



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Monday, January 9, 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

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk
Mr. Rod Carle*	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Fire Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Carilyn Cook	Acting Assistant City Clerk

\*Denotes electronic attendance.

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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**

None.

**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, and 3.7 on consent.

**Carried.**

All member present voted in favour of the motion.

**3.1 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 660 Quayside Drive (Bosa Development) – Construction Activity**

To request that Council grant a noise exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw to permit Bosa Development to deliver crane sections on Saturday, February 25, 2023 prior to morning traffic.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council grant a noise exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Bosa Development for construction activity occurring on Saturday February 25, 2023 between 7 AM to 9 AM.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### **3.2 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: New Westminster Interceptor – Columbia Sewer Rehabilitation**

To request that Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw for Metro Vancouver’s contractor, ORCC, to conduct sanitary vault entry on Columbia Street for sewer rehabilitation two nights per week between Monday to Thursday from January 09, 2023 to May 19, 2023, excluding Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and Statutory Holidays.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council grant an exemption to Oscar Renda Contracting of Canada (ORCC) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for two weekday nights between Monday to Thursday from January 09, 2023 to May 19, 2023, excluding Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights and Statutory Holidays, to conduct sanitary vault entry for sewer rehabilitation along the 800 Block to 100 Block of Columbia Street.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### **3.3 Council Appointments to Residents Associations (Circulated Separately)**

To seek Council approval for the appointment of Council members to Resident Associations.

In response to a question from Council, Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, advised that Councillors are assigned to residents associations outside of where they reside in order to give them maximum exposure in different parts of the City as it is assumed that they are already familiar and well known in their own neighbourhood and that Councillors do not retain residents association from a previous term.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- That Councillor Henderson would like to be moved to represent Glenbrooke North and Councillor McEvoy to represent the Downtown for logistical reasons;
- The current logic used when assigning Councillors to residents associations does not apply to Members of Parliament (MP) nor to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA); and,
- This may merit further discussion at the upcoming strategic planning sessions.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council appoint the Councillors as follows to the City's Residents Associations:

Connaught Heights	Councillor Fontaine
West End	Councillor Minhas
Moody Park	Councillor Nakagawa
Glenbrooke North	Councillor Henderson
Massey Victory Heights	Councillor Fontaine
Brow of the Hill	Councillor Campbell
Queens Park	Councillor Henderson
Victoria Hill Ginger Drive	Councillor Minhas
Sapperton	Councillor McEvoy
Quayside Community Board	Councillor Campbell
Downtown	Councillor McEvoy
Queensborough	Councillor Nakagawa

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural note:** At this point in the meeting, Mayor Johnstone read the Proclamation for the Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia (item 3.6), and Mr. Imtiaz Popat addressed Council. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

### **3.4 Funding Submission to the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Emergency Support Services**

Staff are seeking support to submit a grant application to the Province of British Columbia under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services requesting up to \$20,000. Staff are seeking official authorization from Council to enter into a contract with the Provincial Government for the proposed project and a willingness to provide overall grant support.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the funding submission to the Provincial Community Emergency Preparedness Fund - Emergency Support Services for up to \$20,000 to upgrade and implement a digital reporting and registration; and

**THAT** the Chief Administrative Officer and the Fire Chief be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the Province of British Columbia.

**Adopted on Consent.**

**3.5 Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023 for First and Second Readings**

For Council to consider a heritage designation bylaw that would provide full legal heritage protection to 109 Third Avenue, a property in Queen's Park, including specific building features that contribute to its heritage value.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council consider Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023 for First and Second Readings, and forward the Bylaw to a Public Hearing.

**THAT** Council add 109 Third Avenue to the City's Heritage Register following the adoption of Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023.

**Adopted on Consent.**

**3.6 Proclamation - Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia, January 29, 2023**

Mayor Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed January 29, 2023 as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia in the City of New Westminster.

**Imtiaz Popat**, Coalition Against Bigotry-Pacific, noted that many cities have proclaimed January 29, 2023 as a day of remembrance and action and that it is important that New Westminster is doing so as well. He advised of the importance of the day given the rise in Islamophobia and recounted the deadly attack on the family in London, Ontario. He shared that London, Ontario is not very different than New Westminster and that this type of occurrence can happen anywhere.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Popat advised that there is no major mosque in the City; however, there is a small Islamic centre just off Twelfth Street that is fundraising to build a mosque. He shared that as a lot of people from the Afghan and Somali communities have settled in the Burnaby/New Westminster area, it is important to send the message that this is an issue in the City and that the City will address Islamophobia.

### **3.7 Minutes for Adoption**

- a. **November 16, 2022 Special City Council Meeting**
- b. **November 23, 2022 Special City Council Meeting**
- c. **November 28, 2022 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)**
- d. **November 28, 2022 Council Workshop**
- e. **November 28, 2022 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**

**Adopted on Consent.**

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

**Brin R**, Sapperton resident, shared his concerns about the crossings located at Braid Street, Spruce Street, and Cumberland Street, noting that train whistle noise disturbs the sleep of many people in the surrounding area. He advised that many residents believe that it would be beneficial to re-instate the Railway Community Advisory Committee and invite former Councillor Chuck Puchmayr to participate.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Council sees whistle cessation as a priority and attended a rail-crossing walking tour with the Director of Engineering to be updated on the issue and the challenges posed;
- The political work has been completed on this project and what remains are the technical aspects ; and,
- It is hoped that by the end of this Council's term these issues will be dealt with.

**Karima Budhwani**, resident, urged Council to repurpose the Centennial Community Centre (CCC) rather than demolish it. She noted repurposing the CCC would help address a number of issues including the climate crisis and providing space for additional programming. Ms. Budhwani requested that studies be

shared with the community to ensure that consideration was given to repurposing the building.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Budhwani advised of the challenges that she has encountered trying to enroll her children into swim programs resulting in them having to go elsewhere. She noted that registering for gymnastics programs is equally challenging as they fill up within 15 minutes of registration opening and that even the waitlists for programs fill up. She advised that this issue is faced by all ages, including seniors, and reiterated that repurposing the CCC would ease these challenges.

**Elliot Rossiter**, resident, offered qualified support to delay the demolition of the Centennial Community Centre noting that the burden of not getting into activities falls largely on lower income earners. With respect to Item 6.1.c on the agenda Mr. Rossiter offered his qualified opposition on the matter, noting that he agreed with appealing to higher levels of government to support some of the pressing issues the City is facing and that focus should be given to those hit hardest by inflation including renters and those that may have to make the difficult decision to pay for either food, rent, or transportation, or those that are unable to access housing at all. He advised that his objection to the motion is the distinction of what a core service is and that it is, ultimately, an ethical question and outside the scope of the motion.

**Rick Folka**, New West Progressives, shared a handout with Council members which compared the rates of New Westminster Utility Commission and BC Hydro. He asked why the City's utility rates are higher than those of Burnaby, who get their power from BC Hydro. He reviewed the handout with Council. Mr. Folka requested that Council consider the impact of property taxes, utility rates, etc., on vulnerable citizens during the strategic planning session and the impact that the debt burden will have on our children and grandchildren.

Discussion ensued it was noted that money could not be borrowed for a substation it had to be funded by monies raised by the city, and that the 3.5 percent Climate Action Levy is included in his calculation of tier one results of residents paying up to 27.5 percent more in utility rates.

In response to questions from Council, Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Operations, shared information regarding how the City has moved forward with utility rates over time, noting that for approximately 15-20 years the City charged the same as BC Hydro; however, in 2008, when BC Hydro introduced the two-step rate, New Westminster's Electrical Utility Commission and Council determined that

the City continue with a flat rate for electrical utility charges as that would most benefit the City overall.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the analyses are technical and that staff will do a review of the 27.5 percent that Mr. Folka brought and report back to Council.

**Brennan Williams**, Downtown business owner and resident, shared that in the last three months he has met with all of Council and numerous city staff to tour east Front Street. He requested that bollards be placed on the curb separating the two Front Street lanes to stop drivers from jumping the curb. Mr. Williams advised of the danger that this practice poses to everyone along the street.

Councillor McEvoy shared of the danger that this issue poses to the unsheltered population who may be trying to access services in the area along the truck route and voiced his agreement that this is a safety issue that needs to be addressed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** staff report back to Council with an outline of mitigation measures to address vehicles jumping the curb between the two sides of Front Street.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Larry Church**, resident, noted his concern regarding the bicycle lanes on Sixth Street and shared two examples of instances when ambulances had difficulty getting through the area due to traffic congestion. He advised that most students either walk or take transit. Mr. Church noted that the City's Master Transportation Plan promotes walking as a top priority; however, the bicycle lane is dominating this section of Sixth Street.

In response to questions from Council, Erin Williams, Acting Fire Chief, and Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering, provided the following information:

- New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services is consulted on these types of projects;
- There is ample room on Sixth Street for fire vehicles and there have been no complaints from staff about this area;
- The design guidelines take into account emergency response and, therefore, the lane widths are sufficient to accommodate first responders; and,



- The Engineering Department is pleased to receive comments about this through the various channels on the city website.

## 5. **BYLAWS**

### 5.1 **Bylaws for readings**

#### a. **Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023**

A bylaw to designate 109 Third Avenue as protected heritage property. This bylaw is on the agenda for **TWO READINGS**.

A public hearing will be held for this bylaw.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023, be given First Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Heritage Designation (109 Third Avenue) Bylaw No. 8381, 2023, be given Second Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## 6. **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

### 6.1 **Motions for Discussion and Decision**

#### a. **Reducing the cost and time related to the development of new housing in New Westminster**

**Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas**

Councillor Fontaine introduced the motion, which is loosely modelled after programs to offer pre-approved housing plans, which may save time and money for developers, the City, and the end-user, and could be applied to all forms of housing. He advised that this type of streamlining of the building process would be beneficial in light of

ongoing staff shortages, and that the creation of a housing design bank, which could include approximately 15 designs that have already been built and added with the permission of the architects, could also provide people with the opportunity to view designs that have already been constructed. He suggested initiatives to incentivize getting designs submitted to the bank such as refunds on permitting fees.

In discussion, Council noted the following:

- The City is already exceeding the market for detached homes and it is hard to compare New Westminster to other cities given the City's unique topography, and lot sizes;
- Any change to a design would have to come back to the City for approval;
- The deadline of 2023 is too steep given staff workloads and if adopted, Council would have to determine which other work would need to be less prioritized;
- Due diligence must be done first with respect to the City's particular challenges around land development and ensure that this would meet a need in the community;
- This should be referred to the Affordable Housing and Child Care Task Force for further discussion in the context of other housing issues with a report back to Council; and,
- It is unclear when the Task Force would report back to Council and implementation of a deadline would sideline other projects such as other housing, or secured market rentals. It would, however, be discussed in the work plan which would come back to Council.

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster is regularly looking at ways to reduce building costs and speed up the permitting process; and,

**WHEREAS** there is a demonstrated interest on the part of our city to reduce red tape as it pertains to new housing development; and,

**WHEREAS** introducing 'pre-approved' housing designs has worked well for laneway housing developments for other cities; and,

**WHEREAS** it is anticipated there would be a desired interest on the part of home builders to use a 'pre-approved' housing design; and,

**WHEREAS** the development of 'pre-approved' housing designs would help to create more affordable housing; and,

**WHEREAS** 'pre-approved' housing offers the opportunity for the City of New Westminster to reduce costs and increase capacity for future housing developments; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster can be a leader when it comes to the development of 'pre-approved' housing designs in our region

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council refer this item to the Affordable Housing and Child Care Task Force.

**Carried.**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**b. Delaying the demolition of the Centennial Community Centre and beginning to address our city-wide infrastructure deficit**

**Submitted by Councillor Minhas and Councillor Fontaine**

Councilor Minhas introduced the motion advising that the City is facing an infrastructure deficit resulting in seniors and others having limited access to City services and programs. To address this issue and the rapid population growth of the City, there is a need to delay the demolition of or a repurposing the Centennial Community Centre. He also noted the impact it would have on the environment if the building were to be demolished and replaced with parking spaces.

In response to questions from Council, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation and Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering, provided the following information:

- There is an inherent pinch point between the old and new facilities that would affect the delivery of goods and would not be an issue with the removal of the old building. Further assessment would be required if the Centennial Community Centre were to remain;

- Staff are working to mitigate the challenges faced by the very popular gymnastics and swim programs;
- The gymnasium space in the new facility is an increase of 5,000 square feet;
- The current contract includes the demolition of the Centennial Community Centre which will not commence for a number of months;
- Removal of the Centennial Community Centre will free up the space for a number of things including access into the site from Sixth Avenue for vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians;
- Completion of the t̄m̄ēsēw̄tx<sup>w</sup> Aquatic and Community Centre will satisfy the majority of the indoor recreation space needs identified in the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan is due for an update and will identify the needs and demands of the community for the next several decades; and
- Staff will confirm and report back via email to Council that the Centennial Community Centre will not be closed before programming starts at the t̄m̄ēsēw̄tx<sup>w</sup> Aquatic and Community Centre and how deliveries can be made to the new Centre if the Centennial Community Centre remains.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Rationale behind the replacement and demolition of the Centennial Community Centre was discussed when Council previously toured the new facility, including that the facility is at its end of life, has hazardous materials, and the astronomical cost to rehabilitate it;
- The on-site infrastructure space will be doubled with the completion of the t̄m̄ēsēw̄tx<sup>w</sup> Aquatic and Community Centre;
- With respect to converting the space to passive greenspace, it is next to Queen’s Park so there is not a lack of greenspace in that area;
- The City has a large infrastructure deficit and is lacking many indoor spaces such as gyms, and meeting rooms and while the Centennial Community Centre is near the end of life, a

delay is being requested so as to not prematurely loss this asset;

- The City must be more innovative and creative in providing space until funds are received to build more facilities throughout the city; and,
- The community is excited and looking forward to the opening of the təməsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre so it would be beneficial for staff to come back with an update on the new centre.

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster is facing an 'infrastructure deficit' which can result in families, seniors and other residents having limited access to programs and services; and,

**WHEREAS** the Centennial Community Centre is used for numerous city programs and provides invaluable access to indoor recreation and meeting spaces; and,

**WHEREAS** even with the opening of the new təməsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre our city continues to be challenged with an overall infrastructure deficit due to rapid population growth and a lack of net new capacity in sport and recreation infrastructure development in the last two decades; and,

**WHEREAS** prematurely tearing down an older building and sending it to the landfill and recycle Centre is impactful to our environment; and,

**WHEREAS** the Centennial Community Centre is scheduled to be torn down and replaced by surface parking; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has not yet begun the process of physical demolition at the Centennial Community Centre; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has full control over the amount of parking spaces required at any given site

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** that the demolition of the Centennial Community Centre be temporarily delayed and the building continue to operate in its current form until an equivalent capacity for new recreational facilities and meeting space can be identified and/or constructed in our city; and

**THAT** that staff report back to Council on the financial implications on the city's operating budget related to delaying the Centennial Community Centre demolition

**Defeated.**

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

- c. **Quantifying the downloading of costs from senior orders of government as it pertains to the City of New Westminster 2023 operating budget**

**Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas**

Councillor Fontaine introduced the motion by acknowledging that the City is facing a very challenging budget process this year and that we need to begin quantifying how much the downloading of costs will financially impact residents if they are added to taxes. He questioned what incentive there is for other sectors of government to provide funding if New Westminster continues to pay for them.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that this work would take time and suggested that it not be tied directly to the 2023 budget process noting that it will be an important document used for future reference by Council.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- “Core Services” needs to be defined and there is some subjectivity around this;
- The itemized list of expenditures should also include the revenue received from grants;
- The 2021 City of Vancouver report could be used as a template;
- Higher levels of government download social responsibilities onto cities;

- There is no constitutionality to municipal governments in Canada which means that there is no service for which there are legal requirements for a city to deliver;
- The definition of core services may vary, depending on who you are speaking with and may it be political; and,
- A conversation between staff and Council needs to take place before a meaningful dataset can be provided.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment to the motion was introduced.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the motion be amended to state:

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that staff report back to Council with an itemized list of expenditures and senior government revenues the City of New Westminster has incorporated into the draft Operating and Capital Budgets which are typically considered outside of municipal jurisdiction.”

**Carried.**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**Procedural Note:** A motion was moved to remove “and are not part of our “core services”” from the original motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the clause “and are not part of our “core services”” be removed from the original motion.

**Defeated.**

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Fontaine, Henderson, McEvoy, and Minhas opposed.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the amended motion was called and the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the word “draft” be struck from the amended motion.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

**WHEREAS** it has been identified the City of New Westminster is facing unprecedented downloading from senior orders of government and it has taken on the financial burden of operating a number of programs and services as well as investing in capital infrastructure that would normally be funded by the provincial and federal governments; and,

**WHEREAS** cities collect approximately only 10 cents of every tax dollar with the federal and provincial governments collecting the balance; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster relies heavily on business and residential property taxes to fund our operations and has limited capacity to raise additional funds; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster is facing serious inflationary pressures as it pertains to the development of its own 2023 operating and capital budgets; and,

**WHEREAS** properly identifying and tracking downloaded costs will help in our advocacy to senior orders of government to obtain new funding sources.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** staff report back to Council with an itemized list of expenditures and senior government revenues the City of New Westminster has incorporated into the draft Operating and Capital Budgets which are typically considered outside the municipal jurisdiction and are not part of our “core services.”

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**d. Supporting the need for a 'Snow Summit' in Metro Vancouver to review the impacts of recent climatic event**

**Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas**

Councillor Fontaine introduced the motion, reminding Council of the impacts of the last snow event. He advised that during this time, many people missed critical appointments and First Responders struggled to keep on top of calls. He thanked City staff who kept the roads as passable as they could. He stated that there is a need to determine



what happened in the region during this event and why it happened. Therefore he and Councillor Linda Annis of the City of Surrey have called for a snow summit; however, neither the Ministry of Transportation nor Metro Vancouver have responded to this request, which is why this motion is here tonight.

**WHEREAS** the Metro Vancouver region faced unprecedented gridlock after a snowstorm on Tuesday, November 29th, 2022; and,

**WHEREAS** the snowstorm triggered gridlock on most of the provincial highways, onramps and off ramps as well as most of the major bridges and tunnels including the Port Mann, Alex Fraser, Queensborough and George Massey Tunnel; and,

**WHEREAS** this traffic gridlock may have been preventable; and,

**WHEREAS** the snowstorm and traffic gridlock which ensued resulted in significant impacts to the lives of hundreds of thousands of Metro Vancouver commuters and businesses; and,

**WHEREAS** other cities in G7 nations have learned to better cope with snow as it pertains to traffic movement; and,

**WHEREAS** it is important after any major event similar to the Nov 29th snowstorm that it be analyzed and reviewed at a regional and provincial level; and,

**WHEREAS** we live in an active seismic zone and must do everything possible to prepare for large-scale emergencies that could render our bridges and tunnels unfit for use for a period of weeks or months; and,

**WHEREAS** it is incumbent upon our elected leaders to ensure the public receives a full report regarding our collective preparation and response to the November 29th storm

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** that Council request Mayor Johnstone, as our representative on Metro Vancouver, introduce a motion requesting a 'Snow Summit' be held as soon as possible to review and analyze the circumstances which led to a record level of traffic gridlock in our region on Tuesday, November 29th; and,

**THAT** Anvil Centre be offered as a possible venue for this summit which should include, at a minimum, representatives from the Ministry of Transportation, Metro Vancouver, BC Ambulance, TransLink, ICBC, Mainland Contracting and senior officials from the various municipalities in our region that can speak on behalf of our first responders including fire and police.

**Defeated.**

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

**Procedural note:** At this time, Item 4: Opportunity for the Public to Speak to Council was addressed. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

## **6.2 Notices of Motion**

### **a. Mitigating traffic and transportation issues and improving pedestrian safety on Ewen Avenue in Queensborough**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas and Councillor Fontaine

Whereas it has been reported that citizens are concerned changes to the Ewen Avenue and Howes Street intersection are no longer providing for a free flow of non rush-hour traffic; and

Whereas there is a significant traffic and pedestrian issue identified at Ewen Avenue and Wood Street by the local community; and

Whereas it is important to encourage people to get out of their vehicles and support them safely using alternate modes of transportation that have less impact on the environment; and

Whereas vehicles that have to unnecessarily wait at a 'no turn on red light' after rush hour are unnecessarily burning fossil fuels; and

Whereas the City is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and achieving our goals as they pertain to climate change; and

Whereas the City is committed to listening to local community concerns when it comes to traffic and transportation issues

**BE IT RESOLVED** that staff provide a memo to Council regarding the opportunity to modify the current "no right turn on red" policy at Ewen Avenue and Howes Street so it only applies during peak rush hour traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the Queensborough Transportation Plan, staff seek feedback from local residents and business regarding their interest in the installation of a new pedestrian-activated crossing at the corner of Wood Street and Ewen Avenue

**b. Increasing year-round usage of city park spaces through the installation of additional all-weather tracks as part of the capital plan**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas and Councillor Fontaine

Whereas the citizens of Queensborough have indicated they believe they are underserved by the City of New Westminster when it comes to sports and recreation facilities; and

Whereas Queensborough is in a flood plain and a significant portion of the land is water saturated in the winter period thus rendering public spaces like Ryall Park as unusable due to the poor soil conditions; and

Whereas a significant number of seniors and elders living in the Queensborough community have indicated that the introduction of a well-lit, all-weather track at Ryall Park would help to increase year-round physical activity and community building; and

Whereas the City of New Westminster is eligible to apply for matching grants to offset costs related to major infrastructure projects; and

Whereas the Queensborough neighbourhood is home to a casino which provides significant funds to our City's annual operating budget

BE IT RESOLVED that staff prioritize the sourcing of funds required to install an increased number of all-weather fields in New Westminster over the next five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of the 2023 Budget process staff identify the funds necessary to undertake a planning and community consultation process to determine the feasibility of prioritizing an all-weather field at Ryall Park in Queensborough.

**c. Requesting an update from local MLAs regarding a 2020 election commitment to provide a free bus service to Queensborough students**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Whereas Richmond-Queensborough MLA Aman Singh issued a press release in 2020 announcing that a re-elected NDP government would provide free, dedicated TransLink buses to take Queensborough students to and from New Westminister Secondary School (NWSS); and

Whereas a significant number of residents in Queensborough have expressed concerns over the impact to the quality of life for students who face lengthy commutes to and from the NWSS; and

Whereas the City of New Westminister continues to approve new developments in the Queensborough neighbourhood which places further pressure on an already burdened transit system; and

Whereas the current estimated surplus of the Provincial Government in this fiscal year is estimated at \$5.7 billion; and

Whereas the parents of NWSS students are concerned this campaign commitment will not be fulfilled prior to the 2024 provincial election

BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Patrick Johnstone write to MLAs Aman Singh and Jennifer Whiteside to request a meeting be established with Councillors Tasha Henderson, Nadine Nakagawa and Daniel Fontaine (School Board Liaisons) regarding the status of the provincial government's 2020 campaign commitment to the parents and students of Queensborough for a free bus service to New West Secondary School

**d. Halting the City's rebranding exercise as previously approved by Council in July 2022**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Whereas the City of New Westminister is facing many challenges in attracting and retaining staff;

Whereas utilizing limited staff resources on an unnecessary rebranding exercise is not an efficient use of staff time; and

Whereas the City of New Westminster is facing significant budgetary challenges that could result in significant property and business tax increases this year; and

Whereas corporate rebranding exercises can be extremely costly and have the potential of returning little net benefit to taxpayers

**BE IT RESOLVED** that staff reduce the potential burden to residential and commercial taxpayers by ceasing work on any corporate-wide rebranding projects through to December 31st, 2024

e. **Clarifying Matters Related to Notice of Motion in the Council Procedure Bylaw**

**WHEREAS** Section 124 (1) of the *Community Charter* states that “A council must, by bylaw, establish the general procedures to be followed by council and council committees in conducting their business.”; and

**WHEREAS** Section 124 (2) of the *Community Charter* – under subsection (a) – states that a council must, by bylaw, “establish rules of procedure for council meetings, including the manner by which resolutions may be passed and the manner by which bylaws may be adopted in accordance with Division 3 [*Bylaw Procedures*] of this Part.”; and

**WHEREAS** The City of New Westminster has a Procedure Bylaw (i.e., COUNCIL PROCEDURE BYLAW NO. 6910, 2004) which was duly enacted in accordance with the requirements of the *Community Charter*; and

**WHEREAS** Section 21 of the Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, under the heading “Notices of motion”, states that “*Any member has the right to give notice to Council of a motion which that member intends to make at the next meeting of the Council. The City Clerk shall make note of the motion and place it on the next agenda. The City Clerk may request that the member provide the motion that is subject of the notice in writing.*”; and

**WHEREAS** It is evident that the practice of the previous City Council, with respect to Member Motions, was for motions to appear on the Agenda for any given Council meeting which would then be routinely Moved and Seconded at the meeting, discussed/debated by Council, and then voted on at the same Council meeting. This practice would appear, on the surface, to be consistent with the wording and plain meaning of section 21 of the Council Procedure Bylaw despite the somewhat ambiguous wording of section 21 of the Bylaw;

**WHEREAS** The Agenda for the November 28, 2022, New Westminster Council Meeting included a number of Member Motions listed under Item “6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL” and “6.1 Notice of Motion.” In apparent contradiction to the observed practice of the previous City Council with respect to Notice of Motion and the previous Council’s apparent interpretation of the Council Procedure Bylaw, an additional note was appended to the Agenda text indicating that “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.”; and

**WHEREAS** There is an apparent disconnect between the interpretation and application of section 21 of the Council Procedure Bylaw by the previous Council and the interpretation and application that is now being applied to the new Council elected in October 2022, even though there has not been any changes or amendments to the text or wording of section 21 of the Bylaw;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

THAT Council direct staff to report back on the apparent discrepancy between how the Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004 was and is being interpreted and applied in the present, notably at the November 28, 2022 Council meeting with respect to Notice of Motion, and how the Bylaw was interpreted and applied by previous Councils in order to clarify the situation and determine what the correct procedure is, and

FURTHER THAT staff report back at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with recommendations to improve Section 21 of the Council Procedures Bylaw 6910 to ensure it no longer lacks clarity and is less subject to interpretation;

f. **Investments in new pedestrian infrastructure to support the City's active transportation network in Queensborough and reduce our carbon footprint**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Whereas Queensborough residents have consistently indicated that a lack of sidewalk infrastructure is an issue for their community; and

Whereas joint 50/50 infrastructure programs are excellent way to help expand the opportunity and budget allocated for community infrastructure investments; and

Whereas a two-year pilot project program to install critical sidewalk infrastructure supports our active transportation goals and helps to support our elders; and

Whereas the City is committed to further reducing its carbon footprint and supporting the expansion of our network of sidewalks should be core to a robust and active transportation plan; and

Whereas a 2021 Government of Canada Active Transportation Fund will provide \$400 million over five years to support the expansion and enhancement of active transportation infrastructure and a modal shift away from cars and toward active transportation; and

Whereas according to the Federal Government capital projects refer to new infrastructure construction, enhancement of existing infrastructure, and fixed design and safety features that encourage increased active transportation; and

Whereas eligible capital projects (according to the Federal Government) include building or enhancing infrastructure for active transportation, such as sidewalks

**BE IT RESOLVED** that staff incorporate into the 2023 Operating Budget a new two-year 50/50 matching grant Pedestrian Improvement Pilot Program that will support Queensborough residents who wish to accelerate the covering up of unsafe ditches with paved sidewalks that support non-fossil fuel based active transportation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that \$300,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund be used to fund this pilot project over two years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff seek out funds from the senior orders of government to offset or match the City's contribution to the pilot program

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Johnstone thanked Engineering Operations crews for getting the roads prepared for and responding to recent snow events. He noted that every snow event is different and that staff were able to keep safety routes open during the second event which was very challenging. Additionally, he advised that during a recent tour of the Engineering Operations yard he saw first-hand the constraints for sand and salt storage.

9. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8:47 p.m.

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER