



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, March 27, 2023

**Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance
Council Chamber, City Hall**

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. Ron Au	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu*	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dave Jansen*	Chief Constable, New Westminster Police Department
Ms. Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Gary So	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Mr. Alex Tam*	Senior Financial Analyst
Ms. Jackie Teed	Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Mike Watson	Acting Supervisor of Development Planning
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Eva Yip*The	Acting Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Ms. Carilyn Cook	Acting Assistant City Clerk
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

GUESTS:

Mr. Andrew Rule*	AECON Group Inc.
Mr. Kevin Shipalesky*	The C&E Group
Mr. Keith Threadkell*	Metro Vancouver
Mr. Jason Warren*	Metro Vancouver

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:56 p.m. A land acknowledgement was observed at the start of the Public Hearing.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council accepts all on table items.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. **BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

3.1 **Heritage Revitalization Agreement (802 and 806 Eighth Street and 809 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8379, 2023**

Discussion ensued on:

- Underground parking is not required for smaller projects;
- The Official Community Plan (OCP) does not permit stacked townhouses at this location;
- The development construction plan governs the parking for construction vehicles;
- Parking spaces are not allocated for the accessible units; and,
- There is no designated permit parking at this location.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Heritage Revitalization Agreement (802 and 806 Eighth Street and 809 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8379, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Heritage Designation (802 and 806 Eighth Street and 809 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8380, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Heritage Designation (802 and 806 Eighth Street and 809 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8380, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

4.1 Budget 2023: Draft 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan

Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance led the review of the presentation titled “2023 Draft Budget and 5-year Financial Plan”, dated March 27, 2023, and highlighted:

- The focus of the budget is on maintaining financial health;
- The Five-Year Capital Plan totals \$410.6 million and includes:
 - General Fund of \$222.6 million
 - Utility Fund of \$187.9 million;
- The 2023 Multi-Year Capital Budget totals \$173.2 million;
- The draft 2023 Operating Budget includes estimated revenue of \$301.5 million, comprised of:
 - Municipal taxation (34.9%)
 - Utility Levies (36.7%)
 - Grant and contributions (15.8%)
 - Other Revenues (12.7%);
- The draft 2023 Operating Budget includes:
 - Approximately 20 new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions
 - One-time service enhancement increases of \$1.19 million;
- Proposed funding strategies include property tax revenue increase of 6.4%; and,
- The 2023 utility rate increase total 5.8%.

Discussion ensued on:

- New construction tax revenue is attributed to growth; and,

- Council will deliberate and make recommendations regarding the Growing Communities Fund.

5. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

5.1 Break

The meeting recessed at 8:02 p.m. and reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Procedural Note: The order of the agenda was varied to continue with the discussion of Item 4.1.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION (CONTINUED)

4.1 Budget 2023: Draft 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan (Continued)

Discussion ensued on:

- Changes to WorkSafe BC policies have led to increased claims;
- Development cost charges (DCC) could increase and are dependent upon acceleration of growth;
- Climate Action Reserve Funds have not been allocated;
- The increase in parks and recreation expenses is due to the opening of the t̄m̄ēs̄ēw̄t̄x̄w Aquatic and Community Centre (TACC); and,
- Concern regarding the 6.4% property tax increase, costs at Queen's Park and rebranding costs.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council instruct staff to convert the Draft Consolidated 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan into a Bylaw reflecting a property tax revenue increase of 6.4% for 2023 and a 2023 Capital Budget of \$173.2M and bring forward for three readings.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, an amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council instruct staff to advise them prior to adoption of the first reading of the Draft Consolidated 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan bylaw what the impacts to the proposed tax increase would be if the following financial measures were implemented:

- Establish a \$1 budget for the City’s rebranding process aimed at eliminating the Royal City moniker;
- Eliminate \$15,321,089 in funds earmarked for the installation of advanced “smart” meters;
- Eliminate \$46,337,399 in funding allocated for the District Energy Project in Sapperton;
- Eliminate \$509,897 funding for the Queen’s Park Farm Transition plan which contemplates the installation of public infrastructure which includes items such as mushroom and insect walls;
- Allocate up to \$50,000 to remove “end of life” and non-functional structures from the former Queen’s Park Petting Zoo and replace them with native tree species;
- Allocate up to \$400,000 to enhance the popular Queen’s park children’s play area to include new equipment that will encourage more physical literacy and active living;
- Reduce the Great Streets Program on 6th Street to \$2 million;
- Double the investment on bus shelters to \$100,000;
- Double the investment on bus stop improvements to enhance accessibility to \$160,000;
- Increase the pedestrian crossing improvements budget to \$2 million from \$1.2 million;
- Increase the whistle cessation infrastructure investment budget to \$2.5 million; and,
- Eliminate the \$2 million BridgeNet expenditure.

Defeated.

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, and Nakagawa opposed.

Procedural Note: The question on the main motion, as amended, was called.

THAT Council instruct staff to convert the Draft Consolidated 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan into a Bylaw reflecting a property tax revenue increase of 6.4% for 2023 and a 2023 Capital Budget of \$173.2M and bring forward for three readings.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopts the recommendations for items 6.2, 6.3, 6.5 and 6.7 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.1 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 1031 Quebec Street, New Westminster – Metro Vancouver Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing

The applicants, Kevin Shipalesky of The C&E Group, Andrew Rule of AECON Group Inc., and Keith Threadkell and Jason Warren of Metro Vancouver, noted:

- Noise mitigation measures are in place; and,
- The noise bylaw exemption is unlikely to be utilized and is a cautionary measure.

Discussion ensued on:

- Installation of onsite signage;
- Email notification will be provided to high impact audiences; and,
- Project update newsletters regarding construction and noise mitigation will be distributed.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council grant an exemption to Metro Vancouver contractor Traylor Aecon General Partnership (TAGP) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992, from May 01, 2023 to September 30, 2023, and from January 01, 2024 to February 28, 2024 on weekdays from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to

9:00 p.m., excluding Sundays and Statutory Holidays, to construct the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing (the “Project”).

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.2 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 22nd Street SkyTrain Station - Amending Report

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. starting March 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory Holidays, to modify the 22nd Street SkyTrain infrastructure to prepare for longer trains.

Adopted on Consent.

6.3 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Columbia Street at 8th Street (New Westminster SkyTrain Station)

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. starting May 1, 2023, to October 31, 2023 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory Holidays, to install new maintenance walkways, demolish and restore original walkways and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster SkyTrain station.

Adopted on Consent.

6.4 Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw Amendment for Three Readings – Bylaw 8386, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give three readings to Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 as presented in Attachment #1 of this report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.5 Official Community Plan Amendment and Rezoning: 102/104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street – Bylaws for First and Second Reading

THAT Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 for First Reading;

THAT Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 in conjunction with the City’s Capital Expenditure Program as contained in the Five Year Financial Plan and the Region’s Solid Waste

Management Plan and Liquid Waste Management Plan, and which are deemed to be consistent with said program and plan in accordance with Section 477(3)(a) of the Local Government Act;

THAT Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 for Second Reading and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing; and,

THAT Council consider Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8375, 2023 for First and Second Readings and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing.

Adopted on Consent.

6.6 Rezoning and Special Development Permit (809 - 811 Carnarvon Street and 60 – 70 Eighth Street) – Preliminary Report

Discussion ensued on:

- Potential to consider additional density;
- Other options would be presented to Council; and,
- Concern regarding the pedestrian impact.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to work with the applicant to prepare plan of development for the subject properties suitable for consideration of First and Second Readings;

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with processing the proposed rezoning of the subject properties as outlined in the “Application Review Process” section of this report; and,

THAT no Public Hearing be held for this application in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.7 Minutes for Adoption

- a. February 27, 2023 Special Council Workshop
- b. February 27, 2023 City Council Meeting (3:00 p.m.)
- c. February 27, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- d. March 6, 2023 Special Council Workshop
- e. March 9, 2023 Special City Council Meeting

Adopted on Consent.

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaws for readings

- a. **Official Community Plan Amendment (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8374, 2023**

A public hearing will be held for this bylaw.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Official Community Plan Amendment (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Official Community Plan Amendment (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) No. 8375, 2023

A public hearing will be held for this bylaw.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) No. 8375, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) No. 8375, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

c. Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for Adoption

a. Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Ensuring the Timely Removal and Replacement of Dead and/or Dying Trees on City Property

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS it is a core function of our City to maintain a healthy stock of trees on public property and to have dead trees removed in a timely manner;

WHEREAS a number of sidewalks, boulevards and areas in the public realm have dead or dying trees that have been there for at least one year;

WHEREAS the City is committed to keeping all of our publicly-owned trees healthy and free of disease and/or vandalism; and

WHEREAS the City may be planting a significant number of new trees as part of our capital plan.

BE IT RESOLVED that staff report back regarding the resources required and staffing implications to conduct an audit of how many dead or dying trees are on city sidewalks, boulevards and adjacent to arterials that require replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report incorporate the estimated costs associated with the removal of all dead and/or dying trees on city-owned land and have them replanted prior to the April 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this resolution any tree on city-owned property which must be cut down to a stump will be removed and replanted within a 12-month period.

Discussion ensued on:

- The City owns a stump grinding tool and will expedite the removal of stumps;
- The City has been tracking removal of trees since 2011; and,
- Approximately 400 stumps require removal.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, an amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be amended to remove the first resolution.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the amendment.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, an amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the last resolution be amended to read “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this resolution any tree on city-owned property which must be cut down to a stump will be removed and replanted within a 12-month period where feasible and in accordance with the Tree Planting Master Plan’s equity lens”.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the amendment.

Procedural Note: The question on the main motion, as amended, was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS it is a core function of our City to maintain a healthy stock of trees on public property and to have dead trees removed in a timely manner;

WHEREAS a number of sidewalks, boulevards and areas in the public realm have dead or dying trees that have been there for at least one year;

WHEREAS the City is committed to keeping all of our publicly-owned trees healthy and free of disease and/or vandalism; and

WHEREAS the City may be planting a significant number of new trees as part of our capital plan.

BE IT RESOLVED that the report incorporate the estimated costs associated with the removal of all dead and/or dying trees on city-owned land and have them replanted prior to the April 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this resolution any tree on city-owned property which must be cut down to a stump will be removed and replanted within a 12-month period where feasible and in accordance with the Tree Planting Master Plan's equity lens.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Supporting Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS for low-income youth whose families may not have access to a vehicle and the means to provide transit passes, and youth facing marginalization, transit access is a survival lifeline to access shelter, school, support services, health care, and food security;

WHEREAS the cost of ensuring at-risk youth can access the essential programs and services funded to support youth outcomes in BC is downloaded onto non-profits that often struggle to 'remove the access barrier' of lack of access to transit;

WHEREAS youth-in-need may miss the lifesaving supports available in BC due to mobility poverty and lack of access to transit is an avoidable travesty solved with free transit up to age 18; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is committed to supporting our youth as well as issues which address equity, diversity and inclusivity.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster endorse the Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign, and in doing so, the Mayor write a letter to Mayors' Council on Regional

Transportation, the board of directors of BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Office of the Premier, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth to work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for teens aged 13 to 18 in B.C.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, an amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the resolution be amended to read “THAT the City of New Westminster endorse the Single Mothers’ Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign, and in doing so, the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Minister of Children and Family Development, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth to work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for teens aged 13 to 18 in B.C.”

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the amendment.

Procedural Note: The question on the main motion, as amended, was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS for low-income youth whose families may not have access to a vehicle and the means to provide transit passes, and youth facing marginalization, transit access is a survival lifeline to access shelter, school, support services, health care, and food security;

WHEREAS the cost of ensuring at-risk youth can access the essential programs and services funded to support youth outcomes in BC is downloaded onto non-profits that often struggle to ‘remove the access barrier’ of lack of access to transit;

WHEREAS youth-in-need may miss the lifesaving supports available in BC due to mobility poverty and lack of access to transit is an avoidable travesty solved with free transit up to age 18; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is committed to supporting our youth as well as issues which address equity, diversity and inclusivity.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster endorse the Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign, and in doing so, the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Minister of Children and Family Development, and the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth to work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for teens aged 13 to 18 in B.C.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8.2 Notices of Motion

a. Parks and Recreation Registration Process

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is committed to increasing equity and accessibility in the City's policies and programs;

WHEREAS there is a consistent demand for affordable, high-quality programming recreation programming throughout the City; and

WHEREAS the City's Parks and Recreation current registration process presents a number of challenges to registrants including the time of registration, access to a credit card, access to technology, the reliability of registration software, waitlist management, and others.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore opportunities to improve the equity and accessibility of the Parks and Recreation registration process and report back to Council with options to address the current challenges.

b. Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing the Samson V Museum for Future Generations

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

WHEREAS the Samson V museum is currently shrink wrapped on New Westminster's waterfront and has undergone major repairs over the past several years due to damage incurred as a result of a pesky pigeon problem;

WHEREAS the draft 5-year capital plan calls for significantly more tax dollars be invested in repairing and maintaining this civic museum which will continue to be severely impacted by outdoor weather conditions; and

WHEREAS this important part of our history deserves to be respected, kept in pristine condition and fully accessible to tourists, local citizens and students.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the costs, potential sources of funding and operational impacts associated with temporarily placing the Samson V in dry dock to repair and restore the vessel for public viewing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back on options to find a permanent indoor home for the Samson V adjacent to or on our waterfront as part of a possible pier expansion and/or long-term tourism strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff consult with the Fraser River Discovery Center and other key stakeholders and report back regarding the opportunity and costs associated with undertaking a pilot program that would permit short-term pleasure craft usage at the moorage vacated by the Samson V.

c. Hearing From the Communities Regarding Their Priorities for the new Growing Communities Fund

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has provided the City of New Westminster with almost \$16 million as part of their Growing Communities Fund;

WHEREAS these are not funds that were considered as part of our 2023 operating budget or 5-year capital plan and will need to be invested in the near term on key city priorities; and

WHEREAS Council has an opportunity to engage with our citizens and listen to their feedback regarding what they think our priorities should be for this new investment.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hold a special open meeting at City Hall at the earliest opportunity to obtain feedback from the public regarding what the priorities should be for the Growing Communities Funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff develop an online survey opportunity for the public to provide their feedback regarding what priority areas Council should consider as part of the Growing Communities Funding.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

March 31, 2023 is the International Transgender Day of Visibility. A Trans Rights Rally is being held at Grandview Park in Vancouver, March 31, at 3:30 p.m.

Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas will host a Councillor Café on March 30, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Century House.

Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas will host a Business Café on April 19, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Massey Theatre.

Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas will host a Town Hall Forum at Queensborough Community Centre on April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

11. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 10:13 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER