



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

*A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.*

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

**Meeting held electronically and in Council Chamber  
City Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Acting Mayor Jaimie McEvoy  
Councillor Ruby Campbell  
Councillor Daniel Fontaine  
Councillor Tasha Henderson

Councillor Paul Minhas  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

**ABSENT:**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Acting Corporate Officer
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation, Engineering Services
Mr. Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts & Theatre
Ms. Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Richard Fong	Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Economic Development
Ms. Corrinne Garrett	Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs, Parks & Recreation
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Ms. Tobi May	Senior Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, Engineering
Mr. Rob McCullough	Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Mr. Shehzad Somji	Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Alex Tam	Senior Financial Analyst
Ms. Jackie Teed	Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Serena Trachta	Manager, Inspections, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer, Legislative Services

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

*Acting Mayor McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m.*

Acting Mayor McEvoy recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

## 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

## 3. **BUDGET 2024: COUNCIL WORKSHOP (PART FIVE)**

### 3.1 **Budget 2024: Refined 2024 - 2028 General Fund Capital Plan and Funding Strategy**

Staff presented on the updated 2024-2028 capital budget, the funding strategy, expected risks and potential risk mitigation options and next steps.

**Procedural Note:** A motion was made to accept on table agenda items.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive all On Table material as presented.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff noted that although the Active Transportation Network Plan is intended for both pedestrians and cyclists, the upcoming focus of funding is to enhance the cycling network, completing 1-2 routes with an approximate length of 2-3 kilometers. The Active Transportation Plan was approved by Council in fall of 2022 and presented a five-year city-wide active transportation network estimated at \$36M;
- The City is receiving approximately \$1.5M in interest payments from the Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF), the funds will be put into the capital plan for deployment therein;
- In consideration of the price of turf for playing fields, staff advised the price was established before the pandemic and the project has been delayed for several years but is now inserted into the capital projects budget for 2024-2028; and
- The Queen's Park Petting Zoo was also presented to Council before the pandemic and was envisioned to be completed in two phases. With the second phase now coming up, additional funding is required.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to adjust the City's 2024-2028 Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan to incorporate up to \$500K for the installation of a new street light system at the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue and that the source of funding be the Growing Communities Fund Reserve;

**THAT** the balance of \$2.95M remaining in the Growing Communities Fund Reserve be allocated to support new investments in recreation related amenities; and

**THAT** these new recreational amenities be prioritized in neighbourhoods that have historically lacked equitable access to sports and recreational facilities.

**Procedural Note:** The motion was divided into three parts and Council proceeded to vote on the first part.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to adjust the City's 2024-2028 Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan to incorporate up to \$500K for the installation of a new street light system at the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue and that the source of funding be the Growing Communities Fund Reserve.

**Defeated**

Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment to the second motion was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the motion be amended to remove specific dollar amounts and replace with “funds”.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the balance of funds remaining in the Growing Communities Fund Reserve be allocated to support new investments in recreation related amenities;

**Carried**

Councillor Nakagawa opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** these new recreational amenities be prioritized in neighbourhoods that have historically lacked equitable access to sports and recreational facilities.

**Procedural Note:** A friendly amendment to the third motion was proposed with no vote required.

**THAT** the motion be amended to remove “historically”.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** these new recreational amenities be prioritized in neighbourhoods that lack equitable access to sports and recreational facilities.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** item 250 Project Description be amended to “Scope/Outcome: Design and implementation of active transportation infrastructure per ATNP recommendations with an emphasis on pedestrian safety to be a top priority”.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

*Acting Mayor McEvoy declared a recess at 5:05 p.m.*

*Acting Mayor McEvoy called the meeting back to order at 9:14 p.m.*

Discussion continued on:

- Council questioned how many of these projects would have proceeded without funding from CARF. In response Staff advised the majority of the items relate back to the previously adopted Community Energy And Emissions Plan, Building Policy, green fleet, E-Mobility Strategy, and green infrastructure network and that the work would have proceeded regardless of approval of funding through the CARF; and
- Further clarification that there is authorization to use CARF to fund temporary jobs and capital projects, and similarly, authorization to use the Climate Action Levy to fund ongoing operating costs.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** line 111 regarding Queen’s Park Petting Zoo be removed from the budget.

**Defeated.**

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the \$15.4M capital expenditure budget carry over from 2023 into the 2024 – 2028 General Fund Capital Plan.

**THAT** Council approve the \$5.2M proposed refinements in the updated Capital Plan.

**THAT** Council instruct staff to incorporate the updated \$208.7M 2024 – 2028 General Fund Capital Plan into the City’s 2024 – 2028 Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw and bring the bylaw forward for three readings; and

**THAT** Council receive the information about the Second Street and Sixth Avenue intersection contained in this report and provide direction to staff.

**Procedural Note:** The motion was divided into four parts.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the \$15.4M capital expenditure budget carry over from 2023 into the 2024 – 2028 General Fund Capital Plan.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the \$5.2M proposed refinements in the updated Capital Plan.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council instruct staff to incorporate the updated \$208.7M 2024 – 2028 General Fund Capital Plan into the City’s 2024 – 2028 Consolidated Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw and bring the bylaw forward for three readings; and

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the information about the Second Street and Sixth Avenue intersection contained in this report and provide direction to staff.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**4. END OF THE MEETING**

*Acting Mayor McEvoy terminated the meeting at 9:35 p.m.*

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Dennis Back

CORPORATE OFFICER