

Present:

Chairperson – Councillor Martin
Councillor Gill
Councillor Hayne
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Hunt
Councillor Rasode
Councillor Steele
Councillor Villeneuve
Mayor Watts

Absent:**Staff Present:**

City Clerk
City Manager
City Solicitor
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance & Technology
General Manager, Human Resources
General Manager, Investment & Intergovernmental Relations
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development

A. DELEGATIONS

1. **Amy Hennessy, Community and First Nations Relations Manager; Gord Schoberg, Senior Manager, Community and First Nations Relations Manager and Paul Craig, Manager, Tariffs, Rate Design and Special Contracts**
File: 0550-20-10

In attendance before Council to provide information on the 'FortisBC Common Rates through Amalgamation Proposal.'

The following comments were made:

- The delegation noted the Amalgamation Proposal Application is before the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) at this point. The purpose of the application is to bring fairness and consistency to all FortisBC Customers.
- FortisBC provides energy solutions to 1.1 Million Customers throughout British Columbia; 800 employees work at the operations centre in Surrey.
- Currently FortisBC customers pay different rates depending on where they live. 'The Common Rates through Amalgamation Proposal' will ensure all customers pay the same rates regardless of where they live; and will mitigate the expected cumulative rate increases for Vancouver Island customers due to the demise of the *Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act*.
- The delegation clarified if the amalgamation does not occur; there would be potential impacts to Vancouver Island; Whistler (customers have been converted from propane to natural gas) and Fort Nelson customers. Current rates range from \$7 - \$17 depending on the service territory; if the proposal were approved the common rates would become \$11.

- A typical annual bill with the common rate would average \$1,000/year. Currently bills range anywhere from \$600 - \$1,600 depending on geographic location. Effective January 2014 the impact of the amalgamation to a residential customer would be an increase of \$34-54/year.

Council asked why the citizens of Surrey should be subsidizing residents in Whistler and Vancouver Island. The delegation explained there are a number of benefits relative to having common rates; the infrastructure is ageing and while the top priority is in operating the gas system safely and reliably, some upgrades will need to occur. The capital costs of upgrading the system will be borne throughout the customer base and not only in the Lower Mainland.

Council expressed concern regarding the services in Surrey and how they will be further upgraded. The delegation acknowledged that not all programs are universally available across the entire customer base but the timing of the proposed change minimizes the impact because the price of natural gas has gone down (the last decrease was 10 percent).

2. **George Passmore, Program Manager, Counselling and Addiction Services, SOURCES Community Resources Centres**

File: 7450-30

Note: See proclamation under item E.1(f) and Corporate Report Ro88 of Regular Council – Public Hearing agenda.

In attendance before Council to provide information regarding Surrey Substance Use Awareness Week.

The following comments were made:

- The delegation thanked Mayor and Council and commended Council's commitment in enhancing awareness, understanding and encouraging contemplation.
- During this week, members of the community are asked to engage in the act of contemplation and consider their own relationships to substances. The common assumption is that marijuana is benign which can obscure the issues surrounding use and social harms. Surrey Substance Use Awareness Week will also highlight the role of alcohol in society and deconstruct assumptions on drug abuse and addiction.
- When faced with addiction, the primal part of the user's brain becomes hijacked to focus only on the desire and acquisition of the substance. Some users describe their compulsion as if they were underwater for an extended period of time and come up gasping for oxygen. On the outside looking in, it appears that people make a specific choice to abuse a substance, but rather it is involuntary and compelling.
- There is a case to be made that substance abuse is not only the failing of an individual but a problem of society. It makes less sense to characterize a group of individuals when you understand societal factors.

- It is not about being aware of the users, it is being more self-aware. Consideration should be given to how we can each increase our sense of connection within our community. Substance abuse is an issue that does touch or can touch us all, it can happen to our families, children and friends.
- The second annual Substance Use Awareness Week is a partnership between the City of Surrey, the Alcohol and Drug Education Services, B.C. Responsible and Problem Gambling Program, DIVERSEcity, Community Resources Society, Fraser Health Authority, Klay-how-ya, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Options Community Services Society, Pacific Community Resources Society, SOURCES Community Resources Society, and the Surrey School District.
- During Substance Use Awareness Week there are a number of community events planned such as:
 1. A showing of the movie “Bad Medicine” or “Kharaab Daru” will be held on May 22, 2012 between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The movie discusses alcohol’s role within the South Asian Culture and a panel of experts will be on hand to answer questions.
 2. Information booths at the Kwantlen Mental Health and Addictions Fair on May 22, 2012 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, and at Central City Mall on May 31, 2012 between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to provide information to the public about the harms of substance use and how to find help.
 3. An evening workshop called “Loving an Addict, Loving Yourself” held at the White Rock Community Centre on May 30, 2012 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m.
 4. SOURCES Community Resource Society will launch its YouTube channel, which contains a series of engaging and entertaining videos aimed at increasing awareness about substance use among youth and their parents.
 5. Themed fact sheets will be posted daily on the City’s Crime Reduction Strategy Website and distributed through social media. The themes are:
 - Sunday, May 27: Prescription Medications
 - Monday, May 28: Substance Use and Body Image
 - Tuesday, May 29: A Closer Look at Process Addictions
 - Wednesday, May 30: Parenting
 - Thursday, May 31: Cool Refusal Skills
 - Friday, June 1: Soft? Social? Natural? Drugs – Are they really?
 - Saturday, June 2: Substance Use and Older Adults

Council thanked the delegation and acknowledged Jacki Tokaryk, Safe Communities Program Manager, for her work in implementing the program and working with the partner agencies.

3. Don Luymes, Manager, Community Planning

File: 6440-01

Note: This Item was deferred from the April 23, 2012 Council in Committee and Regular Council Public Hearing meetings. See Corporate Report Ro84 of RCPH agenda.

In attendance before Council to provide the Annual Official Community Plan (OCP) Update.

The following comments were made:

- The OCP is an annual report that updates on trends and tracks remaining capacity in town areas, and NCP areas.
- Surrey's estimated population was 483,690 residents as of December 2011. The growth rate in 2011 was moderate as compared to 2003/2008. Over 25% of all the population growth in the Lower Mainland occurred in Surrey.
- The housing stock in Surrey is trending toward multifamily housing types and is reflected in the year-by-year housing start statistics. In 2011 there were 3,300 housing starts in Surrey. Staff expects the numbers to continue and strengthen to 3,400 / year. Of those, 1,000 will be in City Centre and Town Centres, 1,700 will be in new neighbourhoods in planned NCPs.
- The projected capacity in Surrey Centre and Town Centre areas represent a 20-year supply. The remaining capacity in approved NCPs is estimated at 17,332 dwelling units which represents a 10-year supply in the current growth year in existing NCP units. Additional residential capacity will be achieved in West Clayton to alleviate the pressures in the Cloverdale area.
- As the City continues to grow, additional housing starts will occur within the in-fill market. Over the last 2-years, in terms of construction values, the City has achieved a record year which translates into increased jobs. The remaining capacity for industrial land available for development in Metro Vancouver is largely located in Surrey. There is 1,446 acres of industrial land that is serviceable.
- Staff are undergoing a major update of the OCP and hope to have it before Council in this calendar year. Staff are engaged in consultations internally and will also be meeting with community stakeholders. Next year's annual report will be different as a wider range of indicators will be tracked.

In response to a query by Mayor Watts regarding the industrial land for pre-loading and servicing in Bridgeview; staff shared that through the Economic Action Plan requests were put out and there was no response or interest generated; the call was reissued and there were no interested respondents a second time.

Mayor Watts asked that small lots with basement suites in Clayton not be replicated elsewhere and requested clarification regarding mitigation measures. Staff noted they are working with the Development Advisory Committee (DAC) to adjust small lot zones, especially the ones with coach houses, because people do not always park their cars in the garage, they use it for other things. Staff will be coming forward with recommendations and a plan to mix the housing types in a more satisfactory manner; the plan will take into account West Clayton and will be carried through to an adjustment to increase the small lot parking.

Council asked for clarification on the conservation areas and greenspaces. Staff noted that there has been more focus to protect greenspace. One of the challenges is the cost of land; however, it is clear that the community expects and has an interest in protecting greenspace, achieving wildlife corridors and achieving links. The Ecosystem Management Study will be incorporated into the NCP.

In response to a query from Council regarding industrial land capacity projections, staff explained industrial areas deemed not viable for development due to geographical constraints such as railroad rights-of-way, highways, etc. were intentionally excluded from the analysis of industrial lands available for development.

Council requested staff to look at and preserve the 1-acre lots and give people comfort that such areas will not be dramatically changed.

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 Steele


Seconded by Councillor Hepner

That the Council-in-Committee meeting do

now adjourn.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:09 p.m.



Jane Sullivan, City Clerk



Councillor Martin, Chairperson