



# City of Surrey

## *Council-in-Committee*

### *Minutes*

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2003  
Time: 4:00 p.m.

#### **Present:**

Chair: Councillor Watts  
Mayor McCallum  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Tymoschuk  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Priddy  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Higginbotham

#### **Absent:**

Councillor Hunt

#### **Staff Present:**

City Manager  
City Clerk  
General Manager, Planning & Development  
City Solicitor  
General Manager, Engineering  
General Manager, Finance, Technology & HR

## **A. DELEGATIONS**

### **1. Bert Miles Burnaby Lake Greenhouses File: 0550-20-10**

Bert Miles, Burnaby Lake Greenhouses was in attendance regarding current concerns within the Greater Vancouver Regional District relative to fuel switching within the greenhouse industry.

Mr. Miles made the following comments:

- That the B.C. Greenhouse Growers' Association and the United Flower Growers Co-op Association represents almost all the greenhouse vegetable and flower producers in British Columbia.
- That this sector has an annual farm-gate value of \$500 million, nearly one-quarter of the farm-gate value for all B.C. agriculture and that 99% of all production is situated in the Lower Mainland, primarily in the GVRD and FVRD areas.
- That the GVRD had an ongoing consultation process around the issue of fuel switching because of the winter 2000 issues, and as a result of those deliberations, issued a paper focusing on curtailing the industry using wood burning as an energy source for greenhouses.
- That industry made representation to the GVRD Committee on the matter; and as well, the B.C. Business Council expressed similar concerns around this document.
- That the document sets out to regulate fuel source industry standards in the area, instead of using the universal "end of stack" standards used throughout North America and globally.
- That the B.C. Greenhouse Growers' Association and the United Flower Growers Co-operative Association would like Council to consider looking at the issue in a broader context, ensuring all energy sources are addressed as opposed to just the greenhouse sector using wood-burning energy. This type

of view is more in keeping with what the GVRD originally directed staff to carry out.

- That this is an important public policy issue; the industry has long viewed environmental stewardship with sensitivity and has been and will continue to be stewards of the land.
- That the process needs to involve all stakeholders to cover all fuel sources within the district in order to set public policy in a truly consultative process.
- That everyone shares a common interest in environmental outcomes issue and, primarily, acceptable discharges from stack.
- That new technology and standards incorporated by industry are driven by higher economic standards to equal more efficient value from heating systems.
- That the FVRD has also commissioned a significant report on the same topic for deliberation.
- That the opinion of industry is that the FVRD and GVRD share air sheds and a set of common standards would be appropriate.
- That industries move to locations where it is less costly to do business.
- That the FVRD report indicates the consultant's observation that the GVRD report is driven by environmental issues and fails to focus on the economic issues of fuel switching and alternate fuels.
- That both the federal and provincial governments recognize wood burning as part of the Kyoto Accord in setting standards with which industry must comply.
- That the industry also complies with a further set of regulations under the *Waste Management Act*.
- That benchmarks have not been provided with respect to pollution levels and that the latest technology around wood burning indicates that it is better than natural gas for emissions.
- That the industry seeks Council support to request the GVRD to revisit the process and if deemed feasible, to seek assistance of an outside third party to facilitate dialogue to GVRD standards, including representation from the FVRD.
- That energy consumers have a strong interest to be part of that process.

It was

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

## **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 Tymoschuk  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the meeting do now adjourn.  
Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.