



General Purposes Committee

Date: Monday, January 23, 2023

Place: Council Chambers
Richmond City Hall

Present: Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie, Chair
Councillor Chak Au
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Laura Gillanders
Councillor Kash Heed
Councillor Andy Hobbs
Councillor Alexa Loo
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Michael Wolfe

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

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded
*That the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on
January 9, 2023, be adopted as circulated.*

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

1. **SOIL OR FILL USE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPERTY AT 8251
NO. 5 ROAD (GARCHA)**
(File Ref. No. 12-8080-12-01) (REDMS No. 6990060)

It was moved and seconded

General Purposes Committee
Monday, January 23, 2023

That the ‘Soil or Fill Use’ application, submitted by Harbinder (Harry) Garcha (Applicant), proposing to retain soil for the purpose of improving the agricultural capability of the property located at 8251 No. 5 Road, be authorized for referral to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for the ALC to review and determine the merits of the proposal from an agricultural perspective as the Applicant has satisfied all of the City’s current reporting requirements.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued in respect to (i) the remediation plan for the property, (ii) the viability of growing crops on the property, and (iii) the drainage plan.

The question on the motion was then called and **CARRIED** with Cllrs: Day, Gillanders and Wolfe opposed.

MAYOR MALCOLM BRODIE

2. **ELECTION AND POLITICAL SIGNS BYLAW NO. 8713 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

(File Ref. No. 01-0005-01) (REDMS No. 7072585)

Mayor Brodie provided images highlighting (i) sign placement, (ii) number of signs placed in one area, (iii) election signage on vehicles, trees, boulevards, (iv) costs associated with signage, and (v) enforcement of the Election Sign Bylaw.

James Day, Richmond resident, referred to his submission (copy on file) and provided a brief overview of his submission with respect to his opposition to the proposed bylaw amendments.

Bob King, Richmond resident, referred to his submission (copy on file) and shared his concerns about the proposed amendments, stating he felt that signage is an effective way to get residents involved in the political process.

Howard Jampolsky, Richmond resident, spoke in support of the proposed amendments and expressed his views on using sustainable materials for signage and the importance of enforcing city bylaws.

Jerome Dickey, Richmond resident, referred to his written submission (copy on file) and shared his concerns about the proposed amendments to the bylaw and the voter turnout at the 2022 election.

Kerry Starchuk, Richmond resident, referred to her written submission (copy on file) and expressed her concerns about the number of election signs posted throughout Richmond and the need for enforcement of election signage.

John Baines, Richmond resident, shared his opposition to the proposed bylaw amendments and felt there should be more public input on such amendments.

General Purposes Committee Monday, January 23, 2023

Brenda Hourie, Richmond resident, shared her opposition to the proposed amendments, highlighting that election signage is a way for residents to be part of the election process and show support for their candidates.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *Council endorse the recommendations for amendments to the Election and Political Sign Bylaw No. 8713 as outlined in the report titled "Election and Political Signs Bylaw No. 8713 Proposed Amendments", dated January 5, 2023, from the Mayor, City of Richmond.*
- (2) *Staff be directed to draft changes to the said bylaw consistent with those amendments.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued in regards to (i) election signage practices and bylaws in other municipalities, (ii) enforcement of the election sign bylaw, (iii) voter turnout, (iv) the requirement of written consent from residents having election signage posted on their property, (v) resident complaints about election signage, (vi) displaying election signage on vehicles, (vii) signage placement in front of businesses and farmland, and (viii) utilizing the Let's Talk Richmond portal to receive public input regarding the proposed changes to the Election Sign bylaw.

As a result of the discussion the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That Mayor Malcolm Brodie's report titled "Election and Political Signs Bylaw No. 8713 Proposed Amendments" be referred to staff to analyze and report back on the possibility of having designated areas for sign placement, throughout the city; including a review of:

- (a) placement of election signage throughout the city;*
- (b) appropriate materials and size for election signage; and*
- (c) the number of election signs allowable per location and per candidate.*

The question on the referral motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding a longer time available to provide a thorough review to address concerns raised.

The question on the referral motion was then called and **CARRIED** with Cllrs: Day, Gillanders, Heed and Wolfe opposed.

General Purposes Committee
Monday, January 23, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded
That the meeting adjourn (6:23 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 23, 2023.

Mayor Malcolm D. Brodie
Chair

Raman Grewal
Legislative Services Associate