



City of Surrey

Council-in-Committee

Minutes

Council Chamber
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2001
Time: 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor McCallum
Councillor Villeneuve
Councillor Tymoschuk
Councillor Steele
Councillor Bose
Councillor Watts
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Higginbotham

Absent:

Councillor Eddington

Staff Present:

City Manager
Acting City Clerk
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor
Land Development Engineer
Manager, North Surrey Section
K. Swaele, Administrative Assistant

A. DELEGATIONS

1. Ted Allen for the Surrey Taxi Companies File: 0065-012; 0023-13610

Ted Allen, for the Surrey Taxi Companies, was in attendance to discuss issues that need to be addressed with respect to Surrey By-law 13610, Part 2, Section 14(m), requirements to hold a Chauffeur's Permit.

Ted Allen distributed copies of a letter to Council.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve
Seconded by Councillor Steele
That the letter from Mr. Allen be received.
Carried

Mr. Allen advised that they are concerned with Section 14(m) of the Vehicle for Hire By-law, and that some applicants have been refused licenses because they do not have Taxi Host level 2.

Mr. Allen noted that the City of Vancouver only requires Taxi Host level 1, and that they were advised by the City of Surrey that Taxi Host level 2 would be postponed indefinitely, or until it is required by the City of Vancouver. He advised that Taxi Host level 2 is definitely required for those drivers who work at the airport, but requiring it for all Surrey taxi drivers may mean that some drivers will be lost to the City of Vancouver, reducing the number of qualified Surrey drivers.

Mr. Allen continued that Section 14(d) of the by-law requires a letter from the owner of a Taxi or Limousine licensed in the City of Vancouver, and pointed out that this should be amended to read City of Surrey indicating that they are prepared to hire the applicant. Mr. Allen noted that the RCMP is not accepting letters from companies, and require the applicant to make direct application to them.

Mr. Allen stated that they are asking that the minimum requirement for Chauffeur Permits remain, that the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw be amended to require that Chauffeur Permits be renewed once every 3 years, and that the by-law requirement for a letter of intent to hire, and the mailing of Chauffeur Permits to taxi companies be reinstated.

2. Tim Baillie
New Westminster & District Labour Council
File: 0065-012

Tim Baillie, New Westminster & District Labour Council was in attendance to make a presentation regarding their ongoing program to educate communities on the role of trade unions in society and to share their rich history.

Note: See Proclamation Item E.1(a) of the Regular Council agenda.

Tim Baillie, advised that he is a member of the Surrey Firefighters Union and that there are 115 unions affiliated with the New Westminster Labour Council, representing 18 municipalities from Burnaby to Hope. The Labour Council collectively advocates on behalf of workers, sponsors programs for workers and educational programs for youth.

Mr. Baillie continued that Labour Day celebrates the contribution of the many men and women who contribute to the country, and that unions have played a significant part in the history of Canada and the quality of life enjoyed by many Canadians today.

Mr. Baillie reviewed the history of the labour movement and noted that currently one in three workers belong to trade unions, and that unions have lobbied for change and social justice in the education system, universal health care, workers' compensation benefits, co-op housing, child care, and many other benefits enjoyed by Canadian workers.

Mr. Baillie advised that many union benefits are being eroded and abolished and that the Federal Government is under increasing pressure to privatize the pension system. He noted that many individuals now hold multiple jobs to secure an income, and expressed concern that Employment Standards Legislation is being eroded.

Mr. Baillie stated that trade unions have done more for humanity and the betterment of the human race than any other association of men. He read excerpts from articles relating to the benefits of the labor movement and the potential erosion of those benefits.

Mr. Baillie advised that Labour Conferences have worked for employees in other countries, and been in the forefront of raising consumer activism and awareness to world-wide human rights.

Mr. Baillie concluded that fighting to preserve jobs is as important today as it was at the turn of the century, and that they are working to educate the public on the benefits of buying union label products in Canada.

**3. Bob Cheema
The Popular Group
Hotel on 75A Avenue East of Scott Road
File: 0065-012; 7999-0066-00**

Bob Cheema, the Popular Group, hotel on 75A Avenue, east of Scott Road was in attendance to discuss his request to release the Letter of Credit and replace it with a Restrictive Covenant.

Maciej Dembek from Barnett Dembek Architects advised that he was speaking on behalf of the developer, and distributed information to Council.

It was received.

Moved by Councillor Hunt
Seconded by Councillor Tymoschuk
That the information from Mr. Dembek be

Carried

Mr. Dembek reviewed the history of the proposed development, and stated that the developer did not initially have a problem with the bond, but that he is now working on the Best Western Hotel on King George Highway. Mr. Dembek noted that building a hotel is a major financial commitment requiring that the developer put in a lot of equity before being able to obtain financing.

Mr. Dembek stated that the developer now finds himself in an onerous financial position, and they are proposing that a restrictive covenant be placed on the 75A property in lieu of the Letter of Credit.

Bob Cheema advised that they do not plan to sell the property and will be building on the 75A property within the next 18 months.

It was pending a report from staff.

Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by Councillor Hunt
That the letter of credit not be cashed,

Carried

B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

