

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 4:59 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn (5:05 p.m.)
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. A. Wardell, Acting General Manager – Finance & Technology
Ms. H. Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Mr. S. Ono, Manager – Engineering Services
Mr. E. Iorio, Revenue & Taxation Manager
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. L. Phillips, Public Arts Officer

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. April 16, 2018 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor BOND

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the agenda for the April 16, 2018 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor MacKay-Dunn

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. February 27, 2018 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor BOND

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the minutes of the February 27, 2018 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor MacKay-Dunn

Mr. Wardell commented that the tax strategy is targeted at a non-capped tax rate of \$27.50 which matches the *Port Property Tax Act* rate set by the Province. He advised that the rate is competitive with the Heavy Industry tax rate of other municipalities within Metro Vancouver at a rate of \$30.98 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Mr. Wardell reported on tax distribution considerations which include Residential, Business and other property classes which are currently stable. Three options for the Heavy Industry (non-capped) tax rate were presented for consideration:

- Option A: Tax levy increase of 102.34%, with a projected 2018 tax rate of \$27.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, for Heavy Industry (non-capped) class; or,
- Option B: Tax levy increase of 109.2%, with a projected 2018 tax rate of \$28.41; or,
- Option C: Tax levy increase of 25.28%, with a projected 2018 tax rate of \$17.03.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that by setting a tax rate at \$27.50, the rate is market competitive and mitigates risk from tax losses based on assessment appeals.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the value of a non-capped acre of land is approximately \$2.9 million and that the value of a capped acre of land is \$562,000.

In response to a question from Council in regards to the assessment appeal process, staff advised that the steps are a review panel, an appeals board and the courts (if necessary).

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that based on a Port Metro Vancouver report from 2008, 98% of the taxes generated by the Port of Metro Vancouver are destined to the Provincial or Federal governments whereas only 2% remain with local municipalities.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Discussed the fluctuation of Mill rates which are based on property assessments by BC Assessment;
- Commented on Option A and associated rate which impacts the Heavy Industry (non-capped) class;
- Commented on recent property assessments and the potential negative effect on businesses;
- Discussed options for empty units in shopping centres which have been vacated due to high lease and taxes rates; and,
- Commented on the need to seek further support from the Provincial government for businesses negatively affected by the tax rates.

She reported that the value of public art in the District is estimated at \$2 million. She provided an overview of the funding sources and stated that:

- Town Centre art pieces are primarily funded through 5% of Community Amenity Contributions (CAC); and,
- Areas outside of Town Centres are funded by a combination of annually budgeted funds and CACs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that art work on hydro boxes is a part of a community service.

Council discussion:

- Recommended that Council be consulted on funding for public art;
- Queried if contributions or donations from artists who are willing to advertise their work could be obtained at nominal cost;
- Expressed concern regarding the cost of public art; and,
- Suggested that locations that hold historical or cultural significance to the community be selected as sites for public art.

MOVED by Councillor WALTON

SECONDED by Councillor MURI

THAT the April 6, 2018 report of the Public Art Officer – North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission, be received for information.

CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM

THAT the April 16, 2018 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(6:44 p.m.)

Mayor



Municipal Clerk