

Present:

Chairperson - Villeneuve
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Martin
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele
Mayor Watts

Absent:**Staff Present:**

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Human Resources
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development

The agenda was varied

A. DELEGATIONS**2. Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning**

File: 6520-20 (AFSAC); 0550-20-10

Note: See Corporate Report R076 of Regular Council Public Hearing agenda.

In attendance before Council to provide an overview of Surrey's Agriculture Strategy.

The following comments were made:

- The strategy provides a framework with the City of Surrey, in partnership with other agencies, to ensure that agriculture not only survives but is an economic driver into the future.
- Staff noted that farming in the Metro Vancouver area poses unique challenges for food production and it also allows certain unique opportunities. The idea of the Agricultural Strategy is to set out a framework for further policy to ensure that agriculture thrives within Surrey and ensure that key priorities and actions for enhancing the growth and vitality of agriculture are taken care of.

Key highlights of Surrey's Agriculture Strategy are as follows:

1. **Stable Land Base** - Farm land is expensive in the Fraser Valley; producers should be given every opportunity to make every unit of agriculture production valuable. It is important to ensure not only sustainability but also resilience in the face of changing climate relative to local agriculture.

2. **Innovation** – Developing new ways of producing food and creating new markets. It is important to make sure that innovation is at the forefront, noting that the production of food locally and the enhancement of production locally is an important element.
3. **Infrastructure** - Ensuring appropriate infrastructure to allow agriculture to grow and thrive. There should be a balance in providing appropriate infrastructure in a cost-effective manner.
4. **Agri-urban Connections** - Ensuring they are sympathetic and the impacts of urban connections are managed effectively. Agri-Urban Connections can be dealt with through events to raise the profile of farming, build support, and develop local markets to better showcase local produce.
5. **Land Base** – Protecting the integrity of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and promoting land uses conducive to agricultural production.

Staff summarized the overview by explaining that the plan identifies five strategic directions, each working in concert, to provide Surrey with a framework designed to package priorities toward a roadmap for the future.

Council thanked staff for the presentation and noted it goes a long way in recognizing the work done by the Agriculture and Food Security Committee (AFSAC). It was noted one of the fundamental things looked at regionally, relative to agriculture, is the infrastructure related to the cost of water, specifically, what it means to the cost of agriculture.

3. **Kathleen Zimmerman, Regional Agrologist, Fraser Valley West, Coastal Region, BC Ministry of Agriculture**

File: 6520-20; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to provide an overview of the Surrey Agricultural Land Use Inventory.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation noted that the presentation regarding Surrey's Agricultural Land Use Inventory was first delivered to the Agriculture and Food Security Committee (AFSAC) and is now before Council at the request of Councillor Hepner, the AFSAC Committee Chairperson.
- Data for the survey was compiled using a windshield survey where researchers literally drove past every parcel in the ALR as well as parcels that were zoned as agriculture or assessed as a farm by BC Assessment.
- Parcels can have numerous covers and up to two land uses. Based on some of the data collected, the ALR consists of 9,292 hectares. In Surrey, the three main crop types identified are: 1) forage and pasture, 2) berries and 3) vegetables.

- Data on irrigation was collected and it was noted that 67% of agricultural land was irrigated with sprinklers being the most common form of irrigation.
- Farms with livestock were identified from small to large. 40% were horse, followed by poultry, beef, dairy and lambs/goats. Most of the livestock were located outside of the ALR.
- It was noted that parcels that are less than 1-hectare in size are not used for farming, which is typical of the results seen in other municipalities. Generally the smaller the parcel, the less likely it is to be used for farming. Metro Vancouver was interested in how much ALR is available for farming but cannot be used, it was determined that 27% is available and is not currently being farmed and that only 1/4 of available parcels are currently being farmed.
- There are four house size categories. For large houses 60% are used for farming, for estate houses 75% are used for farming. Cross referenced with the BC Assessment database, properties with large residences have large property values making it less likely for farmers to acquire the land and use for farming. Houses are not sometimes associated with farming. The delegation noted that this data highlights the benefits of Surrey's recent amendments for land zoning.

Land Use Inventory data collected specific to the City of Surrey can be summarized as follows:

1. Surrey is already parcelized, and does not need further subdivision
2. Smaller parcels are underutilized for farming
3. There is a significant amount of land in the ALR that is not available for farming (approximately 20%) – are more nonfarm uses needed?
4. Expansion of farming will require tree cutting and/or land draining (approximately 2,000 hectares). The delegation noted that expansion of farming will require tree cutting and land clearing. Only 33 hundred hectares is irrigated which will be a challenge because the Province is not issuing any more water licenses.
5. Only 3,344 hectares is irrigated, that leaves 1,210 hectares of cultivated land, plus 2,465 hectares of available land with potential for agriculture that potentially needs irrigation in the future – a total of 3,675 hectares.
6. Houses are sometimes not associated with farming.
7. The larger the home, the higher the assessed land improvement value, and the less likely to be available for purchase for a farm in the future.

The delegation thanked Council for the opportunity to present and noted that detailed Agriculture Land Use Inventory (ALUI) reports are available as follows: <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/gis>

1. Ruby Kandola, Surrey Resident, New Westminster & District Labour Council (NWDLC)

File: 2640-01; 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to recognize National Day of Mourning (April 28), and provide information on WorkSafe BC regulatory reviews that have impacted BC's workplace accident/fatality rates.

The following comments were made:

- Each year the NWDLC asks Mayor and Council to acknowledge April 28 as the National Day of Mourning.
- The delegation noted that the BC Federation of Labour Centre was created to help individuals learn about Occupational Health and Safety is open to all working people (not just unionized workers).
- The BC Federation of Labour Council, in partnership with community leaders and municipalities, will continue to work toward improving conditions for workers to improve working conditions for workers in various industries.

Mayor Watts read the following proclamation:

DAY OF MOURNING

April 28, 2013

WHEREAS every year, more than 1,000 Canadian workers are killed on the job; and

WHEREAS thousands more are permanently disabled; and

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands are injured; and

WHEREAS thousands of others die from cancer, lung disease, and other ailments caused by exposure to toxic substances at their workplaces; and

WHEREAS April 28 of each year has been chosen by the Canadian Labour Congress as:

- a Day of Mourning for these victims of workplace accidents and disease;
- a day to remember the maximum sacrifice they have been forced to make in order to earn a living;
- a day to renew approaches to governments for tougher occupational health and safety standards, and more effective compensation;

- a day to rededicate ourselves to the goal of making Canada's workplaces safer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Dianne L. Watts, do hereby declare April 28, 2013 as a "Day of Mourning" in the City of Surrey, in recognition of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

Dianne L. Watts
Mayor

Council thanked the delegation for the presentation as well as CUPE Local 403 for the work that they do on behalf of the City of Surrey.

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

D. DELEGATION REQUESTS

E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

G. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Martin

Seconded by Councillor Hayne

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Councillor Villeneuve, Chairperson