



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

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*

POLICE BOARD:

Ms. Heather Boersma
Mr. Drew Hart
Ms. Shirley Heafey
Mr. Patrick Lalonde

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Nicole Ludwig	Acting City Clerk
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance

NWPD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Dave Jansen	Chief Constable
Mr. Paul Hyland	Deputy Chief Constable
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Finance
Mr. Trevor Dudar	Inspector, Patrol Division
Ms. Aman Gosal	Inspector, Prevention Services Division
Mr. Andrew Perry	Inspector, Administration Division
Mr. Eamonn Ward	Support Services Division

*Denotes electronic attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. and 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.

Council members, Police Board members, and staff introduced themselves.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

3.1 New Westminster Police Department and Police Board Onboarding Presentation

Dave Jansen, Chief Constable, New Westminster Police Department (NWPD), provided an introduction of the NWPD, relevant legislation, the Police Board, and civilian oversight mechanism.

In response to questions from Council members, Chief Jansen provided the following information:

- The duties of police have changed over the years;
- The Mayor, as chair of the Police Board, usually provides oversight and information to Council on Police Board matters, however, with more meetings between Council and the Board, more explanation of the Police Budget can occur; and,
- Deputy Chief Hyland is participating in work at the provincial level to support more social and wrap-around services.

In discussion, Council and Police Board members noted the following:

- There are extraordinary demands on police officers who are often called into situations they are not trained for;
- The current process of dialogue between Council and the Board is good;
- Too many responsibilities have been downloaded from the Province onto cities and police; and
- The City and Board can team up to advocate for mental health supports.

3.2 New Westminster Police Department Budget 101 (On Table)

Paul Hyland, Deputy Chief Constable, NWPD reviewed the process of establishing the police budget.

In discussion, Council and Police Board members noted that, although some crime has a reason, saying that social issues lead to an increase in crime is an oversimplification.

In response to questions from Council members, Chief Jansen, Deputy Chief Hyland, and Inspector Andrew Perry, Prevention Services & Administration Division, NWPD, provided the following information:

- More data and analysis is needed, and the Police Department will be asking for outside assistance for this;
- Looking at what other communities are doing can be useful in understanding trends, but the budget is asking for what New Westminster needs;
- The Board will move forward with additional joint meetings between itself and Council; and,
- Explained the requirements for the budget under the Police Act.

3.3 NWPD 2023 Operational Budget Report

Chief Jansen Deputy Chief Hyland, and Jacqueline Dairon, Finance, NWPD, provided a presentation on the proposed 2023 operating budget for the department, including an overview of discretionary costs. Along with Chief Jansen, Ms. Spitale, and Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, they provided the following information in response to questions:

- There have been cost increases from both E-Comm and the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC), as well as for integrated teams and custodial services;
- In 2023, NWPD will assume responsibility for non-emergency calls weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
- Money from fines collected on behalf of the province is returned to municipalities;
- There may be a point where it makes financial sense to bring custodial services in-house, but that point is yet to be determined;
- Non-discretionary costs are about 29% of the budget increase request;

- Consider looking at more specialized funding requests to help make the budget more understandable;
- Based on required levels of service, the budget presented is the most efficient that can be provided for 2023;
- The Police Board must approve a budget by November 30; the budget is provisional until February 28, and becomes final the next day;
- The City needs to stay competitive in terms of wages and benefits, particularly due to moves by bigger municipalities which are currently recruiting more officers; and,
- While the City Budget and the NWPD budget are legislatively siloed, staff, Council and Board members should continue to engage in order to advance discussion and solutions to issues affecting the community.

4. NEW BUSINESS

None.

5. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 4:34 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Jacque Killawee

CITY CLERK