

**Present:**

Councillor Gill - Chair  
Councillor Hayne  
Councillor LeFranc  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Starchuk  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Woods  
Mayor Hepner

**Absent:****Staff Present:**

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

**A. PRESENTATION BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY**

The General Manager, Finance and Technology advised that Suzanne Fillion, Manager Financial Services would provide an overview of the Finance Committee reports regarding Utilities and Other Self-Funded Programs and 2016 Community Grants.

**B. PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance to speak to reports Fo27 and Fo28, and there was no public correspondence received.

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

1. The Corporate Reports, under date of November 23, 2015, were considered and dealt with as follows:

**Item No. Fo27**

2016 Five Year (2016-2020) Financial Plan – Utilities and Other Self-Funded Programs  
File: 1705-05

The City Manager and the General Manager, Finance and Technology submitted a report concerning 2016 Five Year (2016-2020) Financial Plan – Utilities and Other Self-Funded Programs. The Manager of Financial Services provided an overview of Corporate Report Fo27 noting that utilities, referred to as self-funded programs, follow the “user pay” approach that the City has applied in previous budgets.

With regards to the 2016 Water Utility Rates, 68% of all single family dwellings, 57% of all multi-family dwellings and all commercial and industrial customers are serviced with water meters.

Due to increases in the GVWD water rates and system operating costs, the proposed increases to water rates are as follows:

- GVWD bulk water charge will increase by \$0.0122 per cubic metre to \$0.6522 per cubic metre, with residents seeing an approximate increase of \$0.37 per month or \$4.39 per year;
- Water meter base rate will increase by \$1.00 per billing period or \$3.00 per year for the “average metered single family residence;”
- Water Utility rate will increase from \$0.8950 per cubic metre to \$0.930 per cubic metre and the average base rate will be increased from \$21.00 to \$22.00 per billing period, which will equate to an increase of \$1.30 per month or \$15.60 per year for the average metered single family residence and \$5.92 per month or \$71.00 per year for a business; and,
- Flat water rate will be increased based on the average consumption of water by non-metered accounts and will reflect the proposed rate of \$0.930 per cubic metre.

In 2016 the GVS&DD sewer charges will increase by 3.9% and as such this increase is anticipated to impact the average metered family residence in the City by approximately \$0.74 per month or \$8.88 per year. Staff is recommending that the sewer utility rate be increased for 2016 from \$0.90625 to \$0.9371 per cubic metre of discharge volume. The sewer utility rate for the non-metered customers will be increased based on the average discharge of a non-metered residence of 640 cubic metres. Staff noted that the GVS&DD sewer rates are projected to increase between 3.7% and 4.3% per year for each of the remaining four years of the Five Year Plan.

The Drainage Parcel Tax of \$213 per lot is proposed to increase by \$3.00 per lot to support increased maintenance and capital costs in relation to the City's drainage infrastructure.

With regards to the 2016 Solid Waste Utility Rates, the GVS&DD Board approved the 2015 Tipping Fee to be set at \$109 per tonne which took effect on January 1, 2015. Following this, the Provincial Government rejected Metro Vancouver's Bylaw 280 which would have required residential, commercial, and institutional waste to be delivered to Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver disposal facilities. As a result, the GVS&DD Board approved an interim “variable rate tipping fee structure” with rates based on load weight. With the new rate changes and along with the City's current solid waste collection contract, the City's solid waste collection rates will not need to increase for 2016 and rate will remain at \$283 per single family residence.

In terms of 2016 Parking rates, staff advised that revenue generated from parking rates will cover the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the below-ground parkade located at City Hall and accordingly the parking rates will remain unchanged for 2016 at \$75.00 per month for general staff parking, \$130 per month for reserved staff parking and \$1.50 per hour for public use.

The 2016 District Energy rates consist of an energy charge of \$49.92/MWh of energy consumed and daily demand charges of \$0.0169/m2/day and

\$0.2421/kW/day. It was noted that these charges are designed to be equivalent to the cost of heating a typical residential high-rise with electricity based on 50% of the energy being drawn. In addition to the two current customers, it is anticipated that two more customers will connect to the system in 2016.

During discussion, staff confirmed that the total cost increase of \$27.48 referred to was for an average single family home assessed at \$670,000, with the occupants being conservative in usage for the calculations. In terms of utility rates, staff noted that the rates are based on a consumption model for customers that are on meters. Council expressed appreciation for the Solid Waste Utility Rate not increasing for 2016 and staff confirmed that revenues are anticipated in the future related to the City's solid waste collection contract, as recycling among residents is continually increasing.

In response to a Council query, staff advised that for the Five Year Parking Operating Financial Plan, Year 2017 indicates increased revenues due to the 3 Civic Plaza obtaining parking spaces. With regards to the City's solid waste collection, staff confirmed that contamination rates are well below the 3% threshold, coming in at less than 1% and residents are regularly advised to not place glass material in the blue boxes. It was further noted that staff has been quite aggressive in terms of drainage and dyking work, and will be reporting back on climate change initiatives at a future meeting of Council.

The City Manager and the General Manager, Finance and Technology were recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in report Fo27.

It was

Moved by Councillor LeFranc

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the Finance Committee recommends

that Council:

1. Approve the recommendations outlined in Section 2.0 of Corporate Report Fo27; and
2. Direct staff to prepare the 2016 Five-Year (2016-2020) Financial Plan for each of the Water, Sewer, Drainage, Solid Waste, Parking and District Energy self-funded programs, respectively, incorporating the recommendations as contained in Corporate Report Fo27.

Carried

**Item No. Fo28****Community Grants for 2016**

File: 1850-20

The Manager of Financial Services provided an overview of report Fo28 entitled Community Grants for 2016. Staff noted that during 2015 Council provided financial support in the amount of \$4.4 million under the following grant categories:

- Community Charter Permissive Property Tax Exemptions;
- Community Enhancement Grants;
- Community Grants Program;
- Council Initiatives Fund;
- Cultural Grants Program;
- Façade Enhancement Grants;
- Community Event Policing Grant;
- Public Leisure Access Program; and,
- Sport Tourism Grant Program.

The Grants Evaluation Committee received and evaluated 78 grant requests for 2016 representing the following categories:

- Ongoing Lease and Property Taxes;
- Ongoing Business and Tourism;
- Ongoing Community;
- Ongoing Crime Prevention; and,
- One-Time Grants.

Each request was evaluated using the Policy on Municipal Grants and the Guidelines for Grant Priorities.

During discussion, Council expressed appreciation for the success of the Public Leisure Access Program, noting that 29, 390 residents have been assisted with a total value of \$1,360,792. Staff confirmed that senior centres in general are not solicited for grant requests. The Newton Seniors Centre is its own entity and accordingly submitted a grant request.

The General Manager, Finance and Technology was recommending approval of the recommendations outlined in the report.

It was  
that Council approve the 2016 City Grants as recommended by the Grants Evaluation Committee and as documented in **Schedules I, II and III** attached to Corporate Report Fo28.

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Finance Committee recommends

Carried

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor LeFranc  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Finance Committee meeting do

Carried

The Finance Committee adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Councillor Gill, Chairperson