November 9, 2020 - Vancouver City Council Meeting Minutes

NO WORKSHOPS

COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA MEETING

This meeting was conducted remotely over video conference utilizing a GoToMeeting platform. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting via the live broadcast on www.cvtv.org and CVTV cable channels 23 or HD 323, or on the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/VancouverUS. Public access and testimony on Consent Agenda items and under the Citizen Forum was also facilitated via the GoToMeeting conference call.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Consent Agenda meeting of the Vancouver City Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor McEnerny-Ogle. This meeting was conducted remotely over video conference.

Present: Councilmembers Fox, Paulsen, Lebowsky, Glover, Stober, Hansen, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle

Absent: None

Also present on the call were the following: Eric Holmes, City Manager; Jonathan Young, City Attorney; Amanda Delapena, Assistant to the City Council; Brian Carlson, Interim Deputy City Manager; Brent Boger, Assistant City Attorney; Chris Christofferson, City Traffic Engineer; Julie Gilbertson, Solid Waste Supervisor; Patrick Gilbride, IT Director; Julie Hannon, Parks and Recreation Director; Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer; Rich McConaghy, Solid Waste Manager; Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer; Heidi Scarpelli, Fire Marshal; Dan Swensen, Interim Public Works Director; and members of the public.

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle stated there was a request to add a walk-on item to the Consent Agenda to appoint Council representatives to the City/County Joint Executive Group to discuss homelessness.

Motion by Councilmember Stober, seconded by Councilmember Lebowsky, and carried unanimously to amend the agenda to add appointment of Councilmembers Stober and Lebowsky to the City/County Joint Executive Group to discuss homelessness, with appointment of Councilmember Glover as an alternate, as a walk-on Consent Agenda item.

Citizen Communication (Items 1-13)

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened Citizen Communication and received the following testimony:

- Carmen McKibben, Vancouver, urged the Council to invest a portion of the proposed police budget into more direct services for crisis intervention, mental health services, and support for people experiencing homelessness, as well as full budget for a body-worn camera program.

- Mike Jokela, Vancouver, echoed the comments of a letter (attached) submitted to the Council on behalf of a number of community organizations proposing reinvestment of a portion of the proposed police budget into social service programs.

- Cindi Fisher, Vancouver, asked the Council to listen to the community regarding budget priorities.

- Chelsea Unger, Vancouver, questioned why so much of the proposed biennial budget is dedicated to the police department, and urged the Council to reinvest a portion of that budget into social service programs.

- Mike Ellison, Vancouver, stated he is a signer of the letter requesting reinvestment of a portion of the proposed police budget into social service programs.

- Joyce Brekke, Vancouver, stated she endorsed the letter requesting reinvestment of a portion of the proposed police budget into social service programs. She stated police officers should not be called on to be the solution for every crisis situation.

- Cale Baker, Vancouver, representing the Vancouver Fire Department Guild, expressed concerns about the proposed biennial budget and reductions that would impact the capacity of the deputy fire marshals.

There being no further testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed Citizen Communication.

Consent Agenda (Items 1-13)

Motion by Councilmember Stober, seconded by Councilmember Glover, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda, Items 1-13 and walk-on appointments to the Joint Executive Group on homelessness.

1. Request to Reject ALL Bids for Street Light Materials, ITB#20-28

Staff Report 155-20

Summary
On Aug 25, 2020, the City received one bid for Street Light Materials. Upon review of the bid, staff became aware that the bidder included prices for street lighting materials that are no longer available for purchase. Staff intends to re-bid this contract to correct for the materials items that are no longer available. The bid is as follows:

SUMMARY OF BIDS	
BIDDER	***AMOUNT***
Rexel Inc, Wilsonville, OR	*$* ***1,979,094.57***

Request: Reject all bids for Street Light Materials, ITB#20-28, and direct staff to re-advertise the project.

Chris Christofferson, City Traffic Engineer, 360-487-7716

Motion approved the request.

2. Property Tax Affordable Housing Levy for 2021

Staff Report 156-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to the annual property tax levy; authorizing an increase of 0.0% in the City's Affordable Housing Fund levy from the amount levied the previous year; and providing for an effective date.

Summary
Proposition 1 was approved by the voters of Vancouver in November 2016, and authorized a $6,000,000 annual property tax levy for 7 years, beginning in 2017. Information provided by the Washington State Department of Revenue states that the dollar amount stated in the ballot title is a limiting amount, and the highest lawful levy amount is $6,000,000.

Staff recommends that City Council approve a 0.0% increase in the *property tax levy for the Affordable Housing Levy. Based on last year's Affordable Housing Fund levy of $6,000,000, the increase will be $0.00. Authorization of this requires a simple majority vote of City Council.*

Staff estimates that the City's Affordable Housing Fund property tax levy rate in 2021 will range between $0.22 per $1,000 of assessed value to $0.23 per $1,000 of assessed value, compared to the actual 2020 affordable housing fund property tax levy rate of $0.238 per $1,000. The decrease in the property tax levy rate is attributed to assessed values in the City increasing by approximately 5.2% compared to the prior year. Because of the limit on property tax increases, as discussed above, the property tax levy rate declines as assessed value increases. The statutory cap for the City's levy rate is $3.325 per $1,000 of assessed value.

Example calculation of City Property Tax:

Assessed Value 2020 $370,000	*Levy Rate 2020 $0.23805 (per $1,000 assessed value; Affordable Housing Levy only)*	*2020 City Property Tax = $88.08*
Assessed Value 2021 $389,240 (assumes assessed value increases 5.2%)	*Estimated Levy Rate 2021 $0.22629 (per $1,000 assessed value; Affordable Housing Levy only)*	*2020 City Property Tax (hypothetical) = $88.08*
AV increases 5.2%	*Levy Rate declines*	*Annual tax increase $0.00 for this example taxpayer**

**If the assessed value of the resident's property as a percentage increased by less than 5.2%, the resident's annual taxes would be equal to or slightly less than the taxes paid to the City in 2020. If the assessed value of the resident's property increased by more than 5.2% from the previous year, the increase in the annual taxes would be slightly higher.*

Some citizens may qualify for tax relief, or qualify for a deferral program. To find out more information about this, residents should contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 564-397-2391 or visit their website at http://www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/taxrelief/index.html.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

3. General Property Tax Levy for 2021

Staff Report 157-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to the annual property tax levy; authorizing an increase of 0.602% in the City's regular levy from the amount levied the previous year; and providing for an effective date.

Summary

On November 6, 2001, Washington voters approved Initiative 747 (I-747), which limits the allowable increase in the property tax levy to 1.0%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The intent of the Initiative was reaffirmed by the Legislature in November 2007. The measure of inflation used under this law is the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD). The IPD inflation rate for 2021 levy calculations is 0.602%.

Staff recommends that City Council approve a 0.602% increase in the property tax levy. Because the inflation rate is lower than the 1.0% limit, the 0.60152% increase is the maximum increase allowed. Based on last year's General Fund levy of $51,357,181.44, the increase will be $309,170.23. Authorization of this increase requires a simple majority vote of City Council.

Staff estimates that the City's general fund property tax levy rate in 2021 will range between $1.93 per $1,000 of assessed value to $1.98 per $1,000 of assessed value, compared to the actual 2020 general fund property tax levy rate of $2.0376 per $1,000. The decrease in the property tax levy rate is attributed to assessed values in the City increasing by approximately 5.2% compared to the prior year. Because of the limit on property tax increases, as discussed above, the property tax levy rate declines as assessed value increases. The statutory cap for the City's levy rate is $3.325 per $1,000 of assessed value.

Example calculation of City Property Tax:

Assessed Value 2020 $370,000	*Levy Rate 2020 $2.0376 (per $1,000 assessed value; General Fund Levy only)*	*2020 City Property Tax = $753.91*
Assessed Value 2021 $389,240 (assumes	*Estimated Levy Rate 2021*	*2021 City Property Tax (hypothetical)*

assessed value increases 5.2%)	*$1.948 (per $1,000 assessed value; General Fund Levy only)*	*= $758.24*
AV increases 5.2%	*Levy Rate declines*	*Annual tax increase $4.33 for this example taxpayer**

**If the assessed value of the resident's property as a percentage increased by less than 5.2%, the resident's annual taxes would be equal to or slightly less than the taxes paid to the City in 2020. If the assessed value of the resident's property increased by more than 5.2% from the previous year, the increase in the annual taxes would be slightly higher.*
Some citizens may qualify for tax relief, or qualify for a deferral program. To find out more information about this, residents should contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 564-397-2391 or visit their website at http://www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/taxrelief/index.html.

In addition to the base levy, the City collects new property tax revenue based on the value of new construction added to the assessment rolls during the prior year. The revenue to the City is calculated using the assessed value of new construction multiplied by the prior year's levy rate. The value of new construction is still being finalized by the County Assessor's Office and includes the value of utility new construction provided to the County Assessor by the State. The most recent estimate from the County Assessor's Office indicates more than $331 million of new construction, which translates into $675,000 of additional City property tax revenue, which is slightly less than the $800,400 received for new construction values for 2020 taxes. The City's ordinance states the percentage and dollar amount increase in the City's base property tax levy as required by RCW 84.55.120. The County Assessor will determine the levy amount for new construction based on their final calculations.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

4. Substantial Need to Increase Limit Factor to 101% for Property Tax Levy in 2021

Staff Report 158-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to the annual property tax levy; making a finding of substantial need; authorizing to bank future levy capacity in the City's regular levy equal to the limit factor of 101% for the 2021 property tax levy; making a finding of future substantial need and preserving unlevied property tax levy capacity for future needs; providing for an effective date.

Summary
On November 6, 2001, Washington voters approved Initiative 747 (I-747), which limits the allowable increase in the property tax levy to 1.0%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The intent of the Initiative was reaffirmed by the Legislature in November 2007. The measure of inflation used under this law is the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD). The IPD inflation rate for 2021 levy calculations is 0.602%.

Staff Report 157-20 recommends that City Council approve a 0.602% increase in the property tax levy. Because the inflation rate is lower than the 1.0% limit, the 0.602% increase is the maximum increase allowed. Based on last year's General Fund levy of $51,357,181.44, the increase will be $309,170.23.

The City would like to preserve and bank the levy capacity between the IPD rate of 0.602% and 1.0%, thus increasing the limit factor to 101% in 2021.

Chapter 84.55.0101 RCW states that upon a finding of substantial need, the legislative authority of a taxing district other than the state may provide for the use of a limit factor under this chapter of one hundred one percent or less. In districts with more than four members, a majority plus one vote must approve an ordinance or resolution under this section. The new limit factor shall be effective for taxes collected in the following year only.

Banked capacity is the difference between the highest lawful levy that could have been made under chapter 84.55 RCW and the actual levy that was imposed, less funds levied not subject to the levy to the levy limit, such as refund levies. The amount of banked capacity changes each year because the highest lawful levy under chapter 84.55 RCW and the actual levy are recalculated. Having banked capacity for one year does not guarantee the district will have the same amount or more the following year. One way a district can protect its levy capacity is to pass the appropriate ordinances. If a district levies less than its highest lawful levy, it will have banked capacity. If a district levies at its highest lawful levy, it will not have banked capacity. When a district wants to use banked capacity, its ordinance must authorize a large enough increase as compared to the prior year's actual levy that will allow the district to levy at its highest lawful levy.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

5. **Ad Valorem Taxes for 2021**

Staff Report 159-20

AN ORDINANCE fixing and levying the amount of ad valorem taxes necessary to balance estimated revenue with estimated expenditures for the 2021/2022 Budget for the City of Vancouver; providing for an effective date.

Summary
Pursuant to RCW 35.33.135, Council must approve an ordinance to fix and authorize the Clark County Assessor's Office to levy ad valorem taxes necessary to fund the City of Vancouver's 2019-2020 Biennial Budget.

An ad valorem tax (Latin for "according to value") is defined as a tax based on the value of real estate or personal property. An ad valorem tax is typically imposed at the time of a transaction(s) (a sales tax or value-added tax (VAT)), but it may be imposed on an annual basis (real or personal property tax) or in connection with another significant event (i.e. inheritance tax).

Staff currently estimates the 2021 real and personal property tax levy as $59 million, which includes a preliminary estimate of $675,900 in property tax revenue from new construction. The estimate of property tax from new construction will be updated based on the final new construction valuation provided by the Assessor's Office. The estimate of property tax revenue does not include the change in value of state-assessed utility property. Both of these amounts will not be final until December 2020.

City staff recommends that Council approve ad valorem taxes in the amount of $59 million, which is needed to fund the City's 2021-2022 biennial budget. Of the total, $53 million is for general fund purposes, and $6 million is for the affordable housing fund. Approving ad valorem taxes of $59 million allows the County Assessor's Office to levy real and personal property taxes to the full extent allowed under Washington State law. Staff anticipates that the final certified levy will be between $58.4 million and $58.9 million in 2021. If Council authorizes the ad valorem tax amount too low, the County Assessor's Office will only be allowed to levy up to the amount authorized by Council.

Staff recommends that City Council approve ad valorem taxes in the amount of $59 million for the 2021 real and personal property tax levy within the city limits of Vancouver. This estimated revenue source is necessary to fund the 2021-2020 Biennial Budget for the City of Vancouver.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Carrie Lewellen, City Treasurer, 360-487-8482

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

6. Affordable Housing Sales Tax Implementation

Staff Report 160-20

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Vancouver, Washington, imposing an additional sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for housing and related services as authorized by RCW 82.14.530; adding a new Chapter 3.15 to the Vancouver Municipal Code; providing for severability and establishing an effective date.

The City has a dearth of affordable housing for very low income, homeless and nearly homeless residents as well as a need for additional behavioral health programs and services.

Current state law, (RCW 82.14.530) authorizes the imposition of an additional sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent to be used for funding affordable housing. The state legislature passed HB 1590 providing Washington counties an exclusive right to impose the tax until September 30, 2020, and cities were given the right to impose the tax thereafter as long as the county they are located in had not already done so. The bill has expanded the method of implementation to include a councilmanic action. Clark County did not impose the additional sales and use tax by September 30, 2020.

At least 60% of the revenue must be used for constructing affordable housing, constructing mental and behavioral health-related facilities, or funding the operations and maintenance costs of new units of affordable housing and facilities where housing-related programs are provided. The affordable housing and facilities may only be provided to people within specified population groups whose income is 60% or less of the county median income. Median income in Clark County in 2020 for a family of four *is $65,300 based upon the Vancouver Median Household Income (ACS 5 year) adjusted to the current year, with household size and unit rent using the methodology used by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.*

The affordable housing and facilities providing housing-related programs may only be provided to persons within any of the following population groups:

(i) Persons with behavioral health disabilities;
(ii) Veterans;
(iii) Senior citizens;
(iv) Homeless, or at-risk of being homeless, families with children;
(v) Unaccompanied homeless youth or young adults;
(vi) Persons with disabilities; or
(vii) Domestic violence survivors.

The remaining funds must be used for the operation, delivery, or evaluation of mental and behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing-related services. No more than 10% of the revenue may be used to supplant existing local funds.

Approval of specific projects funded by this new revenue source will come before Council in future meetings.

The new revenue is estimated between $4.2 and $4.5 million annually, depending on the strength of the economy. Revenue will be deposited into a new fund and tracked separately.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, 360-487-8484

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

7. Water, sewer and surface water ordinance changes pertaining to utility rates for 2021 and 2022

Staff Report 161-20

AN ORDINANCE related to the water, sewer and surface water utility user rates, amending Vancouver Municipal Code Sections 14.04.210, 14.04.230, and 14.09.060; providing for a savings clause, and providing for an effective date.

Summary
Per City Council adopted financial and budget policies, to keep pace with increasing operational costs and in order to provide funding for the continued implementation of a long-term capital improvement and system reinvestment program without incurring debt, the following utility rate increases are recommended for implementation in 2021 and 2022:

- *Water: an annual 5% increase each year 2021 and 2022*
- *Sewer: an annual 3% increase each year 2021 and 2022*
- *Surface Water: an annual 5% increase each year 2021 and 2022*

The Water and Surface Water 5% rate increase consists of an inflationary component equal to 2% and a capital/system reinvestment component equal to 3%. The Sewer 3% rate increase consists of an inflationary component of 2% and a capital/system reinvestment component of 1%. Sewer capital/system reinvestment needs are being substantially met by reduction in debt service payments with most of the debt paid off in 2020.

Public Works is currently working with a consultant for a comprehensive review of the rate structure of each utility. Staff will be bringing recommendations resulting from the consultant's work for Council consideration in 2021.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Chris Malone, Public Works Finance and Asset Manager, 360-487-7711

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

8. Garbage, Recycling and Organics Collection Rate Increases for 2021

Staff Report 162-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to the collection of solid waste, recyclable materials and organics, and amending certain sections of VMC 6.12 to increase or adjust rates and charges consistent with approved utility user taxes and rates and in accordance with current contracts for the coming year; providing for savings, severability and an effective date.

Summary
City Council is the rate-making authority for garbage, residential recycling, and organics collection services within the City of Vancouver. The City contracts with a private hauling company, Waste Connections of Washington, to provide comprehensive garbage, recycling and organics collection services to residents and businesses within city limits. The contract terms authorize Waste Connections to receive annual adjustments to customer rates based on changing operating conditions including:

- *an inflation adjustment factor tied to a percentage of the CPI and fuel costs,*
- *disposal tip fees,*
- *the number of customers served and,*
- *fees paid to the City to support solid waste related programs.*

All adjustments to rates are made in accordance with Exhibit D of the contract. Garbage rates also include the City's utility tax that is embedded within them. The City's utility tax does not apply to recycling or organics collection services.

Consistent with the contract, the updated model for 2021 requires an increase of 3.3 percent for garbage rates, while recycling, organics and selected other fees, not linked to the disposal tip fee or utility tax, will need to increase by 1.0 percent, effective January 1, 2021. Key reasons for this increase are a 1.9 percent increase in the CPI, a 6.75 percent decrease in the diesel fuel index, a 1.6 percent increase in the disposal tip fees and an increase in the annual City Fee collected through rates to assure that current revenues are balanced with current solid waste fund expenditures. For the most typical residential customer with 32-gallons per week of garbage, every-other-week recycling and every-other-week organics collection (96-gallons for each) this means a monthly rate increase of 1.9 percent, from $32.64 per month to $33.27 per month, an increase of $0.63.

Inflation Adjustment Factor
Under the contract, collection costs for garbage, recycling and organics adjust at 80 percent of a blended and combined CPI (92 percent) and diesel fuel index (8 percent) – Inflation Adjustment Factor (IAF), which leads to a 1.0 percent increase for the collection cost component, the City fee and other miscellaneous fees.

Disposal Tip Fees
On January 1, 2021, the disposal tip fee is scheduled to increase $1.53 per ton (or 1.6 percent) from $95.86 per ton to $97.39 per ton. In addition to the allowed CPI increase on the base tip fee (going from $94.25 per ton to $95.72 per ton), this tip fee includes $0.24 per ton for additional work being done under the Clark County contract by Columbia Resource Company at the Central Transfer and Recycling Station ($0.06 of this is new for 2021

related to engineering and construction access improvements for safety) as well as $1.43 per ton for a surcharge approved by the Clark County Council in 2017 to make up for lost state funding for regional solid waste programs and planning.

Recycling Fees
The rates proposed for January 1, 2021, include adjustments to curbside (increasing from $3.27 to $3.30) and multi-family collection fees (increasing from $1.32 to $1.33) based on the Inflation Adjustment Factor (1.0%) detailed above as well as adjustments to the recycling processing surcharges which were added April 1, 2019, to recover costs associated with the local response to the global market issues and the ongoing need for supplying quality materials to these markets. Based on a review of operational factors, Clark County has indicated that the $74.76 per ton processing fee in 2020 will be adjusted to $68.11 on January 1, 2021. The processing surcharge for curbside customers will decrease from $1.59 per month to $1.46 per month. The processing surcharge for multi-family customers goes from $0.84 per month to $0.70per month. The combined impact for recycling fee components is a 2.1 percent decrease ($0.10 per month) in curbside recycling charges and a 6.1 percent decrease ($0.13 per month) in multi-family recycling charges.

Organics Fees
The rates proposed for January 1, 2021, include 1.0 percent adjustments to the organics rates which are tied to the Inflation Adjustment Factor. For the standard subscription service of 96-gallons collected every-other-week, the current rate of $7.80 per month adjusts to $7.88 per month. Recommended 2021 rates at other levels of service, following the same every-other-week schedule, are $6.82 for 64-gallon carts, $5.76 for 32-gallon carts, and $4.70 for 20-gallon carts.

City Fee
The new comprehensive collection contract with Waste Connections of Washington runs from April 1, 2019, through April 30, 2030. The City fee paid by Waste Connections each month in 2021 as a result of rate adjustments detailed above is $144,993.17. The 2020 monthly City Fee was set at $112,645.42. This 28.7 percent adjustment to the City Fee reflects two key factors: 1) reduced revenues over the last six years due to lower global recycling market commodity values, and 2) City Financial Management Policies included in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget associated with: balancing current revenues with current operating expenditures (#3), exercising sound financial estimation of revenues through reasonably conservative but realistic assumptions (#8), applying the principle of full cost recovery in enterprise fund operations (#12), maintenance of working capital reserves (#21) and maintenance of designated liability funding reserves.

For 2021 overall, the typical residential customer rates for 32-gallons of weekly garbage service with recycling and organics collection increases 1.9 percent or $0.63 per month, under this recommendation. This reflects a $0.65 increase in garbage charges, a net $0.10 decrease in combined recycling collection rate and recycling processing surcharge fees, and a $0.08 increase in the organics charge. Households that have chosen different service levels may experience slightly different rate impacts.

Staff recommends adjusting customer rates as detailed in the Summary of Proposed 2021 Solid Waste Rates to meet the contractual obligations associated with the defined Inflation Adjustment Factor and to set the City Fee amount for the coming year. If approved, all adjustments will be effective January 1, 2021.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Julie Gilbertson, Solid Waste Supervisor, 487-7162; Rich McConaghy, Solid Waste Manager, 487-7165

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

9. Amendments to VMC Titles 16 and 17 to implement fire and life safety program fee increases

Staff Report 163-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to updating the fire fees in Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Section 16.04.208 to more accurately reflect staff time by increasing fire's fees by five percent in both 2021 and 2022 to cover administrative costs associated with administering the corresponding programs; providing for savings, severability and an effective date.

AN ORDINANCE relating to updating the fees in Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Section 17.08.130 to more accurately reflect staff time by increasing fire's fees by five percent in both 2021 and 2022 to cover administrative costs associated with administering the corresponding programs; providing for savings, severability and an effective date.

Summary

The City of Vancouver regulates building and fire administration with VMC Title 16 and Title 17. Fire fees shall maintain cost recovery associated with fire and life safety inspections, fire plans review and new construction inspection functions. A minor fee increase modification is proposed to Title

16 and 17 fee schedules in order to keep pace with inflation program costs.

The ordinances propose the following code amendments to Title 16 and 17:

1. *Amend VMC Title 16, Section 16.04.280 Fees & Permits*
2. *Amend VMC Title 17, Section 17.08.130 Table VII – Fire Fee*

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinances on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearings for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Heidi Scarpelli, Vancouver Fire Marshal, 360-487-7202

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the titles of the ordinances into the record.

Motion approved the request.

10. Amend VMC 20.915 and the Park Impact Fee (PIF) Technical Document

Staff Report 164-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to park impact fee adjustments; amending Vancouver Municipal Code Sections 20.915.050 and 20.915.100; changing the method and timing of fee adjustments; and providing for an effective date.

Summary
Quality parks and open spaces are well recognized as an essential element for a community to realize economic stability and social and physical health. Future population growth is inevitable, and many of the policies in the City Comprehensive Plan aim to increase residential density in order to maximize efficient investment and use of the necessary infrastructure, including the green infrastructure of parks and open spaces.

The City of Vancouver implemented impact fees for transportation, schools and parks and open spaces in 1995 to meet the demands of future growth. As required by state regulations, PIF rates are calculated using a specified formula to determine the cost of public facilities at adopted standards to serve future growth. The current PIF program is structured to support acquisition and development costs for Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks and Urban Natural Areas. The formula also includes an adjustment for other taxes and fees paid by new development that contribute to park system improvements supported through PIF.

Current PIF rates vary slightly by park district due to the variations in land values across the city. Single and multi-family rates are calculated *separately based upon the state statistical average for the number of residents per unit to reflect the proportionate impact, or use, of park facilities per person. This approach correlates to the park standard of providing 6 acres of park (5 acres) and open space (1 acre) per 1,000 residents.*

The most recent rate update was implemented now sixteen years ago (2004), while transportation and school impact fees and other infrastructure costs are regularly updated to better represent actual costs to provide public services and infrastructure. Since 2004 there have been dramatic swings in the economy which continue to broaden the gap between current rates and the actual costs of providing parks and natural areas to serve our future residents.

Stagnant PIF rates have created a continual and perceptible decline in the park system level of service for our growing community. The City park inventory satisfies only 60% of our adopted local standard (5 acres of park land per thousand residents), 30% of the national standard (10 acres per thousand), and 41% of the median for jurisdictions with a comparable population (7.4 acres per thousand). A total of 21% of our park acres included in that percentage have yet to be developed, leaving an even larger percentage of residents without outdoor recreation opportunities within reasonable proximity of their homes. Most concerning is the growing inequity for available parks and open space in lower income areas as well as large sections on the east side that are notably unserved.

For the PIF program to serve future residents, PIF rates must reflect current costs and ongoing market fluctuations as much as possible. Park Impact Fees are the only committed funding source in the City financing system to support the 17,300 new residents anticipated over the next 10 years. The proposed rate update is based on the revenue needed to serve future growth, estimated at 17,300 residents over the next 10 years, consistent with the adopted standard, not to remedy existing deficits.

The biennium budget includes revitalization of existing parks which are, in part, aimed at correcting park deficits and delayed capital repairs for existing residents rather than future park needs. That said, continuing infill and higher residential density demands an increased user capacity at existing facilities to serve some percentage of future growth as well. This would include such things as replacing soft surface walking paths with asphalt or concrete, adding play equipment that serves a broader spectrum of age groups and accessibility, adding more picnic shelters throughout the city, more sites with restrooms and sports courts, etc. Likewise, development of existing ownerships such as Rose Village and Raymond E. Shaffer have remained undeveloped due to lack of funding but will serve both existing and future residents when developed, as will proposed new acquisitions in District B and C.

Proposal Summary

PIF Rates

Current PIF rates average $2,255 for single family and $1,648 for multi-family units, which support approximately 34% of the adopted standard based on estimated acquisition and development costs.

The attached ordinance implements the first two-year increases of the gradual six-year phased implementation fee increase as proposed in the PIF Technical document and discussed with Council in the context of a Stronger Vancouver conversation. The calculation of the fees is proposed to be simplified, establishing per single family unit and per multi-family unit fees, same for all three parks PIF districts of Vancouver.

To soften any potential impact to the building community, gradual six-year phased implementation fee increase with fee indexing initiated in year seven is proposed per Council direction. The phased implementation schedule is shown below as described in the PIF Technical Document. The specific rates as well as the average current PIF rates are outlined in the table below.

Year	***Park District***	***% Increase***	***SF***	***MF***
2004-Dec. 1, 2020	*A, B, C*		*2,255 (Avg)*	*1,648 (Avg)*
January 1, 2021	*A, B, C*	*25% Increase*	*$2,819*	*$2,060*
January 1, 2022	*A, B, C*	*25% Increase*	*$3,523*	*$2,575*

This proposal eases the adjustment for local home builders and lessens the impact to new housing units as well as any secondary impacts to existing housing stock. The rate adjustment will improve the level-of-service for future neighborhoods, although at a level below standard.

Proposed revisions to the PIF program includes authorization for automatic annual fee indexing between major few reviews based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) (Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue) to align the rate schedule with market fluctuations. Gradual market adjustments to the fee structure on an annual basis help to avoid significant rate adjustments in the future.

Every three to four years a detailed fee analysis will be completed for review by City Council to consider benchmark adjustments to PIF rates that may not be captured through the proposed indexing. Review of the fee analysis will include consideration of accomplishments in site acquisition *and development to meet anticipated growth and concurrency compliance since the last fee analysis.*

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve the ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Julie Hannon, Parks and Recreation Director, 360-487-8309

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

11. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET 1) current tax revenue dedication update

Staff Report 165-20

AN ORDINANCE regarding the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET); amending VMC 3.20.040 to update the current distribution and use of revenues generated from REET 1; providing for an effective date.

Summary

Current REET I revenue is split between parks and recreation and transportation. A total of 6% of tax proceeds, up to a maximum of $130,000 per year, has been set aside for neighborhood traffic safety program improvements to city streets. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the proceeds, up to $1,956,000, is dedicated to support debt issued prior to 2008 for construction of the Firstenburg and remodel of Marshall recreational facilities. Up to a maximum of $250,000 above the other obligations set forth in this ordinance, has been dedicated for Parks and Recreation Capital. Prior to the end of 2019, a total of 20% of tax proceeds, up to a maximum of $450,000 per year, was dedicated to supporting the bonds issued for the completed construction of transportation infrastructure related to the Waterfront Access project. The economic development allocation of the revenue sunset at the end of 2019. The intent of the sunset in the allocation was to assure that the project generated sufficient tax revenue to support funding the debt until the expiration of the bonds. Tax revenue from the project is fully supporting the debt on the transportation project through 2031.

REET 1 revenue by state statutes may only be spent on funding of eligible public capital projects. Those projects have to be identified in the jurisdiction's Comprehensive Plan. Eligible use of funds include projects related to planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of streets, roads, parks, recreational facilities, *trails, administrative and law enforcement facilities.*

Creation of new family-wage jobs is one of the highest priorities of the City Council and the residents. The specific project to be funded by this allocation of funding will be brought for Council review during future budget actions.

The proposed action will allocate the remaining proceeds from REET 1, 20%, up to $1 million per year, indexed for inflation, to funding public infrastructure projects that facilitate private investment that results in creation of new family-wage jobs. The required ROI on the private investment projects is 10 years or less.

This proposal will not impact any other allocations of REET 1. Those are proposed to be updated based on the estimated 2020 REET revenues, both in terms of the dollar amounts and resulting percentages.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, 360-487-8484

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

12. 2021-2022 City of Vancouver Biennial Operating and Capital Budget

Staff Report 166-20

AN ORDINANCE relating to and adopting the budget for the City of Vancouver for the 2021-2022 fiscal biennium; providing for ratification and for an effective date.

Summary

The City of Vancouver 2021-2022 Biennial Budget has been prepared for approval. The Recommended Budget was published by the City Manager on October 1st, 2020, and was presented to Council in workshops held on October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and November 2nd. All of the changes to the Recommended Budget recommended by City Council through the course of the workshop discussions have been incorporated into the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget.

The 2021-2022 Biennial Budget appropriates $1.3 billion for both operating *and capital expenses, representing a 3.2% decrease over the current 2019-2020 budget. It proposes using $57 million in existing cash reserves city-wide to fund both the capital program and one-time initiatives. A total of $1.0 billion is appropriated for all City operating funds and $0.3 billion for capital funds and related funding transfers. There are 15.0 full time equivalent (FTE) positions added, bringing the total to 1,192.8 FTEs by the end of 2022. A total of 20 existing positions are unfunded in the budget for the two-year period.*

Operating Budget

Total 2021-2022 Operating budget in all City funds is $989 million. Of that amount, General, Street and Fire Budget appropriation for the two-year time period is $500 million. The 2021-2022 Budget continues to fully fund City reserves and depreciation accounts to the levels dictated in the Council-approved financial policies, while maintaining adequate operating capital throughout the biennium. The Budget also increases staffing in key areas, including economic development, diversity and inclusion, planning, capital project management, support services and increasing opportunities for succession planning. The General, Street and Fire Budget utilizes $18 million in existing cash reserves to fund one-time projects, including several strategic City initiatives, and a select number of capital projects. Approximately $39 million cash reserves in other operating and capital funds is utilized in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget mostly to fund the City's capital program.

The 2021-2022 biennium anticipates continuation of paced recovery from the recession of 2020. The amount of economic uncertainty during the budget development process has been unprecedented, with the economy coming out of the deepest recession due to the pandemic and a high continued level of uncertainty related to changes in the spending patterns of society and the continued level of federal support of the economy. The revenue forecast is built on a conservative set of assumptions, including lower recreation revenue in 2021and subdued sales tax collections over the biennium.

The Budget moves forward several high priority initiatives advancing social justice, climate and safety priorities of City Council and the community. Some of the highlights of the initiatives in this area are outlined below:

- *The Budget continues funding for coordination of the City’s efforts to respond to homelessness. A cross-departmental team will continue to work with the homeless population on City streets.*

- *The Budget recommends setting aside $1.5 million per year dedicated to funding future recommendations from the Community Task Force on Policing, created in June of 2020, to review and make recommendations on* *establishing a body-worn camera program and use of force in policing.*

- *The Budget continues investment in expansion of the Affordable Housing in the City and recommends advancing a new funding source – Sales Tax for Affordable Housing, to build additional units for the most disadvantaged population of the City.*

- *The Budget includes support for the Fourth Plain Commons project using a combination of General Fund, CDBG funding sources and utilizing a Section 108 Loan to round out the funding of the project. The project will serve as an incubator for new businesses to revitalize the Fourth Plain Corridor. The loan will be repaid by the future CDBG funding.*

- *Public Safety uniformed staffing was largely protected from budget reductions to ensure continued community safety, including the 13 new positions that were added during the 2019-2020 biennium to staff the new Fire Station 11. Funding for the positions starts in April of 2022 to ensure staff are trained and available to staff the new Station that is anticipated to come online in late 2022 or early 2023.*

- *The Budget also includes a number of funded planning efforts, such as: developing a Civic Center master plan for the vacant land surrounding City Hall and the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, the largest remaining contiguous vacant land in the downtown core; and completion of the Transportation System Plan update, the guiding policy for hundreds of millions of dollars in future investments in the City's transportation system. The recommended Budget also includes funding for implementation of the Heights District Plan.*

- *Included is funding for planning and build-out of the four new Complete Streets projects in different parts of town: NE 112th Ave, NE 51st Circle to SE Mill Plain Blvd to tackle safety issues, congestion and lack of connectivity; SE 34th Street, SE 164th to SE 192nd Ave; Fort Vancouver Way, Mill Plain Blvd to Fourth Plain Blvd, as well as planning efforts to begin on Fourth Plain Pedestrian improvements and addressing existing safety issues at Devine and 18th Street.*

The budget is built on assumption of certain revenue increases over the biennium. Those include the statutorily authorized 0.6% increase in property tax revenues, for each year of the biennium, rate adjustments for sewer, water, surface water and garbage utilities to reflect inflation and fund depreciation costs already included in the Vancouver Municipal Code.

The budget includes $4 million per year in the Affordable Housing Local Sales Tax to fund new units of housing for households earning below 60% of the area median income. The budget also includes new capital projects *in Parks funded by an increase in park impact fees. The fees on new single and multi-family residential construction have not been raised since 1994. The budget incorporates re-dedication of a portion of REET 1 funding to projects facilitating economic development and new job creation in the City. Other revenue increases include optimized fee rates in fee-for-service areas, such as building, fire marshal review and inspection, parking and planning.*

Attachment B to the Ordinance outlines all changes in staffing included in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget. The budget adds 15 new positions and freezes 20 existing positions, most of them vacant, across City operating departments. Most are added to address staffing deficiencies in key strategic areas, like economic development, diversity and inclusion, planning and city capital program management. The Budget includes adding two positions in the City Manager's office: an FTE for a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and supporting resources to champion and coordinate City internal and external efforts in promotion of social equity and justice causes, and a new Assistant City Manager FTE to augment strategic City management resources. These and all other changes in staffing are outlined in the Attachment B.

2021-2022 Capital Budget

The City has nearly $2 billion in capital assets (building, streets, land, utility lines, etc.). Stewardship of these capital assets is critical to efficient, effective, and sustainable service delivery. While the true cost to manage these assets through their lifetime is daunting, the City has been making meaningful, strategic investments in our assets without adding new debt. The same trend is evident in the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget.

Attachment C to the Budget Ordinance displays a list of all projects included in the City of Vancouver's 2021-2022 Capital Budget. The $269 million capital program includes $180 million for projects in multiple functional areas; additional appropriation of $89 million is related to funding transfers. Below are some highlights:

- *Utilities projects totaling $102 million, include:*

    - *Water fund projects totaling $49 million include $20 million for the Water Station 5 reservoir to replace infrastructure components and rehab the existing lining for the aging steel tank, $6.5 million to continue construction of twin reservoirs constructed in 1909 and in the 1930s at Water Station 1 with two new seismically sound 4 million gallon reservoirs.*

    - *Wastewater utility appropriation totaling $46 million includes a $6 million replacement of lagoon diffusers that have deteriorated* *with age, $3 million for a two-phase east interceptor rehab from Marine Park Water Reclamation Facility and upstream using trenchless technology, $3 million for the continuation of upgrading Programmable Logic Controls (PLC) hardware and operating platforms at both the Westside and Marine Park treatment plants, and a variety of other collection and treatment projects.*

  - *Surface water appropriation of $8 million to keep up with the NPDES regulations including water quality and inspection programs.*

- *General Capital Projects include:*

  - *New Fire Station 11 construction primarily funded by Fire District 5 expected to be completed in late 2022, early 2023.*

  - *Purchase of the new Police Headquarters on Chkalov for $11 million in 2022 per the lease agreement using cash reserves in the General fund.*

  - *Officers Row roof replacements at the Grant House and Howard House and additional sidewalk repairs for $0.5 million.*

  - *Continued designed work on Replacement of the Operations Center. Funding is split between the General Fund and Water fund. This investment will result in a vastly more efficient, effective, and resilient facility that will better meet our daily operating and emergency response needs.*

  - *General Capital asset management program of $15 million includes major maintenance projects like roof replacements at VPD East Precinct, Fire Station 4 and Slocum House, and exterior masonry, sealing, painting, and server system upgrades at various city facilities.*

- *The Budget allocates $37.5 million for transportation capital project funding, funded by a combination of the vehicle license tab revenues, grants, impact fee revenue and local cash resources. The program includes the following projects:*

  - *SE 1st Street – 177th Ave to 192nd Ave. for $10 million, and SE 1st St – 164th to 177th for $9 million to fund the second phase of the urban arterial upgrade of an existing 2-lane rural road to increase safety, mobility and livability, and meet future subarea needs;*

   - *137th Ave Corridor – 49th to Fourth Plain Blvd for $3 million in street improvements;*

   - *Westside Bike Mobility for $2 million focusing on the first phase of the Columbia Street corridor to include traffic calming and bicycle and pedestrian improvements in coordination with pavement management;*

   - *Various other traffic management projects and street and sidewalk improvements, including $1 million in Main Street improvements.*

- *Parks Capital program totals $8 million. The program includes funding for park land acquisitions in districts 2 & 4 using the City's Park Impact Fee resources, and major renovations and expansions at parks including North Image, Oakbrook, Peter S. Ogden, Rose Village and Jaggy Road. Shaffer park design is included at a cost of $1.3 million. This project is funded by the proposed increase in the City's parks impact fee revenues, planned for 2021-2022.*

The 2021-2022 Recommended Budget addresses the top priorities of the community while exercising a high level of fiscal constraint in its use of City resources. The budget is balanced by using ongoing revenues, and one-time expenses are funded by existing cash. The budget sets initiatives in place that will bear financial savings in future biennia and will temper the growth in city expenditures.

Request: On Monday, November 9, 2020, approve ordinance on first reading, setting the date of second reading and public hearing for Monday, November 16, 2020.

Natasha Ramras, Chief Financial Officer, 360-487-8484

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Motion approved the request.

13. Approval of Claim Vouchers

Request: Approve claim vouchers for November 9, 2020.

Motion approved claim vouchers for November 9, 2020, in the amount of $11,532,801.52.

Citizen Forum - see general protocol above

Mayor McEnerny-Ogle opened Citizen Forum and received the following testimony:

- Peter Bracchi, Vancouver, expressed concerns about destruction of habitat under Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power lines along the Burnt Bridge Creek trail and urged the City to develop an agreement with BPA regarding the management of that land.

- Monica Zazueta, Vancouver, urged the City to develop policies and programs focused on reduction of emissions.

- Phillip Englund, Vancouver, expressed concerns about recent officer-involved shootings in the community and urged the City to reinvest a portion of the proposed police budget into social services.

- Cathryn Chudy, Vancouver, urged the Council to extend its moratorium on large-scale fossil fuel facilities.

- Don Steinke, Vancouver, urged the City to support policies and programs and legislative priorities that prioritize clean energy and the reduction of emissions.

- Peter Fels, Vancouver, urged the City to use the opportunity of the Vancouver Innovation Center to create a sustainable development that can be a showcase for east Vancouver.

- Randal Friedman, Camas, Washington, echoed Mr. Fels' testimony and stated the Vancouver Innovation Center is an enormous opportunity for the City and east Vancouver.

There being no further testimony, Mayor McEnerny-Ogle closed testimony.

Adjournment

7:19 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
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Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
Natasha Ramras
BCF6734E40E94AE...
Natasha Ramras, City Clerk

Meetings of the Vancouver City Council are electronically recorded on audio and videotapes. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

November 9, 2020

Addressed To: Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle

Council Members Bart Hansen,
Ty Stober,
Linda Glover,
Laurie Lebowsky,
Erik Paulsen,
Sarah Fox

CC: City Manager Eric Holmes

Submitted electronically by Danielle Jokela danielle.jokela@gmail.com

Honorable Mayor and Esteemed Council Members:

As you prepare to adopt the 2021-2022 budget, we urge you to pause and join the residents of Vancouver in reimagining public safety across our communities. The ritual of pouring an ever-increasing amount of our city's funds into law enforcement has not yielded safer, more secure neighborhoods and has not provided the dollar-for-dollar value that responsible financial policy demands.

The proposed budget gives the Vancouver Police Department $118.8 million, representing nearly 34% of the general fund. That's more than a third of our city's general fund spent on policing alone. When considering this enormous investment, a responsible fiscal manager must ask a deeper question: Are the people of Vancouver receiving the full value of that investment? The evidence does not show that we are.

When we rely on police to respond to social crises because of a dearth of more appropriate publicly funded services, it undermines the value of our public investment. Paying our police to disrupt and relocate community members who are unhoused does not address the underlying issues leading to homelessness. Arresting people experiencing acute mental health crises or struggling with substance abuse does not address their need for medical or social assistance. Policing these vulnerable populations without tackling the contributory structural issues simply creates a cycle wherein the public is continuing to pay the police to repeatedly engage in these activities without actually solving chronic public-safety challenges.

The city's use of the marijuana tax fund acutely demonstrates this imbalance of investment and value. Vancouver received $600,000 in marijuana tax revenue in 2018, per the 2019 Annual Report to Citizens. Rather than being reinvested in evidence-based programs related to substance abuse, economic development, criminal-justice reform, research, or education, the funds were used to hire six additional police officers. The current approach ignores that — per public-health experts — every dollar invested in prevention saves an average $5.60 in future health spending.

Similarly, the city's proposal to buy the currently leased property at 521 SE Chkalov Drive for VPD headquarters does not appear sound. The proposed 2021-2022 budget allocates approximately $10.5 million for this purchase, more than double the 2020 tax-assessed value of just over $4.5 million.

This discrepancy creates questions about the fiscal responsibility of the purchase and the accuracy of the assessment.

Achieving public safety requires that we invest in services that support, strengthen, protect, and uplift our communities. As you move forward with deciding how our tax revenue will be allocated, it's critical that you examine not just the black and white numbers in a budget but the value received for every dollar spent. Awarding over a third of our general fund to police without evidence of a return justifying such a significant allotment starves our communities of better outcomes and thwarts our city's highest goals.

Before adopting the proposed budget, we ask the Vancouver City Council to:

- Analyze and report on the return our communities would receive in allocating 34% of the general fund to law enforcement.
- Secure and publicly disclose a current, independent fair-market-value appraisal of the above-mentioned Chkalov property.
- Ensure that any deal to buy the above-mentioned Chkalov property protects the taxpayers' interest.
- Provide a thorough return-on-investment analysis of direct services regarding crisis intervention, mental health, homelessness, and addiction recovery.
- Direct the City Manager to recommend how pertinent portions of the allocated police budget can be reallocated to crisis intervention and the other above-mentioned direct services.

Thank you for your prompt attention and courteous consideration.

Sincerely,

Clark County Justice Group	Joyce Brekke Shareefah Hoover Rheta Rubenstein Howard Rubenstein Danielle Jokela Mike Jokela
OutsidersInn	Ren Autrey Adam Kravitz
NAACP Vancouver 1139B	Bridgette Fahnbulleh, President Andrea Marzette
NAMI SWWA	Kim Schneiderman, Executive Director Michelle Bookout, Board President Jim Luce
SWWA LULAC Council 47013	Ed Hamilton, President
M.O.M.S.	Cindi Fisher, Founder

Family of Carlos Hunter	Nickeia Hunter Pamela Hunter Henry Hunter
Jubilee Collective	Rev. Lenny Duncan
Sunrise Movement SWWA	Tiffany Burnette Philip Englund Monica Zazueta Tristan Weber Anastasia Pyz
Vancouver for Peace	Mike Ellison
Community Volunteers	Chelsea Unger, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Member Karyn Kameroff, Choctaw Tribal Member
	Shoshanah Epstein, Esq., WSBA # 48956
	Elizabeth Madrigal Erin Clabaugh Sam Lohmann Janet Birgenheier Rebecca Keith Mary Laski Judy Bumbarger-Enright

Delapena, Amanda

Subject: FW: 11/09 Citizen Forum Written Comments

From: Danielle Jokela [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 11:35 AM
To: City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager <CMO@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: 11/09 Citizen Forum Written Comments

Good morning, I request that these comments be submitted to the Council and entered into the record.

Madam Mayor and Council Members:
Before you adopt the proposed 2021 budget, please stop and reevaluate the value that our community is receiving for the public funds we are investing in policing. This morning, The Columbian published an article describing the tough choice that our unhoused neighbors are facing between remaining outdoors where temperatures are dangerously low overnight, and sleeping in shelters which may become hotbeds of COVID-19 infections. This choice is a symptom of a greater problem, one that policing does not begin to solve.

Policing costs a lot of money. We are paying our police to criminalize homelessness, substance-abuse, and mental illness under the assumption that by relocating the unhoused, or arresting or even killing those experiencing mental health crisis helps keep us safer. In fact, this only moves the problem from one block to another, and creates even more costs. For example, providing housing for all is extremely expensive, but have we weighed that cost against the cost of recurring crises that require intervention from police, the justice system, health providers, and others? We have $118.8M allocated for policing over 2 years. This same cost could provide housing for an estimated 59,000 people for two years - far more people than are currently living on our streets.

Additionally, I would urge you to consider the unseen costs of policing. What are the costs to a family that has lost their son, their brother, their father to the hands of our police? Our community has been asking for change for years. We continue to be given reassurances that the right training is already in place, choke holds are already banned, officers are already prohibited from racial profiling, our police and jails already have a policy of not detaining immigrants for non-criminal charges... Assurances continue to be given, but somehow we still have six people killed by police in less than two years. These cold assurances are dismissive and reflect an unwillingness to do any meaningful self examination. As city leaders, you have a responsibility to divest public resources out of an inherently violent system and invest in real solutions that are centered on support and rooted in community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Danielle Jokela
Resident, Vancouver, WA

Delapena, Amanda

Subject: FW: comments for November 9 meeting

From: Jennifer Wyld [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:54 PM
To: City of Vancouver - Office of the City Manager <CMO@cityofvancouver.us>
Subject: comments for November 9 meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Vancouver. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I am a resident at [redacted], Vancouver, WA 98660

I am writing to ask you all to please find some way to redistribute the funds used for policing into social services that will better serve our community. There are so many examples of police brutality towards BIPOC and people of the global majority in our country- and it does not seem to be an issue of the officers needing more training- they seem to be able to access that training and de-escalate situations and use non-lethal methods with suspects who are white in a way that they do not with suspects who are BIPOC or people of the global majority. Therefore, we need to put more money into social services and mental health response teams if we are going to really care for and protect our community.

Thank you,
Jennifer Wyld