



Regular Council

**Monday, October 6, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Second Floor
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue**

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

Corporate Officer – Hanieh Berg

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered 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. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

Discussion took place on the need to discuss an urgent matter related to Public Post Services and a proposed motion for Council's consideration was distributed on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1). As a result of the discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT "Public Post Services" be added to the agenda as Item 8.1 under "New Business."

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Henderson
Minhas

Discussion then took place on another urgent matter related to the relocation of a loading zone on Sixth Street and as a result, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT “Relocation of Loading Zone on Sixth Street” be added to the agenda as Item 8.2 under “New Business.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Campbell
Henderson
Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the October 6, 2025 Regular Council meeting be approved, as amended to include Items 8.1 and 8.2 under “New Business.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllr. Fontaine

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Delegations

Jack York, Chair, New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society, spoke to Homelessness Action Week 2025, noting that the event aims to raise public awareness and reduce stigma surrounding the unhoused community. J. York outlined key factors contributing to homelessness and commented on the growing challenges of the housing crisis and toxic drug supply. J. York then advised that a newly formed Advocacy Network has been formed, which seeks to engage residents in homelessness advocacy efforts, and spoke to an event on October 18, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. called Voices in Action.

Mayor Johnstone then proclaimed October 11-18, 2025 as “Homelessness Action Week” in the City of New Westminster.

Cathy Sostad, President, New West Film Society, provided an overview of the upcoming New West International Film Fest, taking place October 24 to 26, 2025, at Landmark Cinemas in the Shops at New West. C. Sostad noted that the festival will feature eight screenings showcasing both local and international films, including an opening short film created by students from Purpose Independent Secondary School and the opening night feature, *The Painted Life of E.J. Hughes*.

Ronnie Bahia spoke against the proposed rain garden at London Street and Nineteenth Street, citing concerns with safety and accessibility. R. Bahia was of the opinion that the street is not suitable for a rain garden as it is narrow and the potential addition of bike lanes, and loss of parking further create challenges for residents. R. Bahia then commented on discussions with staff and urged Council to consider relocating the proposed rain garden to a street that can better accommodate a rain garden.

Discussion ensued and staff was directed to liaise with R. Bahia on the potential for a designated on-street parking for people with disabilities.

Liz Fajber, representing the Strata of 612 Sixth Street, spoke against the relocation of the existing loading zone on Sixth Street immediately adjacent to 612 Sixth Street. It was noted that many residents are elderly or have mobility challenges and therefore, the additional distance to access the loading zone poses significant safety concerns. L. Fajber also remarked that residents were not given adequate notice of the proposed changes and raised concern regarding the permanent placement of a bus stop in front of the building. L. Fajber urged Council to pause forthcoming work on the relocation of the loading zone and explore alternative locations for the bus stop.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Delegations be permitted past 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Nav Sharma, representing Movement: Metro Vancouver Transit Riders, joined the meeting by videoconference and spoke in favour of the proposed expanded bus stop with shelter on Sixth Street. N. Sharma emphasized the importance of accessible bus stops that do not impede pedestrian flow, noting that the new design will accommodate larger buses to reduce overcrowding and improve ridership. N. Sharma also highlighted the safety and accessibility benefits of shelters, including protection from the elements and seating.

Jennifer Thompson spoke regarding Item 5.1 – 2025 Council Remuneration Policy Review, noting that members of Council should be better compensated and low compensation for elected officials may limit the range of potential candidates.

The meeting recessed at 7:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m. with all members of Council present.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Sustainable Housing for Seniors Experiencing Homelessness

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter of support for sustainable funding for the SHINE program to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs.

CARRIED

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Items No. 5.1 through No. 5.11 be adopted by general consent, with the removal of Items No. 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7.

CARRIED

5.1 2025 Council Remuneration Policy Review

See Page 6 for action on this matter.

5.2 Active Transportation Network Plan Year 2: London Street and Eighth/Ninth/Tenth Street Routes

See Page 8 for action on this matter.

5.3 Fenton Streetscape Project – Sole Sourcing of Eagle Valley Excavating

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT a competitive purchasing exemption sole source in the amount of \$551,932.62 to Eagle Valley Excavating Inc., as presented in the staff report titled “Fenton Street Streetscape Project – Sole Sourcing of Eagle Valley Excavating” dated October 6, 2025 from the Director, Engineering and Deputy CAO and Director, Finance, be approved.

CARRIED

5.4 Licence of Occupation of a Portion of Brunette Avenue with BC Transportation and Financing Authority for Construction and Use of a Pedestrian Bridge Connection to Sapperton Station

THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer, on behalf of the City of New Westminster, be authorized to execute the Licence of Occupation Agreement for a portion of Brunette Avenue for the construction and use of a pedestrian bridge connection structure between the City of New Westminster and the BC Transportation Financing Authority as provided in Attachment 1 to the report titled “Licence of Occupation of a Portion of Brunette Avenue with BC Transportation Financing Authority for Construction and Use of a Pedestrian Bridge Connection to Sapperton Station” from the Director, Engineering and Deputy CAO, dated October 6, 2025 .

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5.5 Metro Vancouver Liquid Waste Management Plan – Follow-Up from March 17, 2025 Open Workshop

See Page 9 for action on this matter.

5.6 Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program

See Page 10 for action on this matter.

5.7 Response to Council Motion on Community Grants Program

See Page 10 for action on this matter.

5.8 Temporary Licence Agreement with MRSL (New Westminster) Nominee Ltd. for Construction of Dike Shoreline Rehabilitation at 350 Gifford Street

THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Temporary Licence Agreement for the construction of dike shoreline rehabilitation at 350 Gifford Street between the City of New Westminster and MRSL (New Westminster) Nominee Ltd. as provided in Attachment 1 to the staff report titled “Temporary Licence Agreement with MRSL (New Westminster) Nominee Ltd. for Construction of Dike Shoreline Rehabilitation at 350 Gifford Street” from the Director, Engineering and Deputy CAO, dated October 6, 2025.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5.9 Proclamation: World Food Day, October 16, 2025

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5.10 Proclamation: KidSport Powered by Sport BC Week, October 5-11, 2025

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5.11 Proclamation: Homelessness Action Week, October 11-18, 2025

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 2025 Council Remuneration Policy Review

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Council remuneration continue to reflect the CPI-based annual adjustment;*
2. *THAT the Transportation allowance for the Mayor and Councillors be indexed to the cost of a monthly transit pass from TransLink; and*
3. *THAT Human Resources report back with a draft accessibility policy that allows members of Council to request an additional transportation allowance based on individual need related to their accessibility needs.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and it was noted that given the City's geographic size, a one-zone transit pass would meet a member of Council's need to navigate the city for official business.

Discussion continued and the following referral motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the staff report titled "2025 Council Remuneration Policy Review" be referred back to staff with direction to revise the 2025 Council Remuneration Policy to reflect the following changes:*
 - a. *Freeze remuneration rates for Mayor and Councillors for the remainder of this 2022-2026 Council term;*
 - b. *Maintain the Acting Mayor stipend at the existing rate of \$1,000 per month, rather than increasing it to \$2,000;*
 - c. *Maintain the transportation allowances for the Mayor and Councillors at current levels and replace the flat-rate allowance with a receipt-based reimbursement system for verified transportation expenses incurred while performing official duties;*
 - d. *Direct staff to reform the Transition (Severance) Allowance to a pay-continuance model that ceases once a former elected official obtains new full-time employment;*
 - e. *Require that any future Council Remuneration Policy reviews include a public engagement process and a detailed affordability impact analysis relative to cumulative property -tax increases; and*
2. *THAT staff report back to Council within 90 days with the revised policy language and estimated taxpayer savings; and*
3. *THAT staff report back with a draft accessibility policy that allows Councillors to request an additional transportation allowance based on individual need related to their accessibility needs.*

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The question on the referral was not called as discussion took place on the importance of ensuring Council remuneration does not preclude interested individuals from seeking office and replacement of the current Transition (Severance) Allowance model with a Pay Continuance model.

The question on the referral motion was then called and it was **DEFEATED** with Mayor Johnstone, Cllrs. Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, and Nakagawa opposed.

The question on the motion was not called as the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Part 2 of the motion be amended by deleting “be indexed to the cost of a monthly” and replacing it with “incorporate a one-month.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Campbell
McEvoy
Nakagawa

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as a further amendment was introduced:

THAT the following be added as Parts 4, 5, and 6 to the main motion, as amended:

- “4. Direct staff to reform the Transition (Severance) Allowance to a pay-continuance model that ceases once a former elected official obtains new full-time employment;*
- 5. Require that any future Council Remuneration Policy reviews include a public engagement process and a detailed affordability impact analysis relative to cumulative property-tax increases; and*
- 6. Report back to Council within 90 days with the revised policy language and estimated taxpayer savings.”*

DEFEATED

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone
Cllrs. Campbell
Henderson
McEvoy
Nakagawa

The question on the main motion, as amended, to read as follows:

- “1. THAT Council remuneration continue to reflect the CPI-based annual adjustment;*
- 2. THAT the Transportation allowance for the Mayor and Councillors incorporate a one-month transit pass from TransLink; and*
- 3. THAT Human Resources report back with a draft accessibility policy that allows members of Council to request an additional transportation allowance based on individual need related to their accessibility needs.”*

was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

5.2 Active Transportation Network Plan Year 2: London Street and Eighth/Ninth/Tenth Street Routes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT:

1. *Council not endorse the staff recommendation to proceed with the London Street Active Transportation project as outlined in the October 6, 2025 report;*
2. *Council direct staff to halt design and tender work related to the London Street corridor until a future term of Council reviews the broader Active Transportation Network Plan priorities;*
3. *Council reallocate the London Street project’s capital funding—estimated at approximately \$2 million in City contribution (after TransLink cost-share)—to alternative pedestrian and transit access improvements, including but not limited to:*
 - a. *Construction or rehabilitation of sidewalks in neighbourhoods lacking safe pedestrian infrastructure;*
 - b. *Installation of improved transit shelters and seating at high-use bus stops across the city; and*
 - c. *Targeted safety improvements such as crosswalk upgrades, curb ramps, and lighting enhancements in pedestrian-heavy areas.*
4. *Staff be directed to report back to Council within 90 days with a proposed reallocation plan and timeline, ensuring any revised projects remain eligible for TransLink cost-share funding where possible.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and in reply to queries from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director, Engineering and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, accompanied by Mike Anderson, Manager, Transportation, provided the following information:

- London Street is part of the broader city-wide Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP) and changes proposed are in the context of the entire Plan rather than the street in isolation;
- London Street is an existing bikeway, and the ATNP aims to enhance the network by improving current routes and adding connections where gaps exist;
- the bikeway improvements along London Street are part of the ATNP Year 2 Project list as approved by Council to be implemented over five years; and
- London Street is narrow and the installation of a bike lane will act as a traffic-calming measure and enhance safety.

The meeting recessed at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 p.m. with all members of Council present.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **DEFEATED** with Mayor Johnstone, Cllrs. Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, and Nakagawa opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the Engagement Summary for Active Transportation Network Plan Year 2: London Street, included as Attachment 1 and Eighth/Ninth/Tenth Street Routes (Attachment 2) from August 2025 be received for information; and*
2. *THAT Next Steps, as outlined in the report titled “Active Transportation Network Plan Year 2: London Street and Eighth/Ninth/Tenth Street Routes,” dated October 6, 2025 from the Director, Engineering, be approved.*

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

5.5 Metro Vancouver Liquid Waste Management Plan – Follow-Up from March 17, 2025 Open Workshop

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Council decline to endorse the Metro Vancouver Liquid Waste Management Plan (LWMP) at this time; and*
2. *THAT Council reaffirms its position that endorsement will not be considered until Metro Vancouver provides a truly independent and unbiased audit that evaluates the necessity, environmental justification, and cost transparency of each proposed LWMP action item; and*
3. *THAT Council formally request that Metro Vancouver commit to making the full results of any audit or third-party review publicly available in their entirety before seeking municipal endorsements of the LWMP; and*
4. *THAT Council direct the Mayor to write to the Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs advising that the City of New Westminster cannot responsibly support the LWMP submission until such an independent audit and full disclosure are complete; and*
5. *THAT Council urge the Province of BC to require an independent audit and full cost-benefit justification of all future Metro Vancouver wastewater projects with a value greater than one billion dollars before approving the LWMP as a binding regulation.*

CARRIED

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone
Cllrs. Campbell
Nakagawa

5.6 Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the City of New Westminster not opt in to the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program, as outlined in the report titled “Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program”, dated October 6, 2025 from the Director, Engineering Services and Deputy CAO.*
2. *THAT the City of New Westminster send a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Transit, advocating that the Province of BC end the pilot project and bring in Province-wide regulations for e-scooters with a focus on community and rider safety;*
3. *THAT the City of New Westminster submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities via the Lower Mainland Local Government Association echoing the call for Province-wide regulations; and*
4. *THAT City staff work with the New Westminster Police Department and School District 40 to develop a public education campaign about e-scooters, their use, and community safety.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued on the need for broader support from the Province for public education on the safe and legal operation of electric kick scooters.

As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Part 4 of the motion be amended by inserting “and enforcement” after the word “education.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone
Cllrs. Campbell
Nakagawa

The question on the main motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

5.7 Response to Council Motion on Community Grants Program

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the recommendation to approve a 50% increase to the 2026 Community Grants budget be referred back to staff pending completion of a comprehensive Grants Benchmarking & Impact Review;*
2. *THAT the Review include, at minimum:*
 - a. *A per-capita benchmarking analysis against Metro Vancouver municipalities (3- to 5-year trend, cash + in-kind/City Services if applicable);*
 - b. *A needs and demand analysis (applications received vs. funded; unfunded eligible demand; inflation-adjusted cost pressures by portfolio);*

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- c. *A proposed Outcomes & Evaluation Framework (clear outputs/outcomes, reporting tiers, and annual public results);*
- d. *Options to cap administrative overhead (staffing/software/comms) as a share of the total grants envelope;*
3. *THAT Staff report back within 90 days with the Review and a recommendation, in time for Council to set the 2026 grants envelope without prejudging a 50% increase; and*
4. *THAT for the 2026 grants intake timelines, staff prepare a contingency plan so adjudication can proceed after Council sets the final envelope, avoiding a second intake while maintaining certainty for applicants.*

DEFEATED

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone
Cllrs. Campbell
Henderson
McEvoy
Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT \$1,467,675 be approved to be allocated as the total budget for the 2026 City of New Westminster Community Grant program, in order to confirm the total funding envelope in time for grant application adjudication and awarding which will take place in fall 2025.*
2. *THAT staff be directed to include an additional \$489,225 for Community Grants funding in the 2026 budget, bringing the total Community Grants budget to \$1,467,675, to be funded from property tax revenue.*

The question on the motion was not called as, in response to queries from Council, Blair Fryer, Director, Community Services, advised that staff will report back with further information regarding grant cycle funding.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Regular Council meeting be extended to 11:00 p.m.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas
Nakagawa

7. MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

7.1 Community Policing Office in Queensborough

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City of New Westminster provide feedback heard from Queensborough Residents Association to the New Westminster Police Board and requests that the New Westminster Police Board consider and work with the City to plan a satellite station and/or explore how to address community safety needs in Queensborough.

The question on the motion was not called as the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as Part 2 to the main motion:

“2. THAT staff report back regarding the circumstances which led to the closure of the satellite policing office in Queensborough.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllr. Henderson

The question on the main motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllr. Henderson opposed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Public Post Services

This item was not considered and will be forwarded to the next Regular Council meeting.

8.2 Relocation of Loading Zone on Sixth Street

This item was not considered and will be forwarded to the next Regular Council meeting.

9. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn (10:30 p.m.).

CARRIED

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Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Council of the City of New Westminster held on October 6, 2025.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER

Public Post Service

Submitted by Councillor McEvoy

WHEREAS the Federal Government, in the midst of a labour dispute, has announced drastic cuts to our treasured public post office – eliminating good jobs, ending door-to-door delivery, removing the moratorium protection on post office closures, and changes to delivery standards for the mail; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has done this without meaningful public consultation and has made this decision unilaterally prior to a planned Canada Post Corporation Review from October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, effectively eliminating any opportunity for input from the people who will be most affected; and

WHEREAS New Westminster and all local governments rely on affordable and reliable public post services to connect important information to their community, and our ability to communicate would be significantly harmed and local property taxpayers unfairly burdened if these drastic cuts to the nation's public postal service are implemented; and

WHEREAS it is crucial for the Government to hear the views from municipalities on key issues, including maintaining Canada Post as a public service, the importance of maintaining the moratorium on post office closures, improving the *Canadian Postal Service Charter*, keeping daily home mail and parcel delivery to the door, and opportunities and challenges related to modernizing the public postal service such as postal banking, greening Canada Post, adding EV charging stations, adding food delivery, improving delivery to rural, remote and Indigenous communities, and developing services to assist people with disabilities to help older Canadians to remain in their homes for as long as possible – and at the same time, helping to ensure that good jobs stay in their communities and that Canada Post can remain financially self-sustaining;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorize the Mayor to write the Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Joël Lightbound, and Member of Parliament Jake Sawatzky requesting that the federal government:

- immediately halt planned service cuts, and to look instead for ways to increase services and revenues in other areas, such as those as noted above;
- suspend any mandate review until Canada Post returns to stabilized operations, and;
- that any review of Canada Post and the *Canadian Postal Service Charter* must be done through a full and thorough transparent public review, including public hearings, with all key stakeholders, in every region of Canada;