



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, February 13, 2023, 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 |
| Ms. Jen Arbo | Economic Development Coordinator |
| Mr. Rod Carle | General Manager, Electrical Utility |
| Ms. Christina Coolidge | Indigenous Relations Advisor |
| Ms. Meghan Doyle | Environmental Coordinator |
| Mr. Dean Gibson | Director of Parks and Recreation |
| Ms. Hanna Jarrett | Planning Technician |
| Ms. Wendee Lang | Development Planner |
| Ms. Lisa Leblanc | Director of Engineering Services |
| Ms. Jennifer Miller | Manager of Public Engagement |
| Ms. Judith Mosley | Senior Heritage Planner |
| Mr. Demian Rueter | Manager, Development Planning |
| Mr. Patrick Shannon | Manager, Purchasing |
| Ms. Denise Tambellini | Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager |
| Ms. Jackie Teed | Acting Director, 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
Ms. Debbie Reimer

Auxiliary City Clerk
Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

GUESTS:

Ms. Vanessa Adams
Mr. Jonathan Bagg
Mr. Ammar Mahdi

Manager of Media Relations, Nav Canada,
Director, Stakeholder and Industry Relations, Nav Canada
Senior Project Engineering with Liquid Waste Services of
Metro Vancouver

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

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:02 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 adds Item 9.1 – Recruitment 2023: Appointments to the Community Heritage Commission (CHC) and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AaAC) to the agenda;

THAT Council adds Item 9.2 – Rezoning Application for Detached Accessory Building: 228 and Seventh Street – Clarification of Permitted Uses to the agenda; and

THAT Council varies the order of the agenda to consider Item 9.2 prior to Item 6.0.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive all on table items.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION - HERITAGE WEEK 2023

3.1 Adoption of 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 **ADOPTION**.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Proclamation: Heritage Week, February 20-26, 2023

Mayor Patrick Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed February 20-26, 2023 as Heritage Week in the City of New Westminster.

3.3 Presentation of Heritage Plaques

Councillor McEvoy, Chair of the Community Heritage Commission presented plaques while Judith Mosley, Senior Heritage Planner, led the review of a presentation titled "New Westminster Heritage Designation Plaque Ceremony, 2023" and provided information regarding the recipients of the heritage plaques:

- Freemason's Hall, built in 1911 at 508 Agnes Street
- Fulton/Thompson Residence, built in 1890 at 612 Brantford Street
- Shymkowich Residence, built in 1923 at 746 Ewen Avenue
- Bell Residence, built in 1913 at 327 Fourth Street
- Nellie Mercer Cottage, built in 1916 at 305 Gilley Street
- Edgar House, built in 1928 at 323 Regina Street
- Adams House, built in 1912 at 515 St. George Street
- Pugh Residence, built in 1937 at 632 Second Street
- Makepeace House, built in 1937 at 224 Sixth Avenue
- Speck House, built in 1911 at 109 Third Avenue
- J.J. Johnston House, built in 1905 at Third Street.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Procedural Note: The order of the agenda was varied to consider Item 4.2 prior to item 4.1.

4.2 Air Quality Permit Application from Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd (CIFP)

To provide Council with information regarding an air quality permit application under consideration by the Metro Vancouver, and to seek Council's feedback to support staff in responding to Metro Vancouver's invitation for comment.

Kwaku Agyare-Manu, Senior Manager, Engineering Services, reported:

- The permit application requests authorization to discharge air contaminants from a lumber re-manufacturing company
- Metro Vancouver has jurisdiction and technical expertise of air quality within regional boundaries.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The application has not been posted on the Metro Vancouver website and this is problematic;
- Concern regarding the impact to the air quality in the neighbourhood.

Procedural Note: The decision on Item 4.2 was deferred until the conclusion of Item 6.0.

4.1 Proposed Airspace Modernization Changes at Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

- a. Presentation, Nav Canada**
- b. Report (Circulated Separately)**

NAV CANADA has completed a public consultation for the proposed Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project, in collaboration with Vancouver International Airport (YVR). The purpose of this report is to provide Council an opportunity for feedback on the proposed changes. This report will be supplemented by a presentation to Council from NAV Canada staff.

Jonathan Bagg, Director, Stakeholder and Industry Relations, Nav Canada, and Vanessa Adams, Manager of Media Relations, Nav Canada, led the review of the presentation titled "Information briefing Vancouver Airspace Modernization Program", dated February 2023. He noted that the consultation report was expected in spring 2023, that he was able to provide Council with further details about the

impact of any changes on New Westminster and that any changes would be implemented late in 2023.

Procedural Note: In accordance with Item 2, the agenda was varied to consider Item 9.2 prior to Item 6.0.

Procedural Note: At 7:08 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.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.2 **Rezoning Application for Detached Accessory Building 228 Seventh Street – Clarification of Permitted Uses**

To provide Council with clarification with regards to the permitted uses proposed at the subject site.

Jackie Teed, Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development, provided information regarding the rezoning application and reported:

- The application is to construct an accessory building;
- The application allows for the exchange of uses between the new accessory building and the existing building; and
- The bylaw states that the uses are permitted on the entire property.

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

- The property is currently used as a substance use treatment and recovery centre and
- The new addition is proposed for administration space.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the Rezoning Application for Detached Accessory Building 228 Seventh Street – Clarification of Permitted Uses report for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Mayor Johnstone reassumed the Chair.

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

Sophie Campbell and Rebecca Vander Zalm, New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) students, requested support for the upcoming performance of Shrek the

Musical run by NWSS students and advised that tickets can be purchased through the Massey Theatre.

Laura Kwong, District Parents Advisory Committee Chair, spoke in favour of the Notice of Motion on the agenda and requested that school zone speed limits be in effect from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., to align with Burnaby and the hours of use of City facilities.

Kirk Wipp, Resident, spoke about his experience of the Anvil Theatre and requested more advocacy regarding the various activities and events for the theatre.

Trudi Goels, Co-Chair, Women Transforming Cities, provided information regarding the work being done to promote equity in municipalities and incorporate the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action into the work of cities and municipalities in the lower mainland.

Rob Leishman, Bully's Rehearsal Studios, expressed concern regarding the lack of parking in front of the business, the need for a liquor license and the need for loading zone stalls for patrons to transport equipment to the studio.

During discussion:

- Council members requested staff consult with Mr. Leishman regarding the procurement of a liquor license and opportunities for parking and report back to Council and
- Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services, advised that the recent changes to Agnes Street impacted parking availability.

Patrick Knowles, Resident, expressed concerns regarding parking on Rousseau Street, specifically at drop-off and pick-up times related to Urban Academy School.

In response to Council questions Ms. Leblanc noted that the route has regular bylaw enforcement patrols and that staff will contact Urban Academy to update the transportation plan.

Vesna Stojanovic, resident, expressed concerns regarding the Cedar Island Forest Products facility and detailed the health impact of particulates.

Katherine Thomson expressed concerns regarding the Cedar Island Forest Products facility and the impact of particulates in the air on residents in the area.

In response to questions from Council, staff noted that the City does not have authority over sales of homes. However, covenants have been placed on titles in the past.

Procedural Note: At 8:33 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.

Natasha Singh, resident, expressed concerns regarding the zoning amendment bylaw at 228 Seventh Street and provided information regarding sight lines, aesthetics and noise implications.

In response to questions from Council, Demien Rueter, Acting Senior Manager of Climate Action and Development, advised:

- The application received positive feedback regarding building design
- Design reflects laneway house guidelines
- No noise concerns were expressed during consultation and
- The building wall is equipped with fenestration for more residential character.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mayor Johnstone reassumed the Chair.

Procedural Note: The order of the agenda was resumed.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION **(continued)**

4.2 Air Quality Permit Application from Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd (CIFP) (continued)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT staff be directed to:

1. Request that Metro Vancouver delay the approval of the permit pending sufficient notice to the public to ensure that public has adequate consultation;
2. Provide feedback to Metro Vancouver regarding air quality concerns expressed by residents;
3. Provide notice that Council is not in support of additional emissions;
4. If extension is not granted that Council provide comments to Metro Vancouver expressing the concerns; and
5. That staff report back.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. **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 5.5 and 5.7 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.1 **A Year of Truth**

This report outlines a staff initiative called A Year of Truth.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Suggestion that all departments participate in the initiative
- Suggestion that City Hall be used to curate art regarding "A Year of Truth" and
- Request for an update on the 2018 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a Proclamation naming March 2023 to March 2024 "A Year of Truth" and to bring a presentation to launch this initiative at a future regular Council meeting.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 **Building Safer Communities Program from Public Safety Canada (Circulated Separately)**

Staff are recommending the implementation of the following four-year implementation plan for the Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP) funded by Public Safety Canada to deliver programs to target and serve at-risk youth in New Westminster. The intention is to decrease gun and gang violence and provide comprehensive support and positive alternatives for

at-risk youth. A City-Wide strategy to address the needs of youth at-risk being recruited into gangs or gang entrenched will be developed

In response to a question from Council, Denise Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager, advised:

- The implementation of a new program requires collaboration
- Peer Assisted Crisis Team (PACT) Working Group project model could be considered and
- The suggestion to create a working group similar to PACT to provide oversight of the Building Safer Communities Program.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve the four-year implementation plan for the Building Safer Communities Program for At-Risk Youth valued at \$1,736,800.23 and funded by Public Safety Canada; and

THAT Council direct staff to amend the 2023 budget and 2023-2027 Five Year Financial Plan to include the additional funding from Public Safety Canada for the Building Safer Communities Program; and

THAT Council direct staff to establish a working group similar to the Peer Assisted Crisis Team (PACT) for the project to ensure project oversight and success and to report back with a terms of reference for the working group.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: At 9:03 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.

5.3 Housing Agreement Bylaw and Development Variance Permit to Vary Residential and Visitor Parking Requirements: 311 Ash Street – Bylaw for Three Readings

This report is to request that Council: 1) consider Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 for First, Second and Third Readings; 2) issue notice that Council will consider Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) for a 11 space reduction (34%) to the required off-street parking provisions; and 3) request endorsement of requiring bicycle parking spaces as part of the Development Permit.

In response to questions from Council, staff advised:

- No loss of trees is anticipated but any trees lost would be replaced and
- Long term bike parking consists of individual enclosures within a larger structure

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council consider Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 to authorize the City to enter into a Housing Agreement with the property owner to require that all residential units at 311 Ash Street be secured as market rental housing for First, Second and Third Readings.

THAT Council, should the Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be adopted, direct the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Housing Agreement.

THAT Council provide notice that it will consider issuance of a Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 34% from the Zoning Bylaw requirements for secured market rental.

THAT Council endorse that fifty-one long-term bicycle parking spaces and six short-term bicycle parking spaces be included as part of the Development Permit application for 311 Ash Street, should the Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) be approved by Council.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council to direct staff to work with the proponent to mitigate and reduce the loss of trees.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

THAT Council consider Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 to authorize the City to enter into a Housing Agreement with the property owner to require that all residential units at 311 Ash Street be secured as market rental housing for First, Second and Third Readings.

THAT Council, should the Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be adopted, direct the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Housing Agreement.

THAT Council provide notice that it will consider issuance of a Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 34% from the Zoning Bylaw requirements for secured market rental.

THAT Council endorse that fifty-one long-term bicycle parking spaces and six short-term bicycle parking spaces be included as part of the Development Permit application for 311 Ash Street, should the Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) be approved by Council.

THAT Council to direct staff to work with the proponent to mitigate and reduce the loss of trees.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Mayor Johnstone reassumed the Chair.

5.4 Notice of Motion Process

To respond to Council's motion on January 30th and provide Council with a defined mechanism to handle Notice of Motions being placed on the agenda.

In response to questions from Council, Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa Zwarn, Auxillary City Clerk and Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, advised:

- The requirement for transparency on notice of motion procedures
- Concern regarding the impact of notices of motions on work plans
- Legislative Services have contracted out several positions and hired auxiliary employees to support the department during this time
- Council can amend or defeat the policy
- Clarifications of staff timelines.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The need to be efficient regarding motions presented to Council
- Motions are not needed for all actions
- Concern regarding limiting the ability of elected officials to present motions
- Acknowledgement of limitations due to staffing concerns and
- Limiting of redundancy in motions

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Notice of Motion Process Policy be deferred until a workshop can be established to address the concerns regarding the policy and bylaw.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: The meeting recessed at 9:58 p.m. and resumed at 10:04 p.m.

5.5 Request for Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption: 660 Quayside Drive (Bosa Development)

To request that Council grant a noise exemption from the Construction Noise Bylaw to permit Bosa Development to deliver crane sections on Saturday, March 04th, 2023 and March 11th, 2023 between 7 AM to 9 AM.

THAT Council grant a noise exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Bosa Development for construction activity occurring on Saturday, March 04th, 2023 and March 11th, 2023 between 7 AM to 9 AM

Adopted on Consent.

5.6 Temporary Working Space Agreement (GVSD590) for 590 Blackberry Drive

To seek Council's authorization to enter into a Temporary Working Space Agreement with Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District ("Metro Vancouver") and Onni Development (Victoria Hill) Corp. (the "Onni").

In response to questions from Council, Ammar Mahdi, Senior Project Engineering, Liquid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, advised:

- Metro Vancouver has a Community Engagement Department to communicate with the residents in the surrounding area
- Construction must occur during the months of August and September due to weather concerns
- Noise bylaws will be obeyed
- Changes to timetables will be reported to the City.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve the Temporary Working Space Agreement at 590 Blackberry Drive for execution by the Mayor and City Clerk as outlined in this report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.7 Minutes for Adoption

- a. January 30, 2023 Public Hearing

Adopted on Consent.

Procedural Note: At 10:14 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.

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Public Hearings Not Held

- a. **Zoning Amendment Bylaw (228 Seventh Street) No. 8373, 2023**

To change the property's zoning to make it consistent with the current use, and enable construction of a detached accessory support building. This bylaw is on the agenda for **THREE READINGS.**

Application considered by Council on January 30, 2023, notice published on February 2 and 9, 2023

No public hearing held.

- a. **Notification**

- b. **Bylaw No. 8373, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (228 Seventh Street) No. 8373, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (228 Seventh Street) No. 8373, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (228 Seventh Street) No. 8373, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for Readings

a. Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023

In accordance with Item 5.4, this item was deferred to a future workshop.

b. Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023

To secure 29 existing and five new rental units as market rental units for 60 years or the life of the building, whichever is longer. This bylaw is on the agenda for **THREE READINGS**.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 10:16 p.m. Mayor Johnstone reassumed the Chair.

7.3 Bylaws for Adoption

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 **ADOPTION**.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission Amendment Bylaw No. 8384, 2023 be Adopted.

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 **ADOPTION**.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8371 2022 be Adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8. **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

8.1 **Motions for Discussion and Decision**

a. **Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar Emergency Management Partnership Opportunities**

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

Councillor Campbell reviewed the motion.

In response to a question from Council, Erin Williams, Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, advised that the motion would ensure a formal relationship with the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar.

MOVED AND SECONDED

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

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council continue the Open Council meeting beyond 10:30 p.m.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Councillor Fontaine reviewed the motion.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Recent upgrades to the area
- Much of this work has been previously completed
- Concern with the scope of work regarding mooring docks
- Pleasure craft on the Fraser River is a low priority and
- Staff is currently working on a number of riverfront initiatives.

In response to questions from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services, provided an update on the Riverfront Connection Plan and advised that engagement with First Nations has not yet been undertaken.

In response to a question from Council, Harji Varn, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance, advised that the \$100,000 of DAC funding will expire at the end of 2023 and it is unlikely that an extension will be granted.

MOVED AND SECONDED

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.

Defeated.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT staff present an update on the new riverfront vision in an information report to Council.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council defer the item to the February 27, 2023 Council meeting.

Carried.

Mayor Johnstone opposed.

8.2 Notices of Motion

a. Extension of Speed Zone Enforcement Hours

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

WHEREAS it is important to prioritize pedestrian, cyclist, and mobility users' safety on our roads;

WHEREAS school facilities are increasingly being used in the mornings and evenings for before- and after-school care and other community-based activities; and

WHEREAS other municipalities have extended the school zone speed limit beyond the current standard of 8am - 5pm in an effort to prioritize safety around schools.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct that speed zone enforcement hours be extended and direct staff to bring a report back to Council for approval on how to implement this change including a discussion on:

- The length of the extension i.e. 24 hours, or 7am – 10pm;
- Potential impacts to:

- Neighbourhoods;
- Transit; and
- Traffic Management;
- Any budget Implications; and
- Other concerns arising.

b. Call to Action on Creating more Equitable Municipalities

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has an equity policy as well as a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism framework.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following motion to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration for submission to UBCM:

“WHEREAS systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life;

WHEREAS numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (e.g., Gender-Based Analysis Plus);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) calls upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable municipalities to implement said processes across municipal capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives and once created urge municipalities to use the resources to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.”

c. Providing openness and transparency regarding the personal carbon footprint of elected officials

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS it is widely accepted and understood that we are facing critical challenges to our infrastructure and humanity as it pertains to climate change;

WHEREAS it is important for all orders of government and their elected officials to demonstrate leadership and accountability when it comes to fighting climate change;

WHEREAS members of New Westminister City Council are required by law to declare on an annual basis their financial holdings to the public;

WHEREAS a similar disclosure form does not exist to help disclose the estimated carbon footprint of our elected officials on an annual basis;

WHEREAS there would be very little administrative cost but significant public good in reporting each year the estimated carbon footprint of our elected officials;

WHEREAS New Westminister City Council stands to be a leader in openness and transparency regarding public disclosure of the estimated carbon footprint of our elected officials;

WHEREAS a new Carbon Emissions Declaration Form could serve as a template for elected officials in other orders of government; and

WHEREAS the previous Council approved a set of 'bold' action steps to protect the environment but did not include anything regarding personal disclosure or commitments.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request our Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (ECAC) be tasked with developing a new Carbon Emission Declaration and Pledge Form for consideration;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT once it is finalized, the Carbon Emission Declaration and Pledge Form be considered as a voluntary public annual disclosure for all members of Council and that it be completed at the same time as the financial disclosure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Carbon Emission Declaration and Pledge Form capture the estimated carbon emissions pertaining a number of key items such as:

- Personal trips (planes, trains, automobiles, motorcycles);

- Business/Work trips (where no other low-carbon alternative option existed i.e. attendance via Zoom);
- Personal vehicle ownership and usage (electric, hybrid, fossil-fuel based); and
- Home ownership types (single family home, townhome, condominium);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Carbon Emission Declaration and Pledge Form allow for members of Council to make a pledge for the coming year to personally undertake up to three new environmental activities that will help to lower their own carbon emissions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the declaration portion of the Carbon Emission Declaration and Pledge Form be retroactive to the November 7, 2022 swearing-in of this current Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council forward a copy of this motion to the leaders of the recognized political parties in the BC Legislature and our Federal Parliament asking they immediately undertake the development of a similar declaration form to capture the personal carbon footprints of our Members of the Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament.

d. Improving and strengthening open communication and dialogue between all elected officials in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS it is important for City Council to keep an open dialogue and direct contact with all elected officials representing New Westminster;

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver previously used the "Vancouver City Caucus" model with great success to help champion key issues such as the Four Pillars Drug Strategy;

WHEREAS there is currently no organized forum for our MP, MLAs, Mayor and Council and School Board elected officials to gather, share ideas and coordinate efforts to build a better city; and

WHEREAS it is in the best interests of our city if all elected officials work collaboratively on issues of mutual interest.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council send an invitation to our local Member of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and the School Board to participate in a New West Caucus to take place in 2023;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT our staff work in partnership with the staff representing our MP, MLAs and School Board Trustees to develop a draft terms of reference for the New West Caucus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a joint secretariat be established through the Office of the Mayor to assist with the coordination of establishing agendas and selecting dates for the New West Caucus.

e. **Temporarily Eliminating Block Party Street Occupancy Permit Fees to Encourage Increased Neighbourhood Connectivity**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS residents are being charged \$39 to obtain a block party street occupancy permit;

WHEREAS the total fees collected by the City for the block party street occupancy permit is estimated to be only \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year;

WHEREAS there is an unquantified administrative and operational cost associated with the collection and processing of the \$39 fees;

WHEREAS the COVID pandemic has proven challenging for many of our region's mid to larger festivals which may be in jeopardy of halting their operations;

WHEREAS Council has an interest in supporting an increased number of safe, healthy and active local community activities;

WHEREAS the temporary removal of the street occupancy fee for block parties sends a positive message to our community that Council is encouraging more neighbourhoods to consider setting one up on their block;

WHEREAS Council should also be encouraging and finding opportunities for more block parties in our high density neighbourhoods;

WHEREAS the financial impact to the City of temporarily eliminating the block party street occupancy permit fee is negligible; and

WHEREAS on January 25, 2023 Council unanimously supported a motion requesting staff provide information regarding the financial and operational issues relating to eliminating the block party street occupancy permit fees.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to encourage more community engagement as we emerge from out of the COVID pandemic, Council amend the Engineering Fees and Rates Bylaw, 7553, 2013 to provide to eligible residents a no-charge street occupancy permit to host a 'block party' in their neighbourhood;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT applicants are able to host up to one no-fee block party per calendar year in 2023 and 2024 and that standard fees will apply for any additional permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff provide an update to Council regarding how the no-fee permits have impacted the number of community and street events after the first 12 months of implementation.

f. Bringing Equity to Traffic Enforcement

Submitted by Mayor Johnstone

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The City of New Westminster submit the following resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association for consideration for submission to UBCM:

“WHEREAS the primary deterrent from exceeding speed limits or violating other road safety regulations on municipal roads in British Columbia are fines administered under the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation; and

WHEREAS fixed rate fines are inequitable, disproportionately impacting people with lower incomes while applying lower deterrent value to people with higher incomes, creating a structural inequity in the application of justice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of British Columbia Municipalities calls upon the Provincial Government to implement a means-tested traffic fine system, similar to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden or the UK, where

finances may be calculated on the basis of the offender's income."

g. Vacant Property Tax on Commercial Properties

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the following resolution go to the Lower Mainland LGA conference for consideration at the UBCM meeting:

"WHEREAS the Province has adopted vacancy taxes on vacant residential properties as one tool to assure land speculation does not result in property standing fallow to the detriment of community livability and other goals; and

WHEREAS commercial property values are inflating province-wide, and increasingly face investment speculation resulting in similar underutilization of commercial property in many municipalities across British Columbia.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of BC provide local governments with an option to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to commercial properties."

9. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

9.1 Recruitment 2023: Appointments to the Community Heritage Commission (CHC) and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AaAC)

To release Closed Council appointments to two City Advisory Committees.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report titled "Recruitment 2023: Appointments to the Community Heritage Commission (CHC) and the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AaAC)," for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

February 20, 2023 is Family Day in the City of New Westminster.

11. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 10:45 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER