



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, January 30, 2023

Immediately following the Public Hearing that begins at 6:00 p.m.

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
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Wendee Lang	Development Planner
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Lynn Roxburgh	Supervisor of Land Use Policy Planning
Ms. Kathleen Stevens	Heritage Planning Analyst
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Minute Taker, Mosaic Writing Group

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:18 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 “Nomination of Councillor Ruby Campbell to the Election to FCM Board of Directors” to the agenda as New Business.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

3.1 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 **THIRD READING**.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. 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 4.2 to 4.4, 4.7 and 4.8. on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.1 Changes to the Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Community Heritage Commission Bylaw No. 6423, 1997

To bring to Council proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Community Heritage Commission Bylaw No. 6423, 1997.

In response to a question from Council, Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, advised:

- Multiple organizations can participate in the accessibility committee;
- The Police Department have requested to participate in the accessibility committee; and
- The committee is to provide a plan that will cover the City, Public Library and the New West Police Department.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve the changes to the Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as outlined in the report titled, “Changes to the Terms of Reference of the Accessibility Advisory Committee; and,

THAT Council consider Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023, for three readings.

Carried.

Councillor Henderson opposed.

4.2 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 330 East Columbia Street (Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project)

To request that Council grant an exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw to EllisDon Design Build from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to enable the specialized concrete slab surface finishing to meet operational specifications in the facility within the ongoing construction of the Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project at 330 East Columbia Street, New Westminster.

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to EllisDon Design Build from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 8 PM to 11 PM an average of 3 times per month between Monday to Friday starting February 1st, 2023, to October 31st, 2023 and 7 AM to 9 AM on Saturdays starting May 6th, 2023 to May 4th, 2024 (excluding Sundays, Statutory Holidays) to pour and surface concrete slabs on the Royal Columbian Hospital site at 330 East Columbia Street, New Westminster.

Adopted on Consent.

4.3 DCC Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371, 2023

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval of Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371, 2023 authorizing expenditures from the City's Development Cost Charge Reserves for Queensborough drainage, sanitary sewer and parkland development, and Mainland transportation and parkland development.

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371, 2023 (Attachment 1) to authorize a total expenditure of \$1,138,654 from the Development Cost Charge Reserves be given three readings.

Adopted on Consent.

4.4 Recruitment 2023: Appointments to Advisory Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Panels

To release Closed Council appointments to two City Commissions, one City Advisory Committee, and one City Panel.

THAT Council receive the report titled, "Recruitment 2023: Appointments to Advisory Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Panels" for information.

Adopted on Consent.

4.5 Renewed Child Care Protocol between the City of New Westminster and New Westminster School District No.40

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction for staff to forward a letter to New Westminster School District No.40 formally inviting them to jointly develop a renewed Child Care Protocol, which would set a framework for closer collaboration with regard to the development of new and the retention of existing childcare spaces.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The renewal of the Child Care Protocol will create a bridge between daycares and schools;
- New Westminster has an increasing number of young families; and
- The Child Care Protocol is a creative response to increase childcare spaces.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to forward a letter to New Westminster School District No.40 formally inviting them to jointly develop a renewed Child Care Protocol between the City of New Westminster and the School District.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: At 6:27 p.m., Mayor Patrick Johnstone and Councillor Nadine Nakagawa declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting and did not return until the conclusion of the vote on this matter. Councillor Jamie McEvoy assumed the Chair.

4.6 Rezoning Application for Detached Accessory Building: 228 Seventh Street – Comprehensive Report

To request that: 1) Council consider the application to rezone 228 Seventh Street and no Public Hearing held, in accordance with the Local Government Act; and 2) notification be circulated in accordance with the Local Government Act.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council consider “Zoning Amendment Bylaw (228 Seventh Street) No. 8373, 2023” and no Public Hearing held, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*; and,

THAT notification be circulated in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Mayor Johnstone reassumed the Chair.

4.7 Rozzini’s Restaurant, 211 Ewen Avenue - Application for Patron Participation Endorsement

To provide information regarding an application from Rozzini’s Restaurant for a Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement to be added to the establishment’s existing Food Primary Liquor License. This type of liquor license endorsement is required for restaurants operating with a dine and dance, live music and dancing, or karaoke format.

THAT the following resolution be approved:

WHEREAS New Westminster City Council considered a staff report regarding an application from Rozzini's Restaurant located at 211 Ewen Avenue to amend its Food Primary Liquor License by including a Patron Participation Endorsement with proposed entertainment hours 6pm – 9pm on Friday and Saturdays;

WHEREAS a sign has been placed in front of the business for 30 days, two newspaper notices were published as well as circulated in the City's e-newsletter (Citypage Online), to 1200+ subscribers and providing details regarding the application and inviting the public to submit comments to the City; and

WHEREAS the City has received four emails expressing concern and 8 in support of the application;

WHEREAS the applicant is taking measures to address community concerns relating to noise and has amended their proposed hours in response to community input received;

WHEREAS the overall occupancy of the establishment remains at 110 people;

WHEREAS the establishment is not anticipated to negatively affect traffic patterns or parking, and any noise is expected to be properly mitigated by the applicant;

WHEREAS the requested amendment is consistent with the establishment's primary purpose as a restaurant;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT New Westminster City Council approves Rozzini's Restaurant's application for a Patron Participation Endorsement subject to the patron participation entertainment only being provided on Fridays and Saturdays and not taking place after 9:00 pm.

Adopted on Consent.

4.8 Minutes for Adoption

- a. December 12, 2022 City Council Meeting (9:00 a.m.)
- b. December 12, 2022 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- c. December 14, 2022 Special City Council Meeting

Adopted on Consent.

5. BYLAWS

5.1 Bylaws for Readings

a. **Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023**

To increase the number of members of the Community Heritage Commission from nine to ten by increasing the number of members from the community at large from six to seven. This bylaw is on the agenda for **THREE READINGS**.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. **Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371 2022**

To authorize an expenditure of \$1,138,654 from the City's Development Cost Charge Reserves for Queensborough drainage, sanitary sewer and parkland development, and Mainland transportation and parkland development. This bylaw is on the agenda for **THREE READINGS**.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371 2022 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371 2022 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371 2022 be given Third 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. Mitigating Traffic and Transportation Issues and Improving Pedestrian Safety on Ewen Avenue in Queensborough

Submitted By: Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Councillor Minhas summarized the motion and noted that the red-light restriction at the intersection is unnecessary outside of high traffic times.

MOVED and SECONDED

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;

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

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;

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

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.

In discussion, Council members suggested the traffic mitigation be considered with the Queensborough Transportation Plan.

In response to questions from the Council, Mike Anderson, Manager of Transportation, advised:

- Public feedback prompted staff to consider the red light restriction on Ewen Avenue in the Queensborough Transportation Plan and
- Technical analysis is currently underway.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, a referral motion was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Improving Pedestrian Safety on Ewen Avenue in Queensborough motion be referred for consideration in the Queensborough Transportation Plan.

Defeated.

Councillors Fontaine, Henderson, Minhas and Nakagawa opposed.

Procedural Note: The question on the main motion was called.

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.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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 Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Councillor Minhas summarized the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

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;

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;

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;

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.

In response to questions from Council, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised:

- Synthetic surfaces are more resistant to inclement weather;
- Pedestrian level lighting would be required;
- Grass fields are susceptible to more weather-related closures;
- The surface and decaying sub-surface at Mercer stadium were replaced at a cost in excess of \$1 million;
- Estimated lighting costs would be \$400,000 to \$700,000;
- Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan terms of reference to be presented to Council in spring 2023; and
- The project would require consultation with the community and stakeholder groups.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The need for public consultation be undertaken for a comprehensive approach
- Concern regarding budget and the addition of capital costs
- Concern for delay for the community of Queensborough.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, a referral motion was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff consider the installation of additional all-weather tracks in Queensborough as part of the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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 Westminster Secondary School (NWSS);

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;

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

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 NWSS.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- New Westminster Secondary School is impacted by TransLink's timing of transportation
- The School Board is also advocating for improved bus service.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, an amendment was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Mayor Patrick Johnstone include members of the School Board appointed to the joint committee in the meeting invitation to discuss the status of the provincial government's 2020 campaign commitment to the parents and students of Queensborough for a free bus service to NWSS.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

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 NWSS.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Patrick Johnstone include members of the School Board appointed to the joint committee in the meeting invitation to discuss the status of the provincial government's 2020 campaign commitment to the parents and students of Queensborough for a free bus service to NWSS.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

d. Halting the City's Rebranding Exercise as Previously Approved by Council in July 2022

Submitted By: Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Concern regarding the costs associated with rebranding;
- Concern that estimates for rebranding are not available; and
- The budget does not allocate any funds for rebranding.

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster 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.

Defeated.

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

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

Submitted By: Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

In discussion, Council members noted that the proposed motion would clarify the bylaw notification procedures and the provision of a two-week period between a notice of motion and a vote on the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

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.”;

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.”;

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*;

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.”;

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, 2023 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.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

Councillor Fontaine summarized the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

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

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

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;

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;

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;

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.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Concern regarding the utilization and the lack of framework for the utilization of the Climate Action Fund;
- The need for public engagement regarding sidewalks due to engineering concerns;
- Concern regarding the use of the federal transportation fund; and
- Concern regarding the additional time needed for public consultation.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that an update on timelines will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, a referral motion was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff schedule a Council Workshop to discuss the investments in new pedestrian infrastructure to support the City's active transportation network in Queensborough and reduce our carbon footprint motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff schedule a Council Workshop within six months to discuss the investments in new pedestrian infrastructure to support the City's active transportation network in Queensborough and reduce our carbon footprint motion.

Carried.

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

THAT staff schedule a Council Workshop within six months to discuss the investments in new pedestrian infrastructure to support the City's active transportation network in Queensborough and reduce our carbon footprint motion.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.2 Notices of Motion

a. Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar Emergency Management Partnership Opportunities

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

WHEREAS the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar brings the community together and values strong community partnerships;

WHEREAS the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar was instrumental in supporting the Queensborough community in October 2017 when a transformer fire forced the closure of the Queensborough Bridge and cut electricity to surrounding neighbourhoods and, more recently, was invaluable on November 30, 2022 by supporting individuals stranded in their vehicles;

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster Fire Department is working to identify gaps and potential partnerships in their Emergency Management program;

WHEREAS the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar has been proven their willingness and capacity to assist in times when emergency issues arise;

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has Emergency Management professional expertise and when possible, works with community partners to strengthen programs and services; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has opportunity to apply for funding to provincial and federal funding for additional resources when working with community partners.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster Fire Department explore emergency management partnership opportunities with the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar to support the emergent needs in Queensborough.

b. Increasing Safe Access to the Fraser River for Residents and Tourists

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has a rich history and connectivity with the Fraser River;

WHEREAS providing better access to the Fraser River for our residents, businesses and tourists will help generate increased economic activity;

WHEREAS other cities have supported their tourism strategies by developing walkways and user-pay public moorage in their rivers to allow pleasure craft to better access local merchants;

WHEREAS the Fraser River has generated economic activity for the City of New Westminster since we were established in 1860;

WHEREAS the Fraser River has a deep and spiritual connection with Indigenous peoples throughout British Columbia;

WHEREAS residents and tourists can only view the Fraser River and have very few options to access it in a safe manner;

WHEREAS it has been the City's position that "the Riverfront is the City's most significant cultural, economic and natural asset. It is home to vibrant and diverse public spaces, high quality recreation, business and housing, and significant natural features. It is an integral component of the local economy, providing employment, services and tourism opportunities while providing a living link to the city's past;

WHEREAS it was further stated "our Riverfront Vision is to seamlessly connect our riverfront - while respecting existing industry - through a continuous system of greenways and parks that run the length of the city and provide improved connections from our neighbourhoods to the river for residents, businesses and visitors alike. Along with enhanced access and facilities, the Riverfront's recreation and tourism potential will be realized through public spaces and activities that generate widespread interest and are welcoming for all ages and abilities at all times during the year"; and

WHEREAS in 2017 Council endorsed a conceptual design to construct an accessible floating greenway in the Fraser River

connecting Sapperton and our Pier Park downtown by 2024 which was done in partnership with TransLink.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding opportunities to provide increased direct access and connectivity to the Fraser River for our citizens and tourists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we identify opportunities and possible funding sources to plan and develop additional user-pay pleasure craft moorage on our City's waterfront;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be asked to identify possible new access points for a user-pay pleasure craft launch facility;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff identify the costs, challenges and opportunities of establishing a walkable link along the waterfront between Sapperton and Pier Park;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff prepare a key stakeholder consultation strategy to be presented to Council as part of this review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report to Council regarding the necessary budget, possible sources of funding and resources required to undertake the work as noted above.

c. Improving Our Economy By Better Connecting Douglas College Students, Faculty and Staff with our Business Districts

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS New Westminster is home to Douglas College;

WHEREAS students play an important role in helping to support a local economy;

WHEREAS each year, close to 17,000 students (including 4,210 international students from over 92 countries) take for-credit courses at Douglas College;

WHEREAS a targeted marketing campaign aimed at Douglas College students, faculty and staff could encourage them to more frequently visit our business districts: and

WHEREAS our business districts have faced significant impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent Metro Vancouver sewer construction on Columbia Street.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council refer to the Economic Development Advisory Committee for discussion and action as appropriate, a collaborative “Study and Stay” campaign aimed at encouraging students, faculty and staff at Douglas College to more regularly frequent our City's various business districts.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Nomination of Councillor Ruby Campbell to the Election to FCM Board of Directors

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive the report titled “Nomination of Councillor Ruby Campbell to the Election to FCM Board of Directors” for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Campbell thanked Kendra Johnston and Karima Jivraj for their work at the Downtown Business Improvement Association.

Councillor Fontaine attended the Hyack Festival President’s Tea and commended the youth ambassadors.

Councillor Fontaine encouraged the public to attend the Chamber of Commerce Beer Fridays in New Westminster.

Mayor Johnstone acknowledged the retirement of Ron Booth and referenced the long line of City employees in the Mr. Booth’s heritage.

9. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 7:48 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER