



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 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. Jacque Killawee	City Clerk
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Renee Chadwick	Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dave Jansen	Chief Constable, New Westminster Police Department
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Erica Mashig	Parks and Open Spaces Planner
Ms. Tobi May	Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties
Ms. Jackie Tee	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Mike Watson	Acting Supervisor of Development Planning
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 9:00 a.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. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Continue Council Deliberation on Budget 2023: Proposed 2023 Capital Budget and Funding Strategy

a. Reference Report Issued February 13, 2023: Budget 2023: Proposed 2023 Capital Budget and Funding Strategy

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.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The need for the Victim Services Department to be independent, per the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Report;
- Suggestion that a task force be developed for the purpose of installing more bus shelters;
- Suggestion that future pavement management projects be posted to the website to better inform the community;
- The need to celebrate the accomplishments of the City and inform the public as they occur;
- The need to replace trees in a timely manner;
- Request for information regarding the asset management plan process;
- Suggestion that information regarding budgeting and expenditures be conveyed to the public; and,
- Suggestion that Council be involved in the development of the Climate Action Fund mandate.

In response to a question from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services, advised that a minimum of one bus shelter is installed each year.

In response to a question from Council, Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the Fire Department's Five-Year Master Plan is being updated and will be added to the long-range facilities plan once completed.

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

- A minimum of one bus shelter is installed each year;
- Pavement management plans and affected roads are identified on the website;
- Road condition assessments are updated regularly through the pavement management program; and,
- The City's website includes an interactive map that shows the progress of the City's works.

In response to questions from Council, Tobi May, Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, advised:

- A consultant has been engaged to oversee the Facilities Asset Management Plan; and,
- The Facilities Asset Management Plan consultant will identify a schedule for updating the plan.

In discussion, Council members noted that the EGOV system will allow for a better measure of efficiency and provide evidence regarding the overall reduction of the City's carbon footprint.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Spitale advised that the New Normal Committee was formed in response to the numerous changes arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to a question from Council, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised the budgeted 2,200 trees includes both new and replacement trees.

In response to questions from Council, Erica Mashig, Parks and Open Spaces Planner, advised:

- The 2023 budget of \$159,000 includes consulting fees for Phase One development of the Queen's Park farm:

- The proposed farm in Queen’s Park will provide opportunities for education via a tree farm, bee hotels, mushroom wall ,and various plantings; and,
- A report will be presented to Council in March 2023.

During discussion, it was suggested that the Council be involved in setting the mandate for the Climate Action Fund.

Procedural Note: The meeting recessed at 10:00 a.m. and resumed at 10:05 a.m.

Councillor Fontaine presented a motion on amendments to the 2023-2027 Capital Plan.

In discussion Council members noted:

- Provincial fund amounts and restrictions are unknown;
- Council will provide direction once funding amount is released; and,
- The need for a collaborative approach to priority assessment.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council call the question on the motion on amendments to the 2023-2027 Capital Plan.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED AND SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Draft 2023-2027 Capital Plan presented to Council be amended to reflect the following changes:

- Item 320: Conversion of a grass to artificial turf field to increase playability throughout the fall and winter months to meet demands;
- Item 6: Pending signed agreement(s) with third party developer(s) and Royal Columbian Hospital, the City will build a new District Energy System to avoid and reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG’s) across the City;
- Item 98: Rail crossing safety improvements, and whistle cessation initiative;
- Item 37: Annual capital maintenance, refinishing and dry docking for Samson V;
- Item 439: The decorative lighting program will develop a cohesive decorative lighting scheme for the City that would include both

seasonal and permanent decorative lighting and highlight the unique characteristics of different neighbourhoods and landmarks. It would contribute to public wayfinding, beautification and revitalization and to a sense of community identity and pride; and,

- New planning and design for expansion of Queen’s Park Arena with additional ice dry floor surface areas; and,

THAT subject to the City receiving its estimated per capita share of the new Growing Communities Fund which can be reflected in the final 2023-2027 Capital Budget, staff be directed to integrate the following investments:

- “Discover the Fraser” initiative: Allocate up to \$50,000 from the 2023 capital plan to the Fraser River Discovery Center (FRDC) to lead a stakeholder engagement process with the Vancouver Port Authority, Indigenous people, residents, local businesses, Tourism New Westminster, and other key stakeholders to assess the true potential and possible access points for new pleasure craft moorage within the City of New Westminster. The FRDC will be requested to draft and submit a final report on their findings to the City of New Westminster for consideration by no later than Spring, 2024;
- Turf Field: Allocate up to \$2 million to add one additional turf field installation in the 2023-2027 capital plan which will then provide for the installation of two new turf fields within the next four years;
- Road Paving and Sidewalk Repair: Allocate up to \$2.5 million for identified and long-overdue street re-paving and sidewalk repair/enhancement projects. A particular focus will be given to projects which will immediately increase pedestrian safety in identified high risk areas;
- Local Artists Wayfinding: Allocate up to \$85,000 to support the installation of new wayfinding signage directing citizens and tourists to our key public and privately-owned arts facilities/galleries such as the Anvil Centre, Massey Theatre, and Bernie Legge Theatre;
- City-Owned Recycling Depot: Allocate up to \$25,000 to conduct a feasibility study to re-establish a permanent recycling depot within the boundaries of our city by 2026;
- Anvil Centre Outdoor Digital Signage: Allocate up to \$125,000 for the purchase and installation of new outdoor digital signage either

on and/or directly adjacent to the Anvil Centre to help promote and market current and future scheduled activities;

- New West Utilities Infrastructure 25 Year Current and Future Needs Assessment: Allocate up to \$250,000 to conduct a thorough assessment of our current and future needs as they pertain to our New West Electrical Utility. The study will mirror a similar 25-year analysis conducted by the Penticton Electrical Utility;
- Electrification of Hyack Square, Columbia Street (downtown) and Quayside Boardwalk to Support Festivals and Street Activation: Allocate up to \$500,000 to install new electrical outlets in key areas along Columbia Street (downtown), Hyack Square stage, and Quayside River Market area. These outlets will reduce the need for fossil-fuel generators required during various festivals and street boardwalk activities. They will also support more eco-friendly street food carts and activities; and
- Bus Shelter Installation in Green Canopy Deficient and Transit Oriented Neighbourhoods: Allocate up to \$50,000 for the installation of new bus shelters to provide shade and protection from the elements for transit users. A focus will be placed on using these funds to install shelters in neighbourhoods that have an identified deficiency in green canopy and are higher than average transit users.

Defeated.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council provide direction on the proposed 2023 Capital Budget and Funding Strategy; and

THAT staff be directed to report back on the Draft Consolidated Financial Plan Bylaw, 2023 – 2027.

Carried.

Councillor Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

- b. Reference Presentation from February 13, 2023: 2023 Proposed Multi-Year Capital Budget**
- c. Presentation: BridgeNet Dark Fibre Utility (On Table)**

d. Report: BridgeNet Dark Fibre Utility

To update Council on the BridgeNet Dark Fibre Utility

Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Utility, led the review of a presentation titled “BridgeNet Onboarding” and highlighted:

- Background and history of the BridgeNet project;
- Higher tier communication companies are hesitant to utilize shallow depth fibres;
- A deeper trench product is more durable and marketable; and,
- Rogers and Shaw both indicated they will have discussions with BridgeNet for future requirements.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Carle advised:

- The BridgeNet project has increased the number of ISPs that can offer service and compete in New Westminster; and,
- The funding investment has been over five years.

In discussion, Council members suggested that a Business Manager be employed for BridgeNet.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receives this report for information only.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.2 Operating Budget 2023

a. Budget 2023: Reporting back to Council Requests from the January 30, 2023 Budget Workshop, Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Finance

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

In response to questions from Council, Renee Chadwick, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities, advised that pre-COVID-19 programming has been reinstated and staffing inefficiencies has required programming prioritization.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information as part of the 2023 Budget deliberation process.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. E-Comm 911 Cost Increases: New Westminster Fire and Police Services

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding E-Comm 911 cost increases.

In response to a question from Council, Erin Williams, Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, advised that the funding application for E-Comm will provide an increase in service while decreasing costs.

In response to a question from Council, David Jansen, Chief Constable, New Westminster Police Department, advised that the E-Comm pilot project in Vancouver will be evaluated after four months. It is anticipated that results from the trial will be available in 2024.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report as part of the Budget deliberation process.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.3 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

2.4 1:00 p.m. Meeting Resumes

2.5 1:00 p.m. Notice of Motion Process Policy Workshop

To provide Council with the background for the workshop on the Notice of Motion Process Policy.

Lisa Zwarn, Auxiliary City Clerk, reviewed the Notice of Motion Process Policy and highlighted:

- “Notice of Motions” refers to motions presented at Open or Closed Council meetings;

- The Notice of Motion Policy will ensure that a Closed meeting motion complies with the rationale for a Closed meeting; and,
- The Notice of Motion Policy requires that the motion align with the objectives for the term of office and the strategic plan.

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

- The Council member is required to provide information about whether their proposed motion aligns with the strategic plan;
- Recorded motions in official minutes could be investigated in a judicial review process; and,
- Council can amend motions to remove recitals.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Concern regarding limiting motions to three recitals;
- Motions are to indicate if they follow the strategic plan, but are not required to be aligned with the strategic plan;
- Concern regarding the phrase “pertaining to an identifiable individual” when staff positions are contained in motions;
- Concern regarding the lack of dispute resolution procedures;
- Concern that eight business days may result in an unfair workload to staff;
- Suggestion that a minimum of 15 days be added;
- Concern regarding a restriction of one Notice of Motion per Council member per meeting;
- Committee work does not require motions;
- Suggestion that priority be given to considering motions proposed by Council members who have introduced the fewest motions per calendar year;
- Suggestion that each Council Member be allowed a maximum of two motions per Council meeting; and,
- Suggestion that the Notice of Motions Policy be reviewed in one year.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the Notice of Motion policy with the amendments agreed to during the February 27, 2023 workshop.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 3:25 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER