plan

Corporate report dated January 25, 2021 from the Director of Financial Services titled "2021-2025 Draft Financial Plan".

The Director of Financial Services continued the presentation started at the January 25, 2021 Finance and Audit meeting. Summarizing where the Committee left off was at a 4.28% tax increase.

The following discussion points were noted:

- Do not agree with 4.28% tax increase, must be frugal would like to continue to look for ways to save
- Staff clarified that the 2020 budget did not include funds for reserves with direction to move funds in 2021 (last year \$222,000 was not funded to reserves)
- Staff clarified notation of deficit - this relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and this has now been covered through the grant received - a deficit is not being projected. It was confirmed that the grant funds will not be asked to be returned, there are many ways the City is permitted to spend the funds
- Concern with how the City has been spending, would like to go back and look for ways to cut expenses
- Capital view looks at a full five (5) year program
- Funds must be in the budget giving the authority to spend them
- Some projects such as the pier replacement are included in the plan as the City is hoping to receive grants for this project - the project must be in the financial plan in order to show this is a City supported project otherwise we may not qualify for a grant. Grants are usually a portion of the funding for work, funds must be in the financial plan to show senior levels of government that the Community endorses the project

Discussion regarding the General Fund Asset Improvement Projects spreadsheet attached to the corporate report:

- Item 45, Vegetation Replacement \$150,000 (we need direction from Council on this) east of Memorial Park washrooms- It was noted the new growth of the trees is favourable, cannot support a cutting on the hump
- Clarification was requested regarding Item 148 Furniture Replacement - not just books, this is to update the library to help address new uses (ukuleles, video equipment, family reading areas as well as shelving, desks front counter etc. (which are dated) not just books It was noted the library is well utilized by the community
- Community Amenity Contribution - Affordable Housing Reserve, propose to stage the funds to the reserve over time
- Council approved water rates / increases December 7, 2021
- Pop-Up Gallery Lease, now month to month - would like to see the City purchase something for this use (will give a permanent city home for the use)
- All Abilities Playground, location is not yet determined

ACTION: Staff to bring forward, for information purposes, water rate increases as well as tax increases by other Municipalities

ACTION: Staff to prepare a report on the Financial Plan for public consultation as directed

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-018 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee directs the project on the General Fund Asset Improvement Projects spreadsheet titled Johnston - Russell to Thrift Upgrades and the project titled Johnston - Thrift to Roper, be removed from the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

Motion DEFEATED

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

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-019 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee directs that the project noted on the General Fund Asset Improvement Projects spreadsheet - row 19 and

associated projects be moved to 2023 within the 2021 - 2025 financial plan.

Motion DEFEATED

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

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-020 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee directs that the project noted on the General Fund Asset Improvement Projects spreadsheet - row 45 Marine Drive Hump Vegetation Replacement in the amount of \$150,000 be removed from the 2021 - 2025 Financial Plan.

Motion CARRIED

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-020It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee directs that the project noted on the General Fund Asset Improvement Projects spreadsheet - row Item 36, Blackburn Crescent - Archibald to High be removed from the 2021 - 2025 Financial Plan.

Motion DEFEATED

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

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-021It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee directs that Items 1, 3 - 8 noted on page 6 of the January 25, 2021 corporate report titled "2021 - 2025 Draft Financial Plan" be paid through reserves for 2021.

Motion DEFEATED

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

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-022It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee endorse moving forward with the proposed 4.28% tax increase as presented in the January 25, 2021 corporate report titled "2021 - 2025 Draft Financial Plan" as reflected of the motions adopted within the meeting minutes.

Motion CARRIED

Councillors Kristjanson, Manning and Trevelyan voted in the negative

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-023 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee:

1. Receive this report for discussion on the proposed 2021 – 2025 Draft Financial Plan:
2. Endorse the presented Draft 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan figures and assumptions or provide direction on amendments to be made; and
3. Direct staff to proceed with the next steps in the Financial Planning process notifying the public of the opportunity for public comments, including requesting written comments or questions, based on the information presented in this corporate report, or as amended.

Motion CARRIED

Councillors Kristjanson and Trevelyan voted in the negative

4.2 Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2020, No. 2369, Amendment No. 1, 2021, No. 2370

Corporate report dated January 25, 2021 from the Director of Financial Services titled "Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2020, No. 2369, Amendment No. 1, 2021, No. 2370".

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-024 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee endorse the proposed "*Fees and Charges Bylaw, 2020, No. 2369, Amendment No. 1, 2021, No. 2370*".

Motion CARRIED

5. Marine Drive Task Force - March, 2020 (Council Representative - Councillor Trevelyan)

At the April 20, 2020 Regular Council meeting Council deferred consideration of this recommendation until the City has a better idea of when there would be funds available.

Note: At the November 23, 2020 Regular Council meeting Councillor Trevelyan requested that the following recommendation from the Marine Drive Task Force be brought forward for consideration during the budget process.

Councillor Fathers departed the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Provided "On-Table" was a list outlining all Marine Drive Task Force recommendations adopted and endorsed by Council. The information was provided by Councillor Trevelyan as a check - in to see if there was anything the Committee wanted to consider further.

It was noted that "On-Table" information included a lot of good projects. It was inquired if the catenary/ suspended lighting was feasible - can it be done in 2021 considering budget and staffing workplans? Staff noted that as of this time this has not been noted as a high priority by Council in the Strategic Priorities.

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-025 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee request staff to bring back information regarding possibility / feasibility including costs for installing lighting on east beach trees and/or catenary lighting including if Community Amenity Contributions (CAC's) funds can be utilized for this.

Motion DEFEATED

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

5.1 WATERFRONT ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Note: Council may want to ask staff in regard to this recommendation as to feasibility / time required and how it could impact progress for their approved strategic priorities.

The following discussion points were noted on the projects as noted in the agenda at this time:

- Flexible use of parking lot west of the museum to include retractable cover, beautification and a configuration of parking spaces: Concern noted on the cost of the roof
- All-Abilities Playground - It was noted this is already within the budget, however the location is not yet determined. Community Amenity Contributions (CAC;s) will be utilized and there will be more

opportunity to discuss location at a future meeting where CAC's are featured

- Permanent multi-purpose, cultural facility adjacent to the west of Grant Chief Bernard Charles Memorial Plaza and that the City consider approaching the Semiahmoo First Nation to be involved in the design. It was noted that the museum is an interpretation centre already. Cost and landscape for this is of concern, there are alternatives for this example: wayfinding signage and story / history signage is a way this can be achieved
- Seasonal installation of a synthetic ice rink during the winter season at a location in the Marine Drive area. It was noted that the Festival of Lights society have purchased an ice rink already. Noted that all projects / items are improvements made on Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) lands

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-026 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee direct staff to investigate the feasibility of the following capital project for Marine Drive:

- Flexible use of the parking lot west of the museum to include beautification and a reconfiguration of parking spaces

Motion DEFEATED

Councillors Chesney, Johnson, Manning and Mayor Walker voted in the negative

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-027 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee direct staff to investigate the feasibility of the following capital project for Marine Drive:

- Permanent multi-purpose, cultural facility adjacent to the west of Grant Chief Bernard Charles Memorial Plaza and that the City consider approaching the Semiahmoo First Nation to be involved in the design, including an element where grants applications would be addressed.

Motion DEFEATED

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

Motion Number: 2021-F&A-026 It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defers consideration of the following until there is confirmation as to what the Festival of Lights Society is considering for this item:

Direct staff to investigate the feasibility of the following capital project for Marine Drive:

- *Seasonal installation of a synthetic ice rink during the winter season at a location in the Marine Drive area*

Motion CARRIED

6. **CONCLUSION OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2021 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Chairperson concluded the meeting at 9:22 p.m.



Councillor Chesney, Chairperson

Tracey Arthur, Director of
Corporate Administration