



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, February 13, 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
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation
Ms. Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action
Mr. Gabriel Beliveau	Manager, Engineering Operations
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Lorraine Lyle	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Tobi May	Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties
Ms. Erika Mashig	Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning Design and Construction
Mr. Robert McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
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
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

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

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 3:00 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.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the agenda be amended by deferring Item 2.1 – Retail Strategy, Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development to a future Council meeting.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

2.1 **Retail Strategy, Chief Administrative Officer and Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development**

- a. **Presentation, David Bell and Justin Barer, Urban Systems (On Table)**
- b. **Report: Retail Strategy - Phase 2 Workshop**

To provide Council with an update of the Retail Strategy work to date and to elicit feedback for the development of the draft Phase 2 report.

In accordance with Item 1, this item was deferred to a future Council meeting.

2.2 **Budget 2023: Proposed 2023 Capital Budget and Funding Strategy, Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Finance**

- a. **Presentation (On Table)**
- b. **Report: Budget 2023: Proposed 2023 Capital Budget & Funding Strategy (Circulated Separately)**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with detailed spreadsheets on the 2023 Proposed Capital Budget, \$166M, and the Proposed 2023-2027 Capital Plan, \$410M, and planned funding strategies, to be used as a supplement to the information for the Capital Budget Workshop.

Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, led the review of a presentation titled “2023 Proposed Multi-Year Capital Budget Council Workshop, 2023” and highlighted:

- Proposed \$166 million multi-year capital budget
- Proposed 2023-2027 Capital Plan is reset to \$410 million
- Sewer and water rates increase 7% per year
- Solid waste rates increase of 10% to 13.4% per year
- Electrical rates increase of 2.8% per year
- Multi-year budget and carryover is approximately \$100 million
- City reserves will be used to fund \$261.8 million of the proposed Capital Plan
- Improving assets should improve overall service levels and
- Long-term borrowing maintains the stability of interest rates and provides the ability to disperse interest costs over the life of the asset.

Tobi May, Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, provided an update on the tēmәsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Center and noted:

- Most of the building envelope is complete
- Civil work is underway, including underground services, removal of existing fill and replacement of fill
- The procurement of furniture and equipment is complete and
- Facility completion is expected in 2023.

Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Utility, provided an update on the Queensborough Substation and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI):

- Queensborough Substation:
 - All civil works were completed in 2022 and the substation is 90% complete
 - Equipment needed for animal control has been delayed and
 - Expected completion in May 2023
- AMI:
 - The Northstar upgrade is complete

- The network infrastructure has been installed and the meter configuration has been finalized and
- The estimated completion is in 2025.

Kwaku Agyare-Manu Senior Manager, Engineering Services, provided an update on the sewer separation and watermain replacement for 2023:

- Expectation that 1.3 kilometers of sewer separation will be completed and
- Approximately 2.3 kilometers of watermains will be replaced.

Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering, reported on the Downtown Livability Strategy capital works plan for 2023:

- Completion of procurement, design, permitting and installation of the freestanding toilet
- Installation of permanent staircase from the parkade to Front Street
- Public realm improvements and
- Massey Theatre renovation of \$14.1 million.

Erika Mashig, Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning Design and Construction, reported on Public Realm, Urban Forest and Biodiversity for 2023:

- Update to Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan:
 - Plant 2,200 new trees in City parks and open spaces
 - Management of invasive plants and replacement of native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Jackie Teed, Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development, provided an update on Housing and Childcare:

- Advance the supportive housing project at 68 Sixth Street
- 37 non-profit preschool aged childcare spaces created in several facilities
- Funding secured to support housing projects and
- Updates to Land Use Policy to develop affordable housing.

Mike Anderson, Manager of Transportation, provided an update on Active Transportation:

- Adoption of the Active Transportation Network Plan

- 2023 projects include the completion of the Agnes Greenway, sidewalk and lighting replacements, greenway upgrades and street light replacement in Massey-Victory Heights.

In response to questions from Council Members, Mr. Agyare-Manu advised:

- Where possible, sewer and watermain work will be undertaken simultaneously
- The Project Manager will facilitate delivery of the work, including communications to residents.

In response to questions from Council members, Ms. Varn advised:

- Efficiencies are challenging to determine at the capital planning phase
- The Active Transportation Network Plan did not include a funding strategy
- Affordable housing program budget of \$700,000 has not been allocated and projects would need Council approval and
- Contingencies are in place to address budget challenges due to Inflation.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Leblanc advised:

- The Active Transportation Network Plan is dispersed throughout the budget to reflect the diversity and scope of the work
- Council has approved neighbourhood plans and
- Carbon credit revenue has not been allocated.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Grant applications are required for the capital plan and
- Suggestion to identify works that were undertaken in response to Council directive or motion.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, advised:

- Training is planned for staff on the impact and legacy of colonization, residential schools and the *Indian Act* and
- Donations have been received for the Irving Fund renovation.

Ms. Tambellini advised that a budget of \$100,000 is allocated for the implementation of a strategy, promotion and feasibility studies.

Gabriel Beliveau, Manager of Engineering Operations advised that the City is unable to use fire hydrants for water fountains at this time.

Council agreed to continue discussions of the 2023 Budget at a future meeting.

2.3 Budget 2023: Reporting back to Council requests from the January 30 Budget Workshop, Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Finance (Circulated Separately)

An information report to provide Council with staff responses to several items identified for follow up by Council at the January 30th Budget Workshop.

This item was not considered.

3. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER