

FINANCE STANDING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Finance Standing Committee convened on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:02 a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mayor Richard Stewart
Councillor Craig Hodge (arrived at 10:07 a.m.)
Councillor Steve Kim
Councillor Trish Mandewo
Councillor Dennis Marsden
Councillor Teri Towner (arrived at 10:03 a.m.)
Councillor Chris Wilson
Councillor Brent Asmundson

STAFF:

Peter Steblin, City Manager
Raul Allueva, Deputy City Manager
Jim Ogloff, Fire Chief
Keith Bramhill, Officer-in-Charge Coquitlam RCMP
Jamie Boan, General Manager Engineering and Public Works
Nikki Caulfield, General Manager Corporate Services
Don Luymes, General Manager Planning and Development
Michelle Hunt, General Manager Finance, Lands and Police
Renzo Del Negro, Director Human Resources
Genevieve Bucher, Director Community Planning
Scott Groves, Director Strategic and Capital Projects
Brad Lofgren, Director of Public Works
Andrew Merrill, Director Development Services
Danny Bandiera, Manager Information and Communications Technology
Jim Bontempo, Manager Building Permits - Approvals
Gorana Cabral, Manager Financial Planning
John Hill, Acting Manager Police Services
Andre Isakov, Manager Economic Development
Darryl Lal, Manager Policy and Business Services
Tiina Mack, Manager Recreation and Culture Facility Planning
Caresse Selk, Manager Environmental Services
Savik Sidhu, Manager Policy and Business Services
Graham Stuart, Manager Corporate Planning
Doug Vance, Manager Building Permits – Inspection
Kathleen Vincent, Manager Corporate Communications
Andrew Martin, Inspector RCMP
Darren Carr, Inspector RCMP
Todd Balaban, Inspector RCMP

Chris Adams-Brush, Financial Services Manager
Rhonda Anderson, Revenue Services Manager
Zoë Mlcoch, Business Services Manager
Jacqueline Gallant, Corporate Services Administrator
Jay Gilbert, Director Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Services
Stephanie Lam, Legislative Services Manager
Misty Temple, Legislative Services Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Please note that these and other staff joined and left the meeting as required.

Councillor Marsden, per the Acting Mayor scheduled, assumed the role of Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

1. Corporate Services

The Manager Corporate Services appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation attached to the report.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the critical role that Corporate Services filled during pandemic
- The predictable nature of internal staffing costs in developing capital projects
- Clarification that, for information technology assets being replaced, the anticipated proceeds are included in the budget forecast
- Clarification regarding interorganizational structure for proposed staffing roles

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (10:33 a.m.) and returned at 10:34 a.m.

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the Manager Corporate Services responded that the funds for Civic Space Planning come from the City Initiatives Reserve. She added that, with the City's permanent remote work plan, there may be opportunities for potential space-saving strategies and that the funds would be allocated to that transition.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Support for the improved community connections offered by a dedicated Civic Engagement Manager position
- The knowledge that some rate increases represent community growth and development
- Appreciation for the ongoing collection and processing of community feedback

- The City's secure process used in the disposal of computers and hard drives
- The knowledge that digital formats are growing in popularity and may guide future legislation.
- Support for staff's continued success in keeping pace with modern cybersecurity protocols

2. Engineering and Public Works

Councillor Mandewo left the meeting at this time (11:08 a.m.) and returned at 11:11 a.m.

The General Manager Engineering and Public Works appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation attached to the report.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (11:13 a.m.) and returned at 11:14 a.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for Engineering and Public Works' use of social media to engage with members of the community
- Clarification that the incremental utility increases are intended to mitigate Metro Vancouver's projected rate changes
- The financial and resource-related safeguards in place should development slow

Mayor Stewart left the meeting at this time (11:14 a.m.) and returned at 11:16 a.m.

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Finance, Lands and Police responded that because development has implications for many other departments, certain budget requests have been bundled together in a single, self-funded designation.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (11:16 a.m.) and returned at 11:27 a.m.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The belief that residents should be informed regarding Metro Vancouver's forecasted utility increases
- Appreciation that staff are working with Metro Vancouver on possible funding opportunities for the Quarry Road project
- The potential for collecting gravel operator fees to repair possible machine-related damage to Quarry Road
- The importance of ensuring that pedestrian and cyclist pathways are clear of debris and similar hazards

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Engineering and Public Works responded that City staff are prioritizing those areas in the most need of repair, and are not limiting their focus on inflow and infiltration matters.

Councillor Kim left the meeting at this time (11:30 a.m.) and returned at 11:32 a.m.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- Clarification relating to the operating costs for the proposed sweepers
- The understanding that streetlight location may result in height variation
- Support for including the rate impact of utility budget requests in future budgets
- Support for the transportable nature of equipment listed on Slide 19

Councillor Mandewo left the meeting at this time (11:53 a.m.)

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Engineering and Public Works responded that the City would not need to hire additional staff to operate the proposed street sweepers.

Recess

The Committee recessed at this time (12:05 p.m.).

Reconvene

A Regular Meeting of the Finance Standing Committee reconvened in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 12:31 p.m. with all members of the Committee save Councillor Hodge (arrived at 12:40 p.m.) and Councillor Mandewo (arrived at 12:48 p.m.). Members of staff present were the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, General Manager Finance, Lands and Police, General Manager Engineering and Public Works, Director Community Planning, Director Development Services, Manager Environmental Services, Director Public Works, Financial Services Manager, Revenue Services Manager, General Manager Planning and Development, Manager Corporate Services, Manager Corporate Communications, Manager Information and Communications Technology, Manager Corporate Planning, Fire Chief, Manager Financial Planning, Building Permits Manager - Approvals, Business Services Manager, Acting Manager Economic Development, Manager Recreation and Culture Facility Planning, Director Strategic and Capital Projects, Manager Policy and Business Services, Officer-in-Charge Coquitlam RCMP, Inspectors, Acting Manager Police Services, Building Permits Manager – Inspection, Director Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Services, Legislative Services Manager, and Legislative Services Clerk.

Please note that staff joined and left the meeting as required.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS continued

3. Planning and Development

The General Manager Planning and Development appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation attached to the report.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (1:20 p.m.) and returned at 1:21 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Support for utilizing developer fees to mitigate development-related expenses
- The various impacts that development has on surrounding communities
- The desire for collaboration with neighbouring municipalities in order to effectively meet housing targets
- Support for potentially increasing the percentage of cost-recovery strategies

Councillor Towner left the meeting at this time (1:41 p.m.) and returned at 1:48 p.m.

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Planning and Development responded that the childcare strategy is an evolving concept that relies heavily on forthcoming decisions in federal and provincial legislation.

Councillor Kim left the meeting at this time (1:49 p.m.) and returned at 1:51 p.m.

Discussion continued relative to the following:

- The potential cost-recovery initiatives for development applications put on hold after third reading
- The parking-related challenges residents may experience when living in close proximity to construction sites
- Support for the formal creation of a development funding facilitator role
- The potentially ambiguous nature of self-funded ~~designations~~ budget requests
- The possible increase in disparities between a proposed development and its completed results

Mayor Stewart and Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (1:53 p.m.) and returned at 1:54 p.m.

4. Finance and Lands

The General Manager Finance, Lands and Police appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation attached to the report.

Councillor Mandewo left the meeting at this time (1:57 p.m.) and returned at 1:59 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire for a permanent solution in relation to the tax appeal process
- The volatile nature of land value and the special challenges it brings in identifying a long-term solution
- Support for a possible reserve to mitigate the impact of the property assessment appeal process in the calculation of tax rates

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Finance, Lands and Police responded that additional research would be necessary in

identifying possible solutions for a tax appeal allowance. Staff undertook to report back to the Committee with their findings.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (2:16 p.m.) and returned at 2:25 p.m.

5. Police Services

The Officer-in-Charge Coquitlam RCMP appeared before the Committee and referred to slides contained in the presentation attached to the report.

Councillor Towner left the meeting at this time (2:21 p.m.) and returned at 2:22 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The implications of growing demand for law enforcement services
- The understanding that community growth may introduce strain on officer resources
- The financial constraints that may arise during complex criminal investigations
- Clarification on the administrative categorization of various types of offenses
- The knowledge that potential mental health matters may not be apparent in some of the calls that officers respond to
- The pressures on the RCMP in meeting the community's needs for mental health services

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

CHAIR

I hereby certify that I have recorded the Minutes of the Finance Standing Committee Meeting held Wednesday, October 27, 2021 as instructed, subject to amendment and adoption.



Misty Temple
Legislative Services Clerk