



# City of Surrey

## *Council-in-Committee*

### *Minutes*

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006**  
Time: 3:59 p.m.

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#### **Present:**

Chair: Councillor Higginbotham  
Mayor Watts  
Councillor Villeneuve  
Councillor Steele  
Councillor Gill  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Hepner  
Councillor Bose  
Councillor Hunt

#### **Absent:**

#### **Staff Present:**

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

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was Moved by Councillor Hunt  
Seconded by Councillor Steele  
That the Council-in-Committee meeting do  
now adjourn and reconvene following Special (Regular) Council and Closed Council.  
Carried

The Council-in-Committee reconvened at 4:51 pm. with all members of Council present.

### **A. DELEGATIONS**

- Laurie Larsen**  
**New Westminster & District Labour Council**  
File: 0250-20; 0550-20-10

Laurie Larsen, New Westminster & District Labour Council was in attendance to make a "Day of Mourning" presentation with respect to workers' health and safety issues and to provide information on regulatory changes that have impacted BC's workplace accident and fatality rates.

Laurie Larsen provided the following information:

- The New Westminster & District Labour Council has led the struggle for healthier and safer working conditions.
- The Workers' Compensation Act protects people at work and ensures employers obey the rules.

- A Provincial government appointed Panel of Administrators oversees the management and administration of Workers' Compensation Act (WCB) and the government enacts the legislation that guides WCB.
- Since 2001, the government made cuts to workplace health and safety rules and reduced enforcement through staff cuts and made significant changes to compensation and benefit levels.
- Bill 49 and Bill 63 have served to significantly undermine the role of the WCB.
- The past four years of regulation and enforcement cuts have taken a toll on workers in B.C. and this year, they are sounding the alarm bells in communities around the province after WCB statistics for 2005 reveal workplace fatalities reached their highest level in 25 years, among young workers aged 15 – 24 and in the Forestry sector.
- The following statistics indicate fatalities due to workplace accidents: 2001 – 5 workers; 2004 - 8 workers, and in 2005 - 12 workers.
- The United Steelworkers Union has called on the government to investigate what is behind the alarming rise in forestry worker deaths and demanding renewed enforcement measures.
- The B.C. Federation of Labour launched its campaign on April 24<sup>th</sup>, demanding the government reverse cutbacks that continue to risk the lives of thousands of workers every day and resulted in a record number of fatalities in B.C.
- In 2001, the WCB moved to cut health and safety regulations by one third and gave employers the flexibility to self-regulate the workplace in place of active enforcement.
- In May 2002 the government passed Bill 49, the Workers Compensation Amendment Act significantly reducing benefits to injured workers by 20% - an annual savings of \$168 million to employers.
- In 2002, the WCB cut staff and services, closed offices, eliminated WHMIS Coordinators, reduced Prevention Educators and reduced 30% of the Prevention Officers inspecting workplaces – inspection reports filed declined from approximately 28,000 in 2001 to approximately 15,000 in 2004.
- IN 2004, the government changed the Employment Standards legislation so that employers could hire children as young as 12 years old (previously 15 years old).
- The Employment Standards Branch of the Provincial Ministry of Labour no longer actively enforces labour standards or scrutinized the suitability of work placements for young workers. The branch staff was reduced by 35% in 2004.
- Cutting WCB rules and regulations, employing 12 year olds, reducing staffing that deliver vital education and enforcement is unforgivable and shameful.
- The Provincial government has a responsibility to ensure that our entire system of workplace health and safety delivers on a basic commitment: that workers return home safe and healthy every day of their working lives.
- Workplace related disease, injury or death affects someone everyday in your community, perhaps someone close to you.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, we paused to remember workers who lost their lives while giving their labour and renewed our commitment to ensuring every worker comes home safe.

- Most workplace accidents, injuries and deaths are preventable, however, the combination of employer self-regulation and the WCB's lax enforcement puts workers' lives in jeopardy.
- On behalf of the, please join in calling on the Provincial government to take immediate action.

It was

Moved by Councillor Higginbotham

Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the information as submitted by Laurie

Larsen be received.

Carried

The agenda order was then varied.

### **3. Debra Probert, Executive Director**

#### **Vancouver Humane Society**

File: 0220-08; 0550-20-10

Debra Probert, Executive Director, Vancouver Humane Society was in attendance to make a presentation regarding the upcoming Cloverdale Rodeo.

Debra Probert provided the following comments:

- She is a representative of the Vancouver Human Society and a long-time resident of Surrey.
- She wished to speak to Council on the effects of violence and domination has on rodeo animals.
- She asked Council to suspend personal reality and put themselves in the position of animals used at rodeos and then posed the question of how would they feel if these rodeo animals were dogs and cats.
- There is only one reason rodeo animals act they way they do – because they are terrified.
- The American SPCA notes that the success of rodeos rests on the exploitation of animals through pain, noise and desire to escape.
- Calves are taken from their mothers, herded into a chute, into huge arenas with frightening sounds and smells, for use in calf-roping or tie-down roping events.
- These calves are kicked; their heads slammed into bars, tails painfully twisted, and then run down by a cowboy on a horse.
- If successful, the cowboy and horse may be going 227 mph, then the calf is jolted to a stop, and flopped to the ground 180 degrees.
- Sometimes these calves are jerked onto their backs, after which the animal is picked up off the ground and slammed into the dirt, tying its 3 legs together while the horse pulls the rope taut.
- Injuries are unseen, but include painful bruising, broken bones and internal bleeding.
- Team roping, wild cow milking and bronco busting are also violent events.
- The BCSPCA condemned the rodeo and urged its boycott in 2005.

- Surrey is a wonderfully vital and dynamic city; is moving away from its rural roots; with an enhanced image and character of a City of Heart.
- She asked if it were not possible to celebrate Surrey's rural roots without a rodeo.
- She requested Council consider phasing out events of animal abuse.
- In 2007, the contract with the Cloverdale fairgrounds expires and a major redevelopment of the site will take place.
- This would be the perfect opportunity to phase out the rodeo and introduce new events, such as the Country Fair, and perhaps a Country Music festival.
- Surrey's heritage and history would still be celebrated while new ideas for a more current vision explored.
- In 2004, 81,000 people attended the fair with only 19,500 attending the rodeo; In 2005, 65,000 attended the fair while only 16,000 attended the rodeo.
- The fair has taken place for 117 years, but the rodeo has only been in operation 60 years.
- If gradually replaced with an event more reflective of Surrey, it will attract more people.
- She asked the City of Surrey to make immediate changes by withdrawing the wild cow-milking event as it unnecessary and not professionally sanctioned and would be a painful event for the rodeo to remove.
- Calf roping or tie-down roping could be modified to a break away event so that when the calf hits the end of the rope, the rope would break, eliminating the most painful part.
- Banging the animal's head or twisting its tail should be prohibited.
- There should be a prohibition on the use of animals during the intermission show. Small birds are died pink and rabbits are used in clown acts and subjected to loud explosions.
- She asked Council to make the prohibition of animal abuse a primary area of discussion for planning with ongoing discussion with the SPCA and Vancouver Humane Society, if not for the animals, then for the children who see enough violence.

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve

That the information as submitted by Debra

Probert be received.

Carried

The original agenda order was then resumed.

**2. Fred J. Cummings, Project Director  
Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority  
The Golden Ears Bridge  
File: 0500-01; 0550-20-10**

Fred J. Cummings, Project Director, Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, The Golden Ears Bridge was in attendance to provide an update on TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge project.

Fred Cummings provided the following comments;

- TransLink completed negotiations with the project proponent at the beginning of March and set up a special company called Golden Crossing General Partnership.
- The Golden Crossing General Partnership entered an agreement with the design group Golden Crossing Joint Structure with Terry Cage as Project Manager.
- TransLink does not disappear once contract work begins; any concerns will be addressed directly by TransLink.

Bill Kendrick, Design Manager for the joint venture, then provided a PowerPoint presentation and the following comments:

- The joint venture features Bilfinger Berger Civil and CH2M bringing with them extensive international bridge experience.
- There will be 13.3 m of 2-, 4- and 6-lane mainline road, and 11.5 km of local street reconstruction.
- In Spring 2006, roadwork began in Surrey, Langley, Maple Ridge, and Pitt Meadows.
- In June/July 2006, works begins in the Fraser River.
- In 2007 – 2008, bridge superstructure will be built and opening to traffic in the spring of 2009.
- In 2007, work will commence on the area to the west of the Trans Canada Highway, carrying through with the Trans Canada underpass, Barnston Drive overpass and southern bridge approach structures.
- Southern connector – municipal streets through Langley in 2007.
- Work on the main river bridge will operate in three construction areas: south side of the river, main bridge and north side of the river.
- The Abernethy Connector, north of Lougheed Highway on the north side will be constructed as a four-lane embankment only, with only two lanes paved until the population grows.
- The final segment would be the 200 Street interchange.
- The corridor theme is based on golden eagles at the bridgeheads, a salmon fish trap fence along the main bridge, sculptured lanterns, and natural plantings along the roadway.
- The proposed bridge is not a cable stay bridge but a hybrid extra dose bridge – the piers will not be as high as the Alex Fraser Bridge.
- In order to complete the main bridge structure and cost effectively, lightweight composite steel decking system will allow for quick assembly and reduced seismic load on foundations.



**D. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

**E. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

It was

Moved by Mayor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Villeneuve

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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Margaret Jones, City Clerk

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Chairperson