Minutes - Executive Policy Committee – September 19, 2007

Minute No. 532
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – September 4, 2007

Item No. 1 Minimum Standards for Occupied and Unoccupied Buildings
File EX

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and submits the following to Council:

1. That the July 18, 2007 Council Motion be concurred in and the Administration be directed to evaluate the minimum standards for occupied and unoccupied dwellings, as well as the process undertaken to take title of a property without compensation to property owner and that the evaluation consider the following:

   A. How many buildings are currently registered as vacant buildings in the City;
   B. Of the known vacant buildings, how long have they been registered as vacant and derelict;
   C. Successes and challenges relative to enforcement;
   D. Successes and challenges relative to the City taking title without compensation to property owner;
   E. Recommendations to including a discussion of resource allocation to address the challenges outlined,

   and report back to the Standing Policy Committee in 90 days.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Swandel,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Sel Burrows, Chair, Point Douglas Residents Committee, submitted communications (2) undated with respect to Minimum Standards for Occupied and Unoccupied Buildings.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 4, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development submitted the following to Council:

1. That the July 18, 2007 Council Motion be concurred in and the Administration be directed to evaluate the minimum standards for occupied and unoccupied dwellings, as well as the process undertaken to take title of a property without compensation to property owner and that the evaluation consider the following:

    A. How many buildings are currently registered as vacant buildings in the City;
    B. Of the known vacant buildings, how long have they been registered as vacant and derelict;
    C. Successes and challenges relative to enforcement;
    D. Successes and challenges relative to the City taking title without compensation to property owner;
    E. Recommendations to including a discussion of resource allocation to address the challenges outlined,

    and report back to the Standing Policy Committee in 90 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 18, 2007, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

WHEREAS vacant buildings are a blight to any neighbourhood;

AND WHEREAS there are known vacant buildings that have become fire traps, especially in the Inner City and in the North End;

AND WHEREAS some vacant buildings continue to stand vacant and derelict for months at a time before the City begins the process of by-law enforcement, and/or taking title without compensation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration be directed to evaluate the minimum standards for occupied and unoccupied dwellings, and the process undertaken to take title of a property without compensation to property owner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the evaluation consider:

- How many buildings are currently registered as vacant buildings in the City
- Of the known vacant buildings, how long have they been registered as vacant and derelict
- Successes and challenges relative to enforcement
- Successes and challenges relative to the City taking title without compensation to property owner
- Recommendations to including a discussion of resource allocation to address the challenges outlined.