

RBI
Windsor, Ontario July 20, 2011

A meeting of the **Public Safety Standing Committee** is held this day commencing at 4:30 o'clock p.m. in Council Chambers there being present the following members:

Councillor Jones (Chair)
Councillor Dilkens
Councillor Gignac
Councillor Maghnieh
Councillor Payne

Delegations

Melanie Coulter, Executive Director, Windsor- Essex County Humane Society

Also present are the following from Administration:

Helga Reidel, Chief Administrative Officer
George Wilkki, City Solicitor and Corporate Leader Economic Development
and Public Safety
Lee Anne Doyle, Chief Building Official
Al Peach, Manager of Inspections
Bill Tetler, Acting Manager of Compliance & Enforcement
Gary Cian, Manager of Policy, Gaming and Licensing/Deputy
Licence Commissioner
Sandra Bradt, Corporate Policy Coordinator
Tom Graziano, Project Administrator
Robert Barlozzari, City Council Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 4:32 o'clock p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Maghnieh, seconded by Councillor Dilkens,
That the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety Standing Committee held
June 15, 2011 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4 . **Request for Deferrals, Referrals, and Withdrawals**

None Requested.

5 . **Presentations & Delegations**

PSSC 6/11 - Spay Nenter Voucher Program

Melanie Coulter, Executive Director, Windsor-Essex County Humane Society attends the Public Safety Standing Committee and encourages Council to support a voucher program in excess of a minimum of 1000 vouchers. Ms. Coulter encourages continued participation between the City of Windsor and the Humane Society in addressing community issues involving pets and animals.

Councillor J. Gignac raises the issue of cat colonies and whether those with colonies might have precedence in getting animals spayed or neutered.

M. Coulter indicates that the plan to address cat colonies is currently being finalized although there will be a priority access program to address spay and neutering. The plan is for the new clinic to operate in a cost recovery model.

Councillor J. Gignac asks if veterinarians in the community have been consulted about a spay neuter voucher program and whether have they indicated if they will volunteer their services to such a program.

M. Coulter states that the Humane Society has not yet been approached by private veterinarians regarding a spay and neuter program, although the Humane Society does employ a full time veterinarian who can carry out the surgeries. The Humane Society has yet to pursue community animal clinics at this time due to the high volume model of surgeries the program could initiate, which could transcend to 25 to 30 surgeries daily. The Humane Society does anticipate some volunteer clinics if a program moves forward. For its part, the Humane Society could accommodate the surgeries as two surgical tables are being established in the new facility to accommodate a high volume of surgeries.

Councillor J. Gignac expresses that if the Public Safety Standing Committee makes recommendation to move forward with a spay neuter program, it will need to also be applicable to feral cat colonies located in Windsor.

M. Coulter indicates that the voucher program does not speak specifically to the matter of feral cat colonies, but is aimed towards low income pet owners.

Councillor **H.** Payne requests the benefits and successes of voluntary licensing of cats.

M. Coulter responds that she believes that voluntary licensing will only be as effective as those motivated to purchase the license. There are benefits to licensing animals such as the increased probability of having that animal returned to the owner in the event that it gets lost. The program should be linked with a voucher spay or neuter program directed at helping animals to increase the motivation of those willing to participate in the licensing program.

Councillor H. Payne requests clarification on pursuing breeders licensing.

M. Coulter answers that the complications in licensing breeders is in determining who is and who may be qualified as a breeder requiring licensing.

Councillor R. Jones requests an update from administration regarding a feral cat program whereby Council earmarked approximately \$30,000.00 to the study of the feral cat program and whether the committee might be able to receive an update regarding the status of those monies.

S. Bradt, Policy & Procedures Coordinator explains that these monies were earmarked for a trap and neuter program where animals were returned to the cat colony. The program was focused on the west side of the city and it was not extensively popular.

Item 3 PSSC 6/11- Spay Neuter Voucher Program

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Payne

PSSC 10/11 That the establishment of a Voucher Program in the amount of 1000 vouchers with a face value of \$75 to assist with the spaying and neutering of cats **INCLUDING** feral cat colonies in Windsor **BE CONSIDERED** during the 2012 Budget Deliberations, and further;

That administration **REPORT BACK** on the benefits of voluntary licensing of cats.

Carried.

Councillor Dilkens voting nay.

6 . **Business Items**

Item 2 New Fire Hall No. 7 - Project Update

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Dilkens

PSSC 9/11 That the Project Update dated June 9, 2011 for the new Fire Hall No. 7 facility located at 1380 Matthew Brady Boulevard **BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION.**

Carried.

Item 1 Maintenance and Occupancy Standards (Short Title: Property Standards) By-Law Revisions

Councillor H. Payne requests highlights of the new items or changes in the forthcoming bylaw and the transferring of the enforcement authority.

Al Peach, Manager of Inspections indicates that matters addressing yard and refuse matters will be moved from the enforcement authority held by the Building Inspectors onto the Compliance & Enforcement Officers in the new bylaw to address Property Standards in By-law 3-2006. The other initiative was looking into the issue of preventing and reducing derelict buildings in the community. The forthcoming bylaw will also house monetary penalties to repeat offenders.

Councillor Payne requests if the forthcoming section will deal entirely with derelict buildings.

Al Peach indicates that the bylaw will include addressing derelict buildings and the legal paragraph wording should be completed by the end of the year after benchmarking other municipalities across the province, country and the United States.

Councillor Dilkens requests clarification how and when the \$225 inspection fee report will be applied to an investigation.

Al Peach explains that inspection fee is strictly applied for Building Inspections and will not be applied to yard maintenance issues. The fee will serve as a cost recovery to inspection times, required reports, issuing orders and registered mail, which is currently budgeted from the tax base. The fee will not apply directly to single family homes without notification being presented first, but will apply to rental and multi-residential properties and can be applied to annual property taxes if unpaid. The Inspection Fee is aimed at discouraging repeat offenders.

Councillor J. Gignac requires clarification if other municipalities enforce in a similar manner as cost recovery.

Other municipalities do apply cost recovery fees, in some cases to all properties including single family dwellings. Other examples are London who have recently begun charging fees and Mississauga which charges upwards of \$400.00 for inspections.

Councillor J. Gignac asks how the education of these bylaw changes including inspection fees will be communicated.

Lee Anne Doyle, Chief Building Official explains that the Building Department will be working closely with the Communication Department and will advise agencies and groups in the community who work in the construction trade. Furthermore, the department will take advantage of any opportunity available to educate the public regarding these bylaw changes.

Councillor A. Maghnieh asks how the proposed bylaw would affect derelict commercial buildings such as the current Grace Hospital site.

A. Peach, states that a program to address abandoned and derelict commercial buildings has not yet been developed. The proposed bylaw concentrates on residential buildings.

Councillor R. Jones expresses his appreciation on the report and the work administration has placed on this matter.

Councillor J. Gignac states that she appreciates the frustration of administration in dealing with abandoned and derelict buildings in our community since they can only enforce the bylaws that are currently passed by Council. It is necessary to update bylaws regularly to be able to address to issues in the community appropriately.

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Dilkens

PSSC 8/11 That By-law 156-2005, being "A By-law to Establish Standards for the Maintenance and Occupancy of all Properties in the City of Windsor" **BE REPEALED** and **REPLACED** by the proposed new By-law, attached as Appendix 'A'; and further, that Council **APPROVE** the amendments to By-law 2-2006 being "A By-law to Establish and Maintain a System for the Collection and Disposal of Waste in the City of Windsor", and By-law 3-2006 being "A By-Law To Establish Standards Respecting Yard Waste and Exterior Property Maintenance and to Prohibit Littering in the City of Windsor attached hereto as Appendices 'B' and 'C'.

Carried.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Public Safety Standing Committee will be held on August 17, 2011 at 4:30 o'clock p.m. in Council Chambers.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting is adjourned at 5:03 o'clock p.m.

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT