



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2001
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair - Councillor Higginbotham
Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Bose
Councillor Hunt

Absent:

Councillor Watts
Councillor Eddington

Staff Present:

City Manager
Acting City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
General Manager, Engineering
City Solicitor
K. Swaele, Administrative Assistant

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Laurie Larsen President, CUPE Local 402 File: 0065-012

Laurie Larsen, President CUPE Local 402 stated that she was representing the Canadian Union of Public Employees who strongly oppose plans by the GVRD to have water treatment plants managed by a foreign corporation.

Laurie Larsen introduced members of the Executive of CUPE 402, and submitted a video tape for Council to review.

It was Moved by Councillor Tymoschuk
Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve
That the video tape from Laurie Larsen,
President, CUPE 402, be received.

Carried

Laurie Larsen commented:

- That there is growing opposition to the move to have GVRD water treatment plants managed by a foreign corporation from environmental and community groups.
- That CUPE's opposition is based on lack of consultation, lack of accountability and lack of demonstrated benefits to the citizens.
- That they object to placing management of water under the control of trade deals and secret trade tribunals.
- That at meetings held by the GVRD, over 1000 people turned up to oppose privatization.
- That the GVRD has ignored its own guidelines for consultations.
- That the GVRD ignored an internal report that called for full consultation before any privatization took place.
- That this is major abandonment of the duties of local government.

- That a poll done by Ipsos-Reid showed that two thirds of citizens said private companies should not be handling our water.
- That if a private company manages the plant, citizens will lack access to information about it.
- That the GVRD has refused to release a legal opinion that they claim supports their view that there are no problems with the trade deals.
- That this is a \$400 million project providing water for 2 million people.
- That the Burnaby incinerator is being used by the GVRD as an example of this type of partnership.
- That there is a lack of access to contracts with private companies under the Freedom of Information legislation.
- That they have hired one of Canada's foremost trade lawyers, Steven Shrybman.
- That Mr. Shrybman has reached the conclusion that privatization of the water treatment plans would create enormous risk.
- That the Metalclad decision stated that trade deals could go so far as to interfere with a municipality's right to make zoning changes.
- That there is a contradiction between the commitment to safe affordable water and the commitment to profits by foreign corporations.
- That if the facility was design-build and operated by the GVRD, it is her opinion that it would not be a problem.

Laurie Larsen concluded by urging Council to instruct its representatives to vote against this privatization, and read a motion passed by Burnaby Council which supports full public consultation and asks that the second phase be delayed until the results of public consultation have been considered.

Keith Reynolds commented that there are concerns with the Free Trade Agreement, as disputes may be resolved in a Trade Panel, which is done in private, rather than through the Canadian Courts.

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 Hunt

Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Chairperson