

MAY 28, 1969

An emergency meeting of the Municipal Council was held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby 2, B. C. on Wednesday, May 28, 1969 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor R. W. Prittie in the Chair;
Aldermen Blair, Clark, Drummond,
Herd and Mercier; and McLean;*

*Amended by
Council on
June 9, 1969

ABSENT: Aldermen Dailly, Ladner

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR, reported to the Council that the Local 23, Civic Employees Union, under the Canadian Union of Public Employees had called a strike of Inside and Outside and Foremen staff members suddenly at 3:00 p.m. today without formal notice to any member of the staff nor to himself.

The Mayor reported having called one of the officers of the Union who advised he was not aware that the strike was to be called as suddenly as it was at 3:00 p.m. and clarified misstatements re a lockout by the Corporation.

The Manager is recommending a course of action to which the Mayor advised he did not entirely agree but asked the Manager to make his presentation.

The Manager advised that the Mediation Commission under the Provincial Government had ordered an enquiry at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 30th. The municipalities involved (Burnaby, Vancouver and Richmond) had applied to the Commission pursuant to Section 13 of the Mediation Commission Act to have this Hearing set and the Commission had been advised that the three municipalities would be represented at this Hearing.

The Manager read Section 13 of the Act which provided that the Commission can order a Hearing but that any decisions which may be made by the Commission would not be binding upon either party. The Manager advised that it was felt by the Municipal Negotiation representatives that the meeting would be abortive because the Union representatives are not expected to appear and if they do it is doubtful that the meeting will be held at all. The Commission can proceed however to hear the one side and can decide to hold a formal hearing to hear one side of the dispute.

Mr. Guise of the Union had advised the Secretary to the Board that the Union will not be present. However, there is a meeting of the Union representatives tonight (Wednesday) and the municipalities will probably know by Thursday a.m. for certain whether the Union will be represented at the Commission Hearing.

The Manager further reported that a second action could follow if the enquiry is abortive and that is that the Council may use Sections 18 and 19 of the Mediation Commission Act which gives the power to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to "in order to protect the public interest and welfare" order that there be no strike by employees nor lockout by employers or any existing strike or lockout shall immediately cease. The Lieutenant-Governor may also refer the dispute to the Mediation Commission in order that the decision of the Commission with respect to the dispute be final and binding upon the parties except to the extent that the parties agree to vary the same.

The Manager recommended that in the event that the meeting on Friday, May 30th is abortive and the Commission does not become seized with the dispute, that the Mayors of the three municipalities (Burnaby, Richmond and Vancouver) wait upon the Minister of Labour and ask him to invoke Section 18, and force the holding of a Hearing by the Mediation Commission.

Upon a query from Council the Assistant Municipal Manager advised that originally the municipality offered 6.25% to the Outside and 6.5% to the Inside to bring them into parity with the Inside staff of the City of Vancouver.

The following alternatives were suggested to the Manager's first proposal:

- (1) That the Council allow the strike to continue and make application for assistance from the Mediation Commission at some appropriate time in the future.
- (2) The Officers of Local 23 could still meet and negotiate with the members of the Municipal Council as a separate negotiating body.

The Manager advised that the Union negotiators know that the Corporation's door is open at any time and upon being queried as to whether or not his recommendation was supported by the remainder of the negotiating team the Manager advised that it had been his suggestion; however, he had the support of the full negotiating team.

Reverting to demands it was pointed out by the Manager that while there had been an unofficial offer made by the C.U.P.E. Organization their first demand was for 13% and there had never been an official move from that offer. There had been an unofficial offer of 5% effective January 1st and 5% effective July 1st making an effective percentage for the year of 7.5%; however, when the Corporation moved to 6.5% and 6.9% officially the Union had countered with a formula which in effect meant 8.25% which also meant that they were widening the gap rather than narrowing it.

It was suggested that there should be no moves made by the Council pending the outcome of the meeting with the Mediation Commission on Friday and after that result is known then the Council can make further decisions.

His Worship, The Mayor, suggested that the Council should express its deep concern over the strike and advise that the door is open to negotiations at any time and this is about all that should be done at this time.

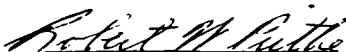
ALDERMAN MERCIER LEFT THE MEETING AT 5:40 P.M. AND ADVISED ON LEAVING THAT HE SUPPORTED THE MAYOR'S STAND.

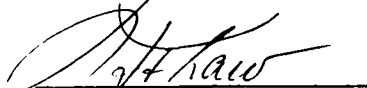
The Manager read a notice which it was intended be inserted in the newspaper as soon as possible expressing the Council's regret at the strike and asking for the public's co-operation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Confirmed:

Certified Correct:


MAYOR


CLERK

JHS/hb