



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Monday, November 28, 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

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk
Ms. Emilie Adin	Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Jorge Cardenas	Chief Librarian
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Eva Yip	Acting Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dave Jansen	Chief Constable
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Mr. John Stark	Supervisor of Community Services
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Fire Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Nicole Ludwig	Assistant City Clerk

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

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:00 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.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council add the following items as New Business to the agenda:

7.1 Recruitment 2023: Appointment to the New Westminster Library Board

7.2 Release of Motion regarding School Capacity and Child Care Options

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

If Council decides, all the recommendations in the reports on the Consent Agenda can be approved in one motion, without discussion. If Council wishes to discuss a report, that report is removed from the Consent Agenda. A report may be removed in order to discuss it, because someone wants to vote against the report's recommendation, or because someone has a conflict of interest with the report. Any reports not removed from the Consent Agenda are passed without discussion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for items 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7 and 3.8, on consent.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **3.1 2023 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw**

To request Council give three readings to the 2023 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment bylaw which is required under Section 177 of the Community Charter to authorize temporary borrowing.

**THAT** the attached Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8370, 2022 be given three readings.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### **3.2 Appointment of Chair to the Accessibility Advisory Committee**

To seek Council approval for an appointment to a City Advisory Committee.

**THAT** Council appoint Councillor Jaimie McEvoy as Chair to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a term ending January 31, 2024.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### **3.3 Community Grant Program: 2022 Highlights and 2023 Program Adjustments**

To inform Council about the 2022 grant program and seek Council's approval to adjust the grant policy for 2023, to reduce the number of annual intakes from three (3) to two (2).

In response to a question from Council, Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, advised the full grant amounts provided to each organization is reported to Council and published in the City's open data portal in spring of each year.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive a summary of the 2022 Program Highlights for information, contained in the November 28, 2022, report titled "Community Grant Program: 2022 Highlights and 2023 Program Adjustments"; and,

**THAT** Council approve staff's recommended adjustments to the grant policy for 2023 to reduce the number of intakes to two from three as outlined in in the November 28, 2022, report titled "Community Grant Program: 2022 Highlights and 2023 Program Adjustments".

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **3.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Front Street from Tenth Street to McBride Boulevard - Metro Vancouver Sewer Inspection**

To request that Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw to Metro Vancouver for a sewer inspection on Front Street from Tenth Street to McBride Boulevard commencing November 29, 2022 to December 2, 2022.

**THAT** Council grant an exemption to the Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Metro Vancouver to conduct a sewer inspection on Front Street from Tenth Street to McBride Boulevard commencing November 29, 2022 to December 2, 2022.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### 3.5 Proposed 2023 Schedule of Council Meetings

To request Council approval of the 2023 Schedule of Council Meetings.

**THAT** Council approve the 2023 Schedule of Council Meetings as set out in Attachment 1 of the November 28, 2022, report titled "Proposed 2023 Schedule of Council Meetings".

**Adopted on Consent.**

### 3.6 Q3 2022 Capital and Operating Performance Report

An information report on the 2022 Quarter 3 (Q3) capital and operating budgets and to seek Council's approval of the proposed 2022 Quarter 3 Capital Budget Adjustments & Revised 2022 Multi-Year Capital Budget: (1) Adjust for net budget increases of \$0.8M; and (2) Approve the proposed revised 2022 Multi-Year Capital Budget of \$191.9M and no change to the 2022-2026 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw as the \$0.8M will be accommodated by re-allocating funding within the current five year Capital Plan.

In response to questions from Council, Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Utility, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services, and Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, provided the following information:

- Budget adjustments associated with the t̄m̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre (tACC) have already been done;
- When the Utility Commission was ready to implement advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), the direction to staff was to select a meter that would last 20 to 25 years;
- AMI was delayed to after the BC Hydro implementation due to an expectation that the cost for smart meters would decrease;
- Worksafe premiums and emergency operations are among the most concerning areas for budgetary risks and pressures;
- There are a variety of rail crossing projects slated for upgrades;
- The costs related to the Q to Q Ferry relate to accessibility and stability upgrades to the docks; and,
- The Queens Park Petting Zoo master plan is intended for community engagement and for what a repurposed farm might be.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT** Council receive the November 28, 2022, report titled "Q3 2022 Capital and Operating Performance Report" for information; and

**THAT** Council approve the 2022 Quarter 3 capital budget adjustments as outlined in Table 1-1 of the November 28, 2022, report titled "Q3 2022 Capital and Operating Performance Report".

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**3.7 Proclamation: Orange Days: Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls, November 25 - December 10, 2022**

This matter was dealt with under section 4 of this agenda.

**3.8 Minutes for Adoption**

- a. **September 26, 2022 City Council Meeting (9:00 a.m.)**
- b. **September 26, 2022 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**
- c. **October 3, 2022 City Council Meeting**
- d. **October 21, 2022 Special City Council Meeting**
- e. **November 7, 2022 Inaugural Council Meeting**

**Adopted on Consent.**

**4. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL – 7:00 PM**

**Gail Mullan**, Grandmothers' Advocacy Network, thanked Council for lighting City Hall in orange for the UN Orange the World campaign which starts on November 25 and ends on December 10. She explained the campaign is 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence, that gender-based violence increased substantially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and that several other regional municipalities join New Westminster in supporting the campaign.

Council members thanked Ms. Mullan for speaking and noted that gender-based violence is an issue that needs talking about.

Mayor Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed November 25 to December 10, 2022, as Orange Days: Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls in the City of New Westminster.

**Christopher Bell**, New Westminster, thanked staff for their hard work on providing detailed information on the capital budget. He encouraged council to establish a standing committee on finance, to have members of the public be some of the members of the committee, and to allow public input at the committee.

In response to questions and comments from Council members, Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, and Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, provided information on moving to a multiyear capital budget and the types of public engagement that take place when building the budget.

**Rick Folka**, New Westminster, congratulated the new Council and indicated he hopes they will take all sides into consideration. He suggested that Council should seek out answers and be an active part of the process when deciding on the budget.

**Carmen Dunn**, resident, spoke of no longer feeling safe raising her family in New Westminster due to multiple house and car break-ins, open drug use, and leftover drug paraphernalia on the streets. She indicated she has contacted the City several times asking for support, and that it feels like current City policy is mostly focused on the most vulnerable. She made three suggestions: start a feces hotline for residents to report instances of excrement in public spaces, work with other municipalities to ensure they are doing the same as New Westminster to support vulnerable people, and hire an organization to clean up sidewalks.

In response to concerns raised by Ms. Dunn, Council members noted:

- Request for staff, via the Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development to reach out to Ms. Dunn;
- These issues should be dealt with quickly;
- Staff are working on plans to deal with these issues which will be made public shortly;
- The most vulnerable people need compassion, but so do people considered less vulnerable; and,
- Other residents have expressed the same sentiments to Council.

**Saadique Daya**, Westley's Military Surplus, indicated that when he took over the business, he was rejected for a business license because of building issues. He has worked to respond to these issues, and received a license, however the continuation of the license is contingent on him removing the plywood murals at the location. He noted the previous owner put up the murals to protect the windows, and that due to zoning he is not able to install roll-down shutters. He requested the City consider his request to remove the condition from his license and have a conversation with him about it.

Council members noted that:

- There seems to be a divide between East Front Street and West Front Street, with the latter receiving a lot of investment and attention and the former not as much;
- The murals are quite nice and add to the community; and
- This situation is an example of additional issues faced by small business.

In response to questions from Council, Emilie Adin, Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development, advised that staff will meet with the speaker and they

are currently working on a bulletin that will help some businesses install shutters, and promote cross-departmental work to mitigate these situations.

**Brennan Williams**, owner, Sugar Ray's Boxing, advised that his business has been on East Front Street for six years and the conditions have been deteriorating substantially. He advised that the “temporary” staircases have been taken apart and used as weapons, businesses have made numerous requests for garbage receptacles, and the remaining businesses are all considering relocating. He noted that two things that helped the situation were the New Westminster Police Department having a presence in the area and the I's on the Street program helping to clean up the streets. He talked about the east-west divide on Front Street. He also encouraged staff to communicate directly with businesses rather than solely through the BIA.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- It is time to look for creative solutions to address the speaker's concerns;
- The banners on East Front Street are not up to City standards;
- Business owners' voices need to be heard and action needs to be taken in the short term;
- Consider public art to attract people to the area; and,
- Consider a model similar to the Chinatown Stewards Project which includes employment assistance and helping people experiencing homelessness move their belongings if needed.

In response to questions from Council, Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, and John Stark, Supervisor of Community Planning, provided the following information:

- There is grant money to expand the I's on the Street program, possibly to the East Front Street area; and,
- To organize community events, the City's Manager of Special Projects and Community Partnerships should be contacted for assistance.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT** Council refer this matter to staff for a report back on options to support businesses on East Front Street, regarding the concerns raised by speakers at the November 28, 2022, Regular Council meeting.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised staff would follow up and provide some information at the December 12, 2022, Council meeting, and that the work staff is doing now on this matter will continue. She also advised of that there will

be an engagement session for business owners on December 5, 2022, at the Anvil Centre.

**James Plett**, New Westminster, spoke of the crisis around daycare spaces, and advised that parents were not consulted by the School Board before the decision to move two day cares away from the downtown area. He noted that while the spaces are being moved, the spaces are quite far from where the users of the day care spaces lives and make it difficult to deliver their children there, particularly if they have to use transit.

In response, Mayor Johnstone read the motion noted in the memo related to item 7.2 as an assurance that the City is aware of the situation. In general discussion, Council members noted that the Minister of Education and Child Care is also a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the City, and that generally more day care spaces are needed, particularly in downtown where there is much higher density.

At 7:30 p.m. it was

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

**THAT** Council extend the time to hear all registered speakers.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Jaison Joy**, New Westminster, expressed concerns about the rebranding of the City, noting that companies can spend a lot of money on rebranding and it often fails. He also expressed concerns about the construction of the bike lane at Eighth Avenue and Sixth Street, in particular, the fact that there is limited road space and cars seem to be getting bigger. Finally, he asked whether the \$100 rebate from BC Hydro would be given to New Westminster Electrical Utility customers.

In response, Council members noted:

- The same rebate given to BC Hydro customers will be given to Electrical Utility customers;
- The motion to phase out “the Royal City” included public engagement; and,
- Staff will be reporting back on public engagement regarding “The Royal City” at a later date.

At 8:13 p.m. Councillor Fontaine rose on a point of order to note that the original motion required staff to start changing the “Royal City” branding. Mayor Johnstone advised that the final decision regarding rebranding will be made by the current Council when staff report back.

**Alicia Spanier**, business owner, advised she owns the Beach House Tanning Salon on Sixth Street, and since the bike lane was put in, her daily client intake has gone from 50 to 60 people per day to one to 10 people per day. She noted that all the businesses along her block are struggling, and advised that had she known it was going in, she would not have renewed her lease. She advised that there was a lack of consultation with businesses on installing the bike lane and suggested moving the lane to another street that has more space and is not as congested or busy.

In response to questions from Council members, Jennifer Miller, Manager of Public Engagement, and Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services, noted:

- There are records of engagement including days businesses were approached and dedicated workshops for business owners;
- The following engagement and notification processes for businesses were included:
  - Two business walkabouts were conducted in October 2021 and February 2022, where project representatives went door-to-door to connect with business operators and drop off further information;
  - Two separate notification letters were sent by mail to local addresses, including businesses in addition to the above-noted in-person visits;
- Staff always asked to speak to the manager or owner if available when conducting an in-person visit;
- Other engagement opportunities included pop-up engagement opportunities, and a page and survey on the BeHeard website;
- 17 parking spots were reallocated to the bike lane and the onsite parking remains available; and,
- The lane is temporary and some work had to be done to accommodate bus stops.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- This may be a task for the Reconciliation, Social Inclusion, and Engagement Task Force;
- Referring this matter to a task force will not assist business owners in the area who deserve City support;
- The Uptown Business Association originally wanted the bike lane on Fifth Street;
- Concerns that multiple businesses indicate they were not consulted on this matter; and,

- Better communication from the City is needed when dealing with small businesses.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to reach out to business owners on Sixth Street to ascertain if they have been impacted from the installation of the bike lane, and include suggestions on ways impacts on businesses can be mitigated.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

In discussion, staff advised that if Council expects a report back on December 12, 2022, it would have to be distributed On Table at the meeting to allow some time for outreach.

**Chris Dumfries**, New Westminster, spoke in opposition to the phasing out of “The Royal City” branding, noting that it should not move ahead so quickly if at all, and that people need to know what will replace it. He suggested there are better uses of time and money than rebranding.

## 5. **BYLAWS**

### 5.1 **Bylaws for readings**

#### a. **Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8370, 2022**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8370, 2022, be given First Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8370, 2022, be given Second Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8370, 2022, be given Third Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## 6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In response to a question from Council, Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, clarified the process for Council members to submit motions on notice, noting the process is being revised from the previous Council term.

### 6.1 Notice of Motion

The motions in this section will be introduced at this meeting. The motions will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council agenda for discussion and decision.

#### a. Halting the Phase-out of the Royal City Moniker

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** there has been widespread concern from New Westminister citizens and business-owners regarding Council's decision to phase-out the Royal City moniker; and

**WHEREAS** unlike any other city in Province of BC, the City of New Westminister has the unique distinction and opportunity to market itself as the "Royal City" and;

**WHEREAS** many citizens and local business owners have openly stated they believe there was not adequate consultation with Indigenous people, residents and business owners prior to the previous Council's decision to phase-out the Royal City moniker; and

**WHEREAS** the City has limited resources and tax and utility rates have been going up over the last four years at a rate much higher than inflation; and

**WHEREAS** the final cost related to phasing out the Royal City moniker and rebranding has yet to be determined but is estimated to be significant; and

**WHEREAS** there is a shortage of staff at the city and our human resource capacity should be focused on the delivery of essential programs and services

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of New Westminister halt the phasing out of the 'Royal City' moniker in our branding; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** no future change to the branding shall be undertaken without due notice and proper consultation with our residents, businesses and Indigenous people.

**b. Elimination of Train Whistle Noise and Supporting Increased Liveability**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** an important role for any city government is to ensure the livability of its residents; and

**WHEREAS** citizens who live in high density living are helping to reduce the city's carbon footprint and as such are helping to tackle climate change; and

**WHEREAS** train whistle noise has severely impacted the quality of life for residents in both Sapperton and Queensborough; and

**WHEREAS** the former Railway Community Advisory Panel was disbanded notwithstanding the fact it was credited with helping to advance the elimination of train whistle noise; and

**WHEREAS** a significant number of residents in the affected neighbourhoods indicated during the recent civic election they do not believe enough has been done to eliminate train whistle noise; and

**WHEREAS** the current Mayor and Council have the ability to strongly advocate to senior orders of government to assist with infrastructure costs and policy changes related to upgrading train crossings; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council re-establish the Railway Community Advisory Panel and that staff report back to Council on the updated terms of reference by no later than January 31, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of New Westminster establishes a target of eliminating all unnecessary train whistles which are negatively impacting the quality of life for thousands of Sapperton and Queensborough residents by no later than 2026; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that City Council draft a letter to the Federal Minister of Transportation advising that we wish to accelerate negotiations with the Federal Government to get their

support and assistance with whistle cessation in our neighbourhoods; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff be required to provide quarterly updates to City Council and the public regarding progress made to eliminate unnecessary train whistles; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff ensure the website containing critical information regarding whistle cessation is updated with the latest information; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff report back on the capital costs related to the infrastructure upgrade to the Sapperton and Queensborough train crossings and if we are eligible to apply for provincial or federal infrastructure funding to lower the tax burden on city ratepayers.

**c. Reducing Crime and Increasing Public Safety in New Westminster**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** reports of increased crime and public disorder are of concern to New Westminster residents and business owners; and

**WHEREAS** City Council can play an important role in helping to reduce the level of crime on our streets; and

**WHEREAS** the previous City Council initially voted 4-3 to ask the NW Police Board to freeze its budget and modify its request for a \$1.7M increase in funding in 2021; and

**WHEREAS** City Council eventually voted in favour of an increase in the NW Police Department 2021 budget by a vote of 5-2; and

**WHEREAS** the New West Police Department plays a critical role in reducing crime and improving public safety in our city; and

**WHEREAS** it is important for New Westminster to reduce crime and public disorder to support our commercial districts; and

**WHEREAS** the residents of New Westminster raised many concerns in the recent civic election that not enough attention was being focused on the issue of crime and safety in our city;

**WHEREAS** it is important to engage with our local citizens and residents and obtain their feedback in the development of new strategies to combat crime including random acts of violence; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** a new Crime Reduction and Public Safety Advisory Committee be created and that staff report back to Council on the terms of reference for the Task Force by no later than January 31, 2023.

**d. Creation of a New Finance and City Services Standing Committee**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** it is important that we increase the level of openness, transparency, and accountability regarding the City's finances; and

**WHEREAS** we are facing a major infrastructure deficit and increased spending pressures; and

**WHEREAS** several other Metro Vancouver cities have established committees to provide better oversight and accountability on city spending and services; and

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has consistently increased property taxes and utility rates well above the rate of inflation over the last four years; and

**WHEREAS** increased population growth in the City of New Westminster has served to increase our overall revenue; and

**WHEREAS** the establishment of a new Finance and City Services Standing Committee would help increase the public's confidence that their tax dollars, user fees, fines and other payments to the City are being spent effectively;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council recommend to the Mayor he establish a new Finance and City Services Standing Committee and that staff report back to Council on the terms of reference by no later than January 31, 2023.

**e. Creation of a New Amateur Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** New Westminster has a proud tradition of producing top athletes and successful amateur sport teams; and

**WHEREAS** the city has grown at a very rapid rate the last decade and our sports and recreation infrastructure has not been keeping pace; and

**WHEREAS** there are not enough swimming pools, ice rinks, pickle ball courts, artificial turf fields and other sports infrastructure to meet the growing demand in the City of New Westminster; and

**WHEREAS** it is important for any city to invest in sports and recreation infrastructure if they are going to make high density living more liveable; and

**WHEREAS** the opportunity exists for the City to work more closely with our amateur sport and recreation associations to determine their current and future needs; and

**WHEREAS** sports tourism can play an important role in helping to generate economic activity within our city; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** a new Amateur Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee be created and that staff report back to Council on the terms of reference by no later than January 31, 2023.

f. **Advocacy to the BC Government to Increase Housing and Wrap-Around Supports for People Living with Mental Illness**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** it has been documented that there is a severe lack of provincial health supports in the Metro Vancouver region for individuals living with a mental illness; and

**WHEREAS** there is a connection between mental illness, substance use disorder and homelessness and this is evident on the streets of New Westminster and other Metro Vancouver cities; and

**WHEREAS** many of the people experiencing homelessness in the Metro Vancouver region, including New Westminster, are living with untreated mental illnesses due to a lack of access to care; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of British Columbia recently indicated it was able to allocate up to \$1 billion toward the development of a new Royal BC museum, a plan they have since abandoned; and,

**WHEREAS** homelessness, a lack of mental health diagnosis and treatment, and deaths due to toxic drug supply are at a crisis stage; and,

**WHEREAS** the Province of BC closed Riverview Mental Health facility in Coquitlam but the equivalent financial supports were not transferred into community-based mental health care; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has limited jurisdiction and funding to support people living with mental illness who are unhoused; and,

**WHEREAS** it is important that Council advocate to Members of the Legislative Assembly for increased mental health and housing supports for people forced to live on our streets.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council request the Mayor write to Premier David Eby and request that funding be set aside and prioritized in the 2023 Provincial Budget to begin the planning, development and construction of large-scale, community-based, modern mental health residential care facilities in the Metro Vancouver area; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff create a motion with a similar intent that can be sent to the LMLGA and UBCM for consideration

**g. Supporting Better Governance, Decision-making and Public Engagement at City Hall**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas submitted the following as a Notice of Motion. The motion will be placed on the December 12, 2022, Council meeting agenda for discussion and decision.

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster should do everything possible to seek input from the public regarding matters before Council; and

**WHEREAS** the current practice of releasing the Council agenda and supporting materials on the Friday before the Monday meeting does not allow for adequate public notice and feedback; and

**WHEREAS** it is best practice in good governance that as much time be provided to decision-makers to review materials and ask questions of staff prior to casting a vote; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City Clerk make the agenda and supporting documents available to members of Council no less than five business days prior to the meeting;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Council direct staff to bring forward changes to the Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004 to reflect the new council package distribution

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Recruitment 2023: Appointment to the New Westminster Library Board**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the November 28, 2022, report titled “Recruitment 2023: Appointment to the New Westminster Library Board” for information.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

At the Closed Council meeting on November 28, 2022, New Westminster City Council approved the following:

**THAT** Council appoint Elaine Su to the New Westminster Library Board for a term ending December 31, 2023; and,

**FURTHER THAT** the appointment be released to the public.

### **7.2 Release of Motion regarding School Capacity and Child Care Options**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the November 28, 2022, memo titled “Release of Motion from Closed Meeting” for information.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

At the Closed Council meeting on November 28, 2022, New Westminster City Council approved public release of the following motion:

**THAT** Council direct staff to send a letter from Mayor and Council to the School Board, replying to its letter dated November 7, 2022 conveying the following:

1. The value of Neighbourhood Learning Centre spaces, including purpose-built child cares;
2. The funding and timeline constraints which limit opportunities to identify an alternate location for the child care(s) in and on the periphery of the Downtown;
3. An offer to continue to support the School District in meeting short and long-term school capacity needs, through the Joint School Planning Working Group; and
4. The desire to work together in advocating to the Provincial government on these matters.

**AND THAT** staff provide Council with a detailed report of the school capacity and child care needs in the community at the December 12, 2022, Regular Council meeting.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

None.

**9. END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8:56 p.m.

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Jacque Killawee

CITY CLERK