SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Friday, May 26, 2006


ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
A. B. Maurer
D. H. Edey, City Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER AND RELATED BUSINESS

A.1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor S. Mandel called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Councillors K. Krushell and K. Leibovici were absent.

A.2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED M. Phair – J. Batty:

That the May 26, 2006, Special City Council meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED
ABSENT: K. Krushell, K. Leibovici.

D.1. ADMINISTRATIVE INQUIRIES

D.1.a. Hazardous Waste Spill (D. Thiele)

Councillor D. Thiele requested the permission of Council to make an Administrative Inquiry.

MOVED J. Batty – B. Anderson:

That Councillor D. Thiele be permitted to make an Administrative Inquiry.

CARRIED

ABSENT: K. Krushell, K. Leibovici.

Councillor K. Krushell entered the meeting.

“On May 23, 2006, a chemical reaction at Custom Environmental Services (7722-9 St) forced the evacuation of several businesses in a block-and-a-half area in the Southeast Industrial Area.

The EMS Hazardous Material Response Team arrived to deal with unknown vapours coming from metal drums stored on the site in a tent.

On May 5, 2005, a major explosion and fire occurred at this same site causing an evacuation and shutdown of businesses in the area for one to two days.

1. Is the type of hazardous waste management conducted by Custom Environmental Services appropriate for the Southeast Industrial area?

2. Is the hazardous waste management conducted there compliant with Alberta Environment standards and licensing?

3. What safety assurances do the owners and employees of the surrounding business have, given that they are working in very close proximity to a hazardous waste facility that has had two serious incidents that could have endangered human life in just over a year?"
4. Reports indicated that hydrazine was at fault. Why was hydrazine, known to react with metal and wood, being stored in metal containers on a wooden pallet?

5. The Hazardous Materials Response Team and others were placed in considerable danger and lost essential time as they attempted to determine what materials they were dealing with. Why was Custom Environmental Services unaware of what was in the barrels?

6. Are hazardous waste management companies required to be familiar with what materials they are receiving and handling?

7. What training do employees of Custom Environmental Services receive in dealing with hazardous waste?

8. What safety assurances do the employees of Custom Environmental Services have given they are working with explosives, carcinogens and a myriad of hazardous materials?

9. Who will compensate the surrounding businesses for time and money lost when they were forced to close down operations for lengthy time periods?

10. How are surrounding companies and neighbourhoods notified of potential dangers?

11. What were the results of the 2005 explosion? What caused the fire/explosion? What, if any, additional safety requirements were placed on the company at that time?

The report should return to Community Services Committee.”

### H. OTHER REPORTS

#### H.1.a. City Council Planning – Verbal Discussion Facilitated by Mike Percy

MOVED  M. Phair – J. Melnychuk:

That Council meet in private to discuss item H.1.a., pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

CARRIED


OPPOSED: M. Nickel, D. Thiele.

ABSENT: K. Leibovici.
Council met in private at 9:45 a.m.

Council recessed at 12 noon and reconvened in private at 12:35 p.m.

MOVED J. Melnychuk – J Batty:
That Council meet in public.


ABSENT: R. Hayter, L. Sloan.

CARRIED


MOVED M. Phair – E. Gibbons:
That the verbal presentation be received for information and remain in private pursuant to sections 23 and 24 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CARRIED
H.1.e. WCB Investment and Partner Injury Reduction Rebate

MOVED B. Anderson – M. Phair:
That item H.1.e. be dealt with now.

CARRIED

H.1.c. Diesel Fumes/Carcinogens – Subsequent Recommendations

MOVED B. Anderson – E. Gibbons:
That item H.1.c. be dealt with now.

CARRIED
MOVED D. Thiele – E. Gibbons:


2. That the transit garage air quality remedial strategies identified in the April 12, 2006, Corporate Services Department report 2006COM005 (enhancing the exhaust systems of Westwood, Ferrier and Mitchell transit garages, and increasing the number of engine overhauls) be undertaken starting in 2006, at an estimated cost of $10.1 million; and that funding for the transit garage air quality remedial strategies be provided as follows:
   a. $5.6 million in Capital Project 07-75-4106, Bus Garage Ventilation Systems – Mitchell, included within the funded 2006-2010 Capital Plan.
   b. $4.5 million from the City’s 2005 operating surplus/Ed Tel Endowment Fund special dividend, with the possibility of allocating up to $3 million from the anticipated WCB rebate.

AMENDMENT MOVED J. Melnychuk – B. Anderson:

That part 2 b. be replaced with the following:

   b. $4.5 million, with $3,424,000 from the WCB one-time rebate and the Partner Injury Reduction Program rebate, and the balance from the 2005 operating surplus/EdTel Endowment Fund special dividend.


J. Tustian, General Manager, and J. MacPherson, Corporate Services Department, answered Council’s questions.

MOTION, AS AMENDED, ON ITEM H.1.c., put:


2. That the transit garage air quality remedial strategies identified in the April 12, 2006, Corporate Services Department report 2006COM005 (enhancing the exhaust systems of Westwood, Ferrier and Mitchell
transit garages, and increasing the number of engine overhauls) be undertaken starting in 2006, at an estimated cost of $10.1 million; and that funding for the transit garage air quality remedial strategies be provided as follows:

a. $5.6 million in Capital Project 07-75-4106, Bus Garage Ventilation Systems – Mitchell, included within the funded 2006-2010 Capital Plan;

b. $4.5 million, with $3,424,000 from the WCB one-time rebate and the Partner Injury Reduction Program rebate, and the balance from the 2005 operating surplus/EdTel Endowment Fund special dividend.

H.1.c. cont.

FOR THE MOTION

OPPOSED: K. Leibovici.

H.1.f. Canada - Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Update  

MOVED B. Anderson – D. Thiele:

That item H.1.f. be dealt with now.


MOVED M. Phair – J. Melnychuk:

That Administration provide a report with a list of eligible projects and outline how the municipal portion will be funded.

A. B. Maurer, City Manager, answered Council’s questions. K. Siu, Corporate Business Planning Department; and R. Millican, General Manager, Transportation Department, made a presentation and answered Council’s questions.

CARRIED

H.1.d. Land Trust Implementation Plan

MOVED M. Nickel – B. Anderson:
That item H.1.d. be dealt with now.


MOVED M. Nickel – M. Phair:
That the Land Trust Implementation Plan item be referred to the June 13, 2006, Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.


CARRIED

M. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

M.1.a. Financial Stabilization Reserve (M. Nickel)

Councillor M. Nickel withdrew the following Motion on Notice, made at the March 21, 2006, City Council meeting:

That any unallocated excess balance in the Financial Stabilization Reserve (based upon the audited year-end results) be placed in reserve to be used for cost overruns on major capital projects. This fund is to be used only for one time capital requirements.
A. B. Maurer, City Manager; and D. H. Edey, City Clerk, answered Council’s questions.

**H. OTHER REPORTS**

**2006 Council Contingency**

MOVED M. Phair - M. Nickel:

That $0.75 million of the 2005 surplus be allocated to 2006 Council Contingency.  

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FOR THE MOTION: S. Mandel; J. Batty, E. Gibbons, R. Hayter, K. Krushell, M. Nickel, M. Phair, D. Thiele.


**H.1.b. Capital Budget – Funding Issues and Opportunities**

M. Percy, Facilitator, made a presentation.

R. Rosychuk, Corporate Services Department; A. B. Maurer, City Manager; and P. Tarnawsky, General Manager, Corporate Business Planning Department, answered Council’s questions.

MOVED M. Nickel – J. Batty:

1. That the remaining funds available from the 2005 surplus and the EdTel Special Dividend be allocated to a contingency fund to be used as a source of funds for cost escalations for approved capital projects.  
2. That Administration provide a report on the approved Capital Plan to the July 5, 2006, City Council meeting outlining which projects may require additional funds due to cost escalations.

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FOR THE MOTION: S. Mandel; J. Batty, E. Gibbons, R. Hayter, K. Krushell, M. Nickel, M. Phair, D. Thiele.


CARRIED
N. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mayor S. Mandel asked whether there were any Notices of Motion. There were none.

O. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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MAYOR            CITY CLERK
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