

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** (Administration & Finance) of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION COUNCIL** held in the Conference Room at the Municipal Hall at 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on Monday, February 23, 2009 commencing at 5:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Mayor James Atebe
Councillor Terry Gidda
Councillor Paul Horn
Councillor Danny Plecas
Councillor Mike Scudder
Councillor Jenny Stevens
Councillor Heather Stewart

Staff Members Present: Glen Robertson, chief administrative officer
Dennis Clark, director of corporate administration
Ken Bjorgaard, director of finance
Kerri Onken, deputy treasurer/collector
Debi Decker, administrative assistant

1. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RESOLUTION TO RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

AF
09/33

Moved by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Scudder and,

RESOLVED: That council now resolve itself into committee of the whole.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Councillor Stevens assumed the chair.

AF
09/34

Financial Challenges Related to the Regional Water and Sewer Systems

The director of finance referred to his report dated January 29, 2009, advising that staff had added a fifth funding scenario, as requested by council at the last budget meeting. He reiterated that growth should not necessarily have to pay for all of the major capital water projects costs as in some cases others benefit, and that gas tax funds are mandated to be spent on cleaner air and cleaner water (green projects) and that the major water capital projects fall into this category.

He also indicated that growth should not have to bear the costs associated with lack of advanced planning.

The director stated that discussions had taken place at the last Water & Sewer Commission (WSC) meeting and the Utility Management Committee (UMC) was requested to look at a scaled down version of the regional water capital plan and/or deferment of water capital projects.

Moved by Councillor Horn, and,

RECOMMENDED: That 50% of gas tax funding be used for regional water and sewer projects (approximately \$3 million to 2013).

OPPOSED: Mayor Atebe
Councillor Gidda
Councillor Plecas
Councillor Scudder
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Stewart

DEFEATED

AF
09/35

Moved by Councillor Gidda, and,

RECOMMENDED: That all of the gas tax funding be used for regional water and sewer projects (approximately \$6 million to 2013).

OPPOSED: Councillor Horn

CARRIED

AF
09/36

Moved by Councillor Horn, and,

RECOMMENDED:

1. That incremental, annual water and sewer user rate increases of 15% and 10% respectively, to be reviewed annually, with residential water user rates increasing by \$42.36 in 2009, to \$324.36, and residential sewer user rates increasing by \$24.48 in 2009, to \$269.16; and
2. Using external borrowing as required for major regional water and sewer projects, with a loan authorization bylaw being put in place and being utilized if and when required.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued around the phasing-in of the proposed DCC rate increase and staff clarified that with the uncertainty with the Water Master Plan and the negotiations with the funding split between Abbotsford and Mission, staff are recommending that the DCC rate increase be phased-in, as this will give the District more flexibility.

AF
09/37 Moved by Councillor Horn, and,

RECOMMENDED: Taking proposed regional water and sewer development cost charge rates of approximately \$13,950 and \$5,940 per residential unit, respectively, forward to a regular meeting of council and thereafter to a developer/public consultation meeting, with the regional water development cost charge rates being phased-in in two increments (the first increment to \$9,650 would occur upon adoption of the development cost charge bylaw and the last increment to \$13,950 would occur on January 1, 2010, or six months after the adoption of the development cost charge bylaw, whichever is later).

CARRIED

AF
09/38 **Preapproval of Regional Sewer Utility Spending – JAMES Plant 2007 Dike Upgrading: Cost Recovery**

Moved by Mayor Atebe, and,

RECOMMENDED: That the District of Mission's share of the additional costs associated with the JAMES Plant 2007 dike upgrading capital costs be paid to the City of Abbotsford in the amount of \$6,800.80, with funding to come from the Sewer Capital Reserve fund; and

That the District's 2008 financial plan be amended accordingly.

CARRIED

AF
09/39 **Status of 2009, 2010, and 2011 Provisional Operating Budgets/Tax Increases**

The deputy treasurer/collector referred to the late items that were handed out, pointing out the current changes to the budgets (2009, 2010, and 2011) since they were last presented. She noted that currently the proposed tax increases were: 8.11% for 2009; 7.64% for 2010; and 3.59% for 2011.

The director of finance reviewed the various options for lowering the overall budget/tax impact, as outlined in his report dated December 29, 2008, reminding council that options have associated risks to them.

Moved by Councillor Gidda, and,

RECOMMENDED: That this meeting be recessed until after the February 23, 2009, Public Hearing has adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was recessed at 6:10 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:25 pm in the Council Chambers.

Councillor Stevens resumed the chair.

AF
09/39 **Status of 2009, 2010, and 2011 Provisional Operating Budgets/Tax Increases**

Discussion ensued around the RCMP and transit budget amendments and staff confirmed that dollar amounts have not been finalized as yet.

Discussion continued around the proposed tax increase and council advised that the public should be informed regarding the utility (water, sewer, refuse and recycling) rate increases for 2009. **Council directed staff to** prepare a communication strategy to be conveyed to the public prior to the public budget consultation meeting.

Discussion ensued around the public budget consultation meeting, and **it was agreed that the District** would present three options to the public, a base-line option and what two different tax increases would "buy". It was suggested that the composite fire department could be one of the options. Council also requested that dollar amounts be shown along with the percentage increases.

AF
09/40 **Early Spending Approval – Information Services Capital Program**

Staff clarified that these funds are in the 2009 budget, and that the information services department would like to proceed with these projects before the financial capital plan is approved by council, thereby requesting preapproval.

Moved by Mayor Atebe and,

RECOMMENDED: That staff be authorized to proceed with expending up to \$89,785 for the replacement of corporate printers and web content management system, and the upgrade of server and communication systems as provided for in the 2009 Information Services Capital Plan.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued around budget items, and the need for additional funding for items such as road paving, sidewalks, etc. Staff clarified that staff could put forth spending packages for any items that council requested, and then council would have the option of including that spending package in the budget.

Discussion continued around the cultural and trails master plans and the fact that the District has a need for a roads master plan. **It was agreed to** bring this item back for further discussion.

AF
09/41 **Discussion of Spending Packages**

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed.

AF
09/42 **Council Follow-ups**

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed.

RESOLUTION TO RISE AND REPORT

Mayor Atebe resumed the chair.

AF
09/43 Moved by Councillor Scudder, seconded by Councillor Stevens and,

RESOLVED: That the Committee of the Whole now rise and report.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

AF
09/44 Moved by Councillor Horn, seconded by Councillor Scudder and,

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the committee of the whole, as contained in items AF09/33 to AF09/43, except item AF09/34, using 50% of gas tax funding for regional water and sewer projects, be adopted.

CARRIED

AF
09/45 Moved by Councillor Plecas, seconded by Councillor Gidda and,

RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the committee of the whole, as contained in item AF09/34, using 50% of gas tax funding for regional water and sewer projects, be adopted.

OPPOSED: Councillor Horn

CARRIED

3. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Horn, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



JAMES ATEBE,
MAYOR



DENNIS CLARK,
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

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