

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Council-in-Committee convened on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 2:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mayor Richard Stewart
Councillor Brent Asmundson
Councillor Craig Hodge
Councillor Steve Kim
Councillor Trish Mandewo
Councillor Dennis Marsden
Councillor Teri Towner
Councillor Chris Wilson

STAFF: Peter Steblin, City Manager
Raul Allueva, Deputy City Manager
Jamie Boan, General Manager Engineering and Public Works
Nikki Caulfield, General Manager Corporate Services
Graham Stuart, Manager Corporate Planning
Lanny Englund, General Manager Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities
Michelle Hunt, General Manager Finance, Lands and Police
Don Luymes, General Manager Planning and Development
Jude Pillainayagam, Utility Asset Manager
Jonathan Helmus, Director Utilities
Mark Zaborniak, Manager Design and Construction
Jay Gilbert, Director Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Services
Stephanie Lam, Legislative Services Manager
Misty Temple, Legislative Services Clerk

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

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Marsden, on behalf of the Committee, made opening comments acknowledging the National Day of Action for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit LGBTQ+ members of the community.

The Legislative Services Manager noted that an additional business item had been identified for discussion and it was accepted under Other Business.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Council-in-Committee Meeting held on Monday, September 27, 2021

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Council-in-Committee Meeting held on Monday, September 27, 2021.

REPORTS OF STAFF

ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

2. Report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works – State of Engineering Assets with Transportation Highlights Application

The General Manager Engineering and Public Works provided introductory comments relating to the City's assets, and highlighted that they continue to operate in good working order. He added that, although rising costs of materials have introduced challenges, the resulting difficulties remain manageable.

The Utility Asset Manager provided an on-screen presentation entitled "State of Engineering Assets" with slides titled as follows:

- Agenda
- Asset Management and Funding
- Complete Review of Transportation Assets
- Asset Condition
- Condition of Utility Assets: Good
- Condition of Transportation Assets
- Replacement Funding Profiles and Average Annual Target Investment
- Utilities Assets
- Transportation Assets
- Key Cost Drivers
- AATI vs. Current Funding = Gap
- Examples of Actual Cost vs. Inflation Index Rate
- Modelled AATI Gap – Transportation - \$5.1M
- Conclusion and Recommendations

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the Utility Asset Manager responded that as sanitary assets are replaced, they will be upgraded to more modern assets with greater longevity expectations in tandem with maintenance-related improvements.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Appreciation for the comprehensive, understandable nature of the report
- The desire for transparency with the public regarding the potential costs associated with asset management and replacement

- The understanding that deficient tax rates compromise the City's ability to provide necessary services to residents
- The importance of maintaining a functional drainage system
- The knowledge that effective asset management requires diligence

The Committee received the report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works dated September 22, 2021 and entitled "State of Engineering Assets with Transportation Highlights" for information.

3. Report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works – Austin Avenue Sidewalk Project

The General Manager Engineering and Public Works provided introductory comments relative to the construction and design in the forthcoming completion of the Austin Avenue sidewalk project. He added that the City was recently awarded a \$500,000 grant by the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for use in the project.

Councillor Hodge left the meeting at this time (2:42 p.m.) and returned at 2:43 p.m.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The desire to remove only those trees which are necessary for the project
- The knowledge that tree health dictates which trees are safe for transplanting
- Support for transplanting as many trees as reasonably practical
- The desire to include a balanced array of coniferous and deciduous trees
- The understanding that the sidewalk's elevation protects the roots of healthy trees
- The understanding that sidewalk elevation is a common strategy for preserving trees that would otherwise be removed

Councillor Asmundson left the meeting at this time (3:03 p.m.) and returned at 3:05 p.m.

In response to a question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Engineering and Public Works responded that trees designated as being in poor health were identified as such by professional arborists.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that a tree's declining health may not be easily recognizable
- The knowledge that, if not dealt with, trees in poor condition may become a safety hazard to the community
- The importance of ensuring the sidewalk is wide enough to accommodate needs relating to accessibility and mobility

Councillor Kim left the meeting at this time (3:06 p.m.) and returned at 3:08 p.m.

The Committee received the report of the General Manager Engineering and Public Works dated September 23, 2021 and entitled "Austin Avenue Sidewalk Project" for information.

CORPORATE SERVICES

4. Report of the General Manager Corporate Services – Draft 2022 Business Plan

The General Manager Corporate Services provided introductory comments relative to the Draft 2022 Business Plan. She underscored that the report's purpose is to facilitate Committee discussion and feedback prior to the adoption of the 2022 Business Plan.

Councillor Towner left the meeting at this time (3:18 p.m.) and returned at 3:21 p.m.

The Utility Asset Manager provided an on-screen presentation entitled "Draft 2022 Business Plan" with slides titled as follows:

- Presentation Purpose
- How Our Plans Work
- The Business Plan
- How the Plan is Developed
- Approval and Reporting
- Internal Environmental Scan
- External Environmental Scan
- Context Moving Forward
- Excellence in City Governance
- Process for Today's Session

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that community interests and needs evolve at a rapid pace
- The knowledge that public feedback is an important resource in identifying the priorities of residents
- Appreciation for including a list of completed objectives within the report
- The importance of keeping operational priorities and budgets aligned
- The desire to consistently augment and modify facilities to accommodate new, popular activities

In response to question from a member of the Committee, the General Manager Engineering and Public Works responded that micromobility and e-mobility, while similar, are distinct concepts. He went on to clarify that, unlike micromobility, e-mobility includes electric cars, charging stations, and related components.

Mayor Stewart left the meeting at this time (3:25 p.m.) and returned at 3:29 p.m.

The Committee received the report of the General Manager Corporate Services dated September 27, 2021 and entitled, "Draft 2022 Business Plan" for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

OB-1 Letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Councillor Marsden)

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Councillor Zarrillo on her successful campaign and election. He went on to note that her vacancy introduces the need for a By-election.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The understanding that holding two elections so closely together introduces financial constraints for otherwise qualified candidates
- The knowledge that election fatigue may negatively impact an election that, historically, tends to have lower levels of voter turnout
- The understanding that financing rules and fundraising limitations introduce additional complications for candidates
- Appreciation that Council is not generally impacted by issues relating to quorum
- The desire to author a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting a By-election deferral
- The support for updates to legislation that reflect the community's changing needs and priorities

The Director Intergovernmental Relations and Legislative Services undertook to assist in drafting a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the Committee's request for deferral.

NEXT MEETING DATE – October 18, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 4:25 p.m.

MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT

CHAIR

I hereby certify that I have recorded the Minutes of the Council-in-Committee Meeting held Monday, October 4, 2021 as instructed, subject to amendment and adoption.



Misty Temple
Legislative Services Clerk