

Monday - May 11th, 1931.

An Adjourned meeting of the Council was held at the Municipal Hall on Monday, May 11th, 1931 at 7.30 p.m.
Present: His Worship Reeve, Fritchard in the chair.
Councillors Martin, Rylett, Lambert, Wheatley, Gray and Wilson.

Moved by Cr. Wilson, Seconded by Cr. Gray: "That leave of absence be granted to Councillor Lench on account of illness."
Carried unanimously.

His Worship the Reeve under Section 26 of the Municipal Act referred back to the Council resolution passed on April 27th ultimo as follows: "That as far as any future monies are concerned, any monies matched by this Corporation be spent on the same basis as that granted by the Government.", advising:

1. The whole powers of the Council are set forth in the Municipal Act and all our actions must take place within the confines of those regulations.
2. No powers have been defined therein to take care of an aggravated unemployment condition.
3. We always have taken care of, and are still taking care of, our poor and destitute.
4. The planning and carrying out of public works must in all cases be so arranged as to be in the interest of the taxpayers.
5. No matter how extensive, within our powers, public works are undertaken, it would at best be only a temporary expedient in providing work for unemployed, with the consequent placing of a burden on the taxpayers that they would not at this time be able to carry.
6. There are only two ways in which this Municipality can raise funds with which to match Government Grants:
 - (a) By making the expenditure a charge on current revenue which would be inconceivable, as up to the present time we would have had to provide some \$130,000.00 from one budget, in short, a 13 mill addition to the current tax rate.
 - (b) By raising finance through bond flotations as capital expenditure on definite necessary Municipal public works.
7. The latter method has for obvious reasons been our practice and must continue so to be, and such public works financed by bond flotations backed by the credit of the Municipality must, in my opinion, be carried out by the officials in such ways as they deem most efficient and economical.
8. If this Municipality's contribution is now to be laid out and dealt with in the same manner as the relief dollar, then the conditions of the unemployment Relief Act must apply. In other words, our roadwork, water-works, sewer works, etc. would henceforth be carried on by Municipal workmen suffering from a wage cut. In this connection, I am tabling for your information copies of communications between myself and Government representatives, in which it will be seen that I had to fight the efforts of the higher authorities to reduce established wages on purely Municipal public works.
9. The extent of Government aid is an unknown quantity, and can only be a matter of negotiation from time to time. The planning of works for submission to the taxpayers, therefore, on such a basis would be impracticable; not to mention the great delay in providing money for carrying out such by-law work.
10. Such a policy as that which it is sought to have adopted, will have the effect of placing all permanent Municipal employees in precisely the same position as industry has placed its employees. The carrying out of Municipal works on this basis would be tantamount to admitting that the unemployment problem was basically a Municipal one, which is exactly the position industrialists have been endeavouring to jockey cities and Municipalities into for the better part of a century.
11. The utmost that can be expected of a Municipality at this time is to aid, within the confines of its powers, as much as possible, alleviation of the unemployment situation, and thus to be in such a position as to take advantage instantly of any grants that may be made by the higher authorities. To this end, we have planned and are still planning public works.

Moved by Cr. Martin, Seconded by Cr. Rylett: "That this matter be tabled for one week"
Carried - Cr. Gray against.

Burnaby Workers Protective Association wrote requesting that a delegation be heard in connection with unemployment relief.
Messrs Head and Ledlin attended and addressed the Council.
No resolution.
Cr. Gray submitted a verbal request to be relieved of his appointment as a member of the unemployment committee.
His Worship the Reeve accepted the withdrawal.

Moved by Cr. Wilson, Seconded by Cr. Lambert: "That this Council do now adjourn."
Carried unanimously.

Confirmed.

Arthur G. Moon

Clerk.

W. A. Fritchard
Reeve