

General Purpose Committee

- Date: Monday, January 17th, 2000
- Place: Council Chambers
2nd Floor, Richmond City Hall
- Present: Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt, Mayor
Councillor Linda Barnes
Councillor Malcolm Brodie
Councillor Derek Dang
Councillor Lyn Greenhill
Councillor Kiichi Kumagai
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Harold Steves (4:02 p.m.)
- Absent: Councillor Ken Johnston

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. It was Moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday, January 4th, 2000, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

DELEGATION

2. **MR. LARRY QUAYLE, AREA ASSESSOR, BC ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY, REGARDING THE 2000 PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

Mr. Larry Quayle, Area Assessor, BC Assessment Authority, accompanied by the Deputy Assessor, Kashmir Kang, reported to the Committee on the 2000 property assessments for residential, commercial and industrial properties in the City. During his presentation, Mr. Quayle reviewed and responded to questions from Committee members on:

- (i) the completed roll totals (general purposes):
 - reclassification of certain properties to other classes; and
- (ii) the new construction report.

Mr. Kang briefly reviewed the local residential market with respect to land values, and a brief discussion ensued on the drop in property values. Also addressed were such issues as (i) leaking condominiums and the value of these particular buildings compared to those which had been repaired; (ii) the assessment values of major industrial properties; (iii) the reclassification of certain properties from Class 5 to Class 6; and (iv) commercial strata properties and whether there had been any change in the legislation which determined how this use was assessed.

During the discussion which took place on commercial strata properties, Mr. Bruce was asked to provide to Councillor Dang, a comparison between Parker Place (strata) and Aberdeen Centre (rental units) to show the difference in taxes paid between the two complexes.

Material circulated by the General Manager, Finance & Corporate Services Division, Mr. Jim Bruce, on behalf of Mr. Quayle is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

3. 2000 GRANTS BUDGET

(Report: Dec. 9/99; File No.: 1085-01; Individual grants – File No.: 1085-20-Case File; REDMS 122686, 74710, 98454, 119431, 120339, 120047, 119317, 119485, 119320, 119411, 120338, 119276, 120335, 120344, 119337, 119266, 119300, 119326, 120104, 120189, 122736, 119287, 120602, 119467, 122553, 123773, 122566, 122568, 122524, 122529, 122555, 122587, 122623, 122536, 122627, 122615, 122547, 122571, 123751)

The Manager, Customer Services, Anne Stevens, accompanied by Social & Community Planner Mr. Kari Huhtala, reviewed the grant applications which had been received with the Committee. A brief discussion then ensued among Committee members and staff with respect to the following grant applications:

- Richmond Society for Community Living (Category 2 because funding was approved in 1998) – concern was expressed that this particular recommendation did not appear to comply with present policy which dictates that applicants who received funding in a particular year would not be eligible for funding for two subsequent years
- Christmas Hamper Fund Society – requested \$4,000 – staff were recommending that no grant be approved because they fell within Category 2
- Parent Advisory Committee of Tomsett Elementary School – staff were recommending that the application be denied because staff were of the opinion that the City provided a great deal of funds through the provision of park and other equipment for use by adjacent schools
- RADAT and Richmond Youth Services – reason for increased grants was because of cutbacks by the Provincial Government
- RADAT and the reason as to why this application was again submitted late – staff expressed the opinion that there still miscommunication occurring within the organization

Ms. Frances Clark, 8160 Railway Avenue, spoke about (a) the amount of grant funding being applied for and the total amount of grants being approved; and (b) the amount of grants being recommended for several organizations which support people with disabilities and the lack of support being shown to these organizations by the City. She urged the Committee to support the grant application requests as submitted for the approved organizations and to reconsider those applications which were being recommended for denial. (A copy of her submission is on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Discussion then ensued among Committee members and the delegation on such issues as:

- the proposed grant allocations
- the need to verify how funding was utilized by applicants in the previous year as a means of providing an accountability
- the late grant applications which were received and the problem of communication which still appears to exist with respect to notifying organizations about grant application deadlines.

Mr. Vince Bielli, Director for the BC Paraplegic Association, voiced concern that the amount of the grant being sought by the Association had been consistently reduced for the past number of years. He stated that the Association had applied for a \$5,000 grant, however staff were recommending that only \$3,500 be approved. Mr. Bielli then provided information on the many services which the organization provided to Richmond residents.

It was Moved and seconded

- (1) ***That the grants (identified in the report dated December 9th, 1999, from the Manager, Customer Services) for Health and Social Services applicants be awarded and the cheques disbursed for a total of \$238,200.***
- (2) ***That the grants (identified in the report dated December 9th, 1999, from the Manager, Customer Services) for Cultural, Community Promotions and Summer Programs applicants be awarded and the cheques disbursed for a total of \$66,300.***
- (3) ***That Council provide assistance in the form of grants to two of the three applicants that applied late for a total of \$12,000.***

The question on the motion was not called, as the following **amendment** was introduced:

It was Moved and seconded

That the grants to the Richmond Community on Disability, the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society and the BC Paraplegic Association each be increased by \$1,000.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

It was Moved and seconded

That the following be added as Part 4 to the main resolution:

- “4. That staff report on suggested uses for the revenue received by the City from community casino operations, with a priority placed on social issues which result from gaming and a secondary emphasis on those organizations which did not receive their full request or whose grants were denied.”***

Prior to the question being called, staff were asked to report on the percentage of the casino revenue (\$450,000) which would be appropriate for social uses within the City.

The question on the motion was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

The question on the motion, as amended, was then called, and it was **CARRIED**.

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

3. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

(Report: Jan. 12/00; File No.: 280-20-015; REDMS 128115)

The Director, Engineering Jeff Day, introduced the Manager, Facilities Planning & Construction, David Naysmith to the Committee. Mr. Naysmith then reviewed the report with Committee members. In response to questions, information was provided that:

- the RCMP were in agreement with the staff report, however were of the view that a resolution to its concerns must be provided by 2005
- staff were hopeful that a solution which would address these concerns would be identified within the proposed 6 month period
- the initial studies indicate that the cost of renovating the temporary City Hall building to provide a new home for the Provincial Courts would be too costly to satisfy BCBC standards, building code and occupancy issues, and that the same rationale would apply to the possible relocation of the RCMP function to the interim City Hall
- with respect to the long term strategy, every opportunity would be available to address the feasibility of providing satellite stations from which the RCMP could operate, rather than housing the entire operation within one facility
- the status of the existing RCMP building and a new building constructed in the same area with respect to 'post-earthquake' construction.

It was Moved and seconded

- (1) That the interim strategy to provide space for the RCMP in the second floor West Wing of the Interim City Hall to address their short term space requirements be approved;***
- (2) That staff be authorized to initiate a planning process to identify a strategy to establish a facility that meets the long term needs of the RCMP and the City by 2005; and***

- (3) *That staff report within a 6-month period on building, siting options, and financing considerations including public/private partnership opportunities.*

CARRIED

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (5:40 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, January 17th, 2000.

Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt,
Chair

Fran J. Ashton,
Executive Assistant