



## **Finance and Audit Committee**

### **Minutes**

March 27, 2023, 4:45 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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

#### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Knight  
Councillor Chesney  
Councillor Cheung  
Councillor Klassen  
Councillor Lawrence  
Councillor Partridge  
Councillor Trevelyan

#### **STAFF:**

Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer  
Tracey Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration  
Anne Berry, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Candice Gartry, Director of Financial Services  
Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations  
Kari Laing, Director of Human Resources  
Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief  
John Woolgar, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Shannon Johnston, Manager of Budget and Accounting  
Debbie Johnstone, Deputy Corporate Officer

#### **Public**

7 (approx.)

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Lawrence, Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 4:46 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-036** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the agenda for March 27, 2023 as circulated.**

**Motion CARRIED (7 to 0)**

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-037** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee adopt the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Motion CARRIED (7 to 0)**

**4. CITY OF WHITE ROCK 2023-2027 CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE**

Corporate report dated March 27, 2023 from the Director of Financial Services titled "City of White Rock 2023-2027 Consolidated Financial Plan Update".

**Note:** Recommendations regarding the Financial Plan Bylaw will be considered following the public submission portion of the agenda.

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-038** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee receive the March 27, 2023, Corporate Report from the Director of Financial Services, titled "City of White Rock 2023 – 2027 Consolidated Financial Plan Update."**

**Motion CARRIED (7 to 0)**

**5. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS (IN PERSON AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS)**

- a. The Director of Corporate Administration to read a statement regarding the Public Comment process.
- b. The Director of Corporate Administration will state submissions that have been received.

- c. The Chairperson will invite those in attendance that want to speak to the draft Financial Plan to present their comments. Speakers will be provided a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- d. Once everyone has had an opportunity to provide their comments, members of the public wishing to speak a second time will be invited for one (1) additional opportunity (for a maximum of two (2) minutes).

As of 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 there have been two (2) submissions

Author	Date Received	Item #
Anonymous	March 17, 2023	C-1
W. Baldwin	March 21, 2023	C-2

**Note:** Submissions received between 8:30 a.m. March 22, 2023 and 12:00 p.m. (noon) March 27, 2023 will be presented "On Table" at the meeting.

The received On-Table submissions were noted: Four (4) On-Table Submissions under items C-3 through to C-6 from G. Gumley.

- M. Stevens, White Rock, noted the importance of the City ensuring there is funding for capital projects within the budget for storm water drainage and noted a matter involving the Phoenix Ravine and the impacts it has had on his land (erosion), home (now inhabitable) and home based business.
- G. Gumley, White Rock, asked Council to consider taking \$3M out of reserves this year to help lower the cost of inflation and help taxpayers at this time.
- G. Wolgemuth, White Rock, concern noted with the proposed application fee for Freedom of Information requests, the amount of consultants that have been and will be utilized (including the Solid Waste Pick Up project) and with legal fees (ex: Centre Street Litigation) . Would like these to be cut down and set aside. Stated the City is lacking infrastructure for roads and sidewalks as they need attention.
- M. Stevens, White Rock, stated the City requires a business plan in regard to Small Office Home Office (SOHO) opportunities, support from city and assurance of infrastructure is needed. Mr. Stevens property has

been impacted by drainage issues, solution to drill under Marine Drive and take the water out into the bay still requires design and work at an approximate cost of \$2.7M.

Staff clarified the funds are in the budget and they are working on a new covert design for this matter however there are right of way issues that still need to be addressed.

- G. Gumley, White Rock, inquired in regard to the pending CUPE contract settlement - what is the approximate impact and where is the contingency for it? Further asked Council to take the time and consider when asking for a tax increase anything over inflation rates and to consider borrowing from the reserves in order to get the rate down for the taxpayers.

Staff noted it is anticipated to begin CUPE negotiations later this year, there are some funds addressed in the budget for this.

Staff further noted that the proposed tax increase does not just cover inflation, there are some Council Strategic Priorities including employee retention and some hiring included.

- K. Jones, White Rock, stated upon reviewing the on-line comments that 99% are not satisfied with the proposed tax increase amount and there are many things to do to cut the budget and encouraged Council that is what is needed for them to do including the review of processes.
- G. Wolegmuth, White Rock, noted other municipalities proposed tax increases which were lower, the City of Port Coquitlam did a line by line review and are now they are at a 3.38% tax increase who offer more services and amenities. Concern noted with the City's reserves which have gone up and asked Council to consider taking some of the funds in reserves to help with the proposed tax increase.  
Inquired how much surplus is expected this year? Staff noted that this amount / information is not yet available to provide.
- K. Jones, White Rock, encouraged Council to think differently in terms of City Reserves, would like this to be simplified and the amounts be reduced. Stated there is no need for such large amounts to be held for each section.

Staff were asked to clarify the need for reserves, it was noted the reserve funds are utilized to cover future infrastructure needs, placing funds into the reserves is important and fiscally responsible in order to not compromise the city in the future.

Parking rates were noted and staff were asked to provide the proposed tax increase with the removal of free weekday winter parking

Staff noted the current proposed tax increase 7.3%, and it would be 7.02% without the free winter parking option

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-039** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee receive the written and verbal submissions provided, including "On-Table" information regarding the 2023 - 2027 Draft Financial Plan.**

**Motion CARRIED (7 to 0)**

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-040** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT The Finance and Audit Committee endorse and direct staff to remove free parking in the winter months from the 2023 Fees and Charges Bylaw.**

Voted in the Negative (1): Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 1)**

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-041** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee direct staff to draft the Financial Plan Bylaw for 2023 – 2027 and bring it to Council for first, second and third reading (to include impact of removal of free winter parking).**

Voted in the Negative (1): Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 1)**

**Motion Number: 2023-F&A-042** It was MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT the Finance and Audit Committee defer consideration of the following recommendation until the next meeting:**

1. **Direct staff to allocate the \$5.7M Growing Communities Fund grant funding as follows and subject to eligibility approval from the Province:**
  - a. **\$2M to affordable housing;**
  - b. **\$2M to the Community Hub; and**
  - c. **the balance of \$1.7M to the Pier Restoration.**

**Motion CARRIED (7 to 0)**

6. **CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 27, 2023 FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting was concluded at 6:10 p.m.



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Councillor Lawrence, Chairperson

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Tracey Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration