



# City of Surrey

## *Council-in-Committee*

### *Minutes*

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2002**  
Time: 5:20 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Acting Mayor: Councillor Tymoschuk  
Mayor McCallum  
Councillor Villeneuve  
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  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance, Technology & Human Resources  
S. Palmer, Legislative Services

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## **A. DELEGATIONS**

### **1. Verna Nugent & Other Concerned Citizens**

File: 0550-20-10; 3900-20-14593; 5340-23

George Halstead, Verna Nugent and Other Concerned Citizens were in attendance to discuss septic fields and drainage and the recent tax being levied for drainage.

George Halstead, 10687 Salisbury Drive, reported the following:

- That residents on septic fields oppose the extra tax levy for drainage services and that they should receive some consideration because of the lack of services in their area.
- That they believe that drainage cannot be separated from septic because one issue directly affects the other.

It was

Moved by Councillor Watts  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the information be received.  
Carried

- A schematic was shown to illustrate the differences between septic field systems and sewer systems.
- That City maintains the sewers and assumes liability for this system.
- That those septic field residents have not paid for this fee over the years because they derive very little benefit for this form of drainage service.
- That Council is requested to reevaluate this levy and provide fair assessments.

Verna Nugent, of 14665 – 60A Avenue, reported the following:

- Clarification was provided with respect to the drawings shown to Council.

- That the problem with septic fields is that the system depends on saturation and absorption of water into the ground.
- That the City is only responsible for water once it has left private property.
- That residents, who have septic fields, must clean out the pipes twice a year to ensure the water drains properly and that basements do not flood.
- That the residents have no objection contributing to general drainage in Surrey in order to keep the flood plains at a low level and roads clear, but request that the levy reflect the services they receive.
- That the levy increased by 12% to 15% from last year.
- That farms use more water than residents but pay less money in this levy.
- That a lot of excess water now hitting the flood plains is a result of development and removal of trees.
- That it is easy to separate sewer from drainage but not so easy to separate septic from drainage.
- That homes running on septic systems incur extra costs.
- That Council consider residents with septic fields be levied to a lower amount to reflect the level of services and to reflect the costs of service that the residents have to provide.

It was

Moved by Councillor Villeneuve  
Seconded by Councillor Hunt  
That the petition be received.  
Carried

**2. Ingrid Stevenson, 19175 Zero Avenue**

File: 0550-20-10

Ingrid Stevenson was in attendance regarding "The Hamilton Report", the "Zero Avenue Safety Study" commissioned by ICBC and Langley Township, and the 140' monopole and wireless collocation facility and equipment shelter proposed for the southwest corner of 190 Street and Zero Avenue.

Ms. Stevenson commended Engineering staff for their work and foresight on the development of the ten-year service plan to develop a transportation system. She then reported the following on behalf of the Citizen's Committee for a Safe Zero Avenue:

- That there are concerns with respect to excessive speeding, collisions and property damage along Zero Avenue.
- That results from recent studies would indicate that the Surrey section of Zero Avenue is the most dangerous section of the road and that the collision rate is more than 200% higher than in the Langley section.
- That collisions on the Surrey section of Zero Avenue were 250% higher in 2000 than in 1999.
- That Zero Avenue was designed many years ago for speeds of 40 to 50 kph and that the posted speed in the Surrey section is only 50 kph.

- That the average speed of drivers is 80 to 90 kph and that 15% of the drivers on Zero Avenue travel faster than 90 kph.
- That average travel speeds on Zero Avenue are higher than speeds on King George Highway, Fraser Highway or 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- That the majority of accidents take place during rush hours due to commuter traffic.
- That of the 3,000 drivers that travel Zero Avenue each day, only 300 to 430 are local residents with the rest being commuters from other municipalities.
- That reducing commuter traffic would result in 90% fewer collisions in the Surrey section of Zero Avenue.
- That diverting commuter traffic from the Abbotsford and Chilliwack areas would result in fewer collisions per year on Zero Avenue.

Ms. Stevenson then went on to discuss concerns with respect to the 140' monopole and wireless collocation facility and equipment shelter proposed for the southwest corner of 190 Street and Zero Avenue.

Ms. Stevenson stated the following:

- That there are certain health risks linked to low-level radio frequency radiation exposure.
- That she and her husband run a biodynamic farm in the area.
- That she has health concerns for her family members and animals.
- That she has found numerous scientific, peer-reviewed studies that show cause for concern and that the evidence points definitively to a precautionary principle.
- That Health Canada's Safety Code 6 is the main point of reference used in the evaluation of the potential health hazards to residents in proximity to towers and that 580 uni-watts of EMF radiation to be absorbed on 1 cm<sup>2</sup> of body tissue. However, many scientific studies show harmful health effects at densities well below 10 uni-watts per square centimeter.
- That Dr. Roger Santini in France has written a paper indicating that people living near towers suffer from such symptoms as chronic fatigue, headaches, sleep disturbances much more so than those living at a distance.
- That she would respectfully request that Council delay any decision regarding this tower until a review of the information provided has been completed.

Discussion then took place and the statement was made that these towers are under CRTC jurisdiction and that Council does not have the authority to approve such structures.

Councillor Villeneuve then requested that the "Hamilton Report" be made available to Engineering staff to review and report back to Council. The City Solicitor also to provide information with respect to the legal aspects of this issue.

## **B. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**

**C. CORPORATE REPORTS**

**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was  
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now adjourn.

Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Higginbotham  
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Chairperson