



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

A vibrant, compassionate, sustainable city that includes everyone.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, March 13, 2023

**Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance
Council Chamber, City Hall**

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

REGRETS

Councillor Ruby Campbell

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Acting Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation
Ms. Jen Arbo	Economic Development Coordinator
Mr. Gabriel Beliveau	Manager, Engineering Operations
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Mr. Brad Davie	Assistant Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Meghan Doyle	Environmental Coordinator
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Communications and Economic Development and Chief License Inspector
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Hanna Jarrett	Planning Technician
Ms. Erika Mashig	Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning Design and Construction
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement

Mr. Gary So	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mx. Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adds Item 10.1 – East Columbia at Brunette Intersection and Roadway Improvement Plans and Implications to the agenda; and

THAT Council adds Item 10.2 – Request to Modify the Call to Action on Creating More Equitable Municipalities Motion Forwarded to LMLGA and UBCM to the agenda.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council accept the agenda as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

3.1 Development Variance Permit DVP00708 for 231 Lawrence Street

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approves issuance of Development Variance Permit DVP00708.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

4.1 Year of Truth, 2023

Jen Arbo, Economic Development Coordinator, shared the story of residential school survivor Elder William and expressed anticipation of “A Year of Truth” continuing the efforts of Truth and Reconciliation in the City of New Westminster.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the presentation regarding “A Year of Truth”; and

THAT Council direct Mayor Johnstone to proclaim March 2023 to March 2024 “A Year of Truth”.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Mayor Patrick Johnstone read aloud the proclamation and proclaimed March, 2023 to March, 2024 as A Year of Truth in the City of New Westminster.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.1 Extending School Zone Speed Limit Hours

During discussion, it was noted that analysis of the financial implications and road safety and policing concerns with respect to an extension of school zone speed limit hours will be presented to Council upon completion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the March 13, 2023, report titled “Extending School Zone Speed Limit Hours” be received for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Outdoor Pool Extended Season Aquatics Plan

During discussion, it was noted that due to the limited capacity of the outdoor pool, the reservation system eliminates queues for the public.

The Scholarship Training Employment Program (STEP) is currently accepting applications for funding of the necessary training and will conditionally employ trained lifeguards and swim instructors.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the March 13, 2023 report titled “2023 Outdoor Pool Extended Season Aquatics Plan” be received for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.3 Transition to Provision of Recycling Services by Recycle BC

Discussion ensued on:

- Changes resulting from the transfer of the City’s recycling program to Recycle BC; and,
- Participating in the development of Metro Vancouver’s regional master plan to facilitate the creation of the City’s solid waste master plan.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the March 13, 2023 report titled “Transition to Provision of Recycling Services by Recycle BC” be received for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for item 6.3 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 6.8 to 6.10 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.1 Air Quality Permit Application from Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd (CIFP) - Update

Discussion ensued on:

- The ability to enforce existing bylaws; and,
- The need to include stronger measures in the letter responding to the air quality permit application from Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the letter in attachment B be amended to include the following:

- Technology for improved filtering;
- Potential fence-line monitoring; and
- Clarity on how Cedar Island Forest Products Ltd. will evaluate health impacts off site.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to share the letter in attachment B as amended to Metro Vancouver as part of the Environmental Protection Notice process.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Council agreed to hear Item 7.0 following Item 6.1. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

Procedural Note: The meeting recessed at 7:02 p.m. and resumed at 7:05 p.m.

6.2 Amendment to Extend License to Occupy BC Hydro Lands for Pollinator Meadow

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Amendment to extend the License to Occupy Agreement for the temporary use of a portion of BC Hydro property, substantially in the form included as Attachment "A" of the March 13, 2023 report titled Amendment to Extend License to Occupy BC Hydro Lands for Pollinator Meadow.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.3 Extending Committee Appointments

THAT Council direct staff to defer the 2023 recruitment process until June 2023 for all non-planning committees; and,

THAT Council extend all committee appointments that would expire at the end of March 2023 to June 1, 2023.

Adopted on Consent.

6.4 Notice of Motion Process

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the Notice of Motion Process Policy in Attachment 1 and give first, second and third reading to Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023 in Attachment 2.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: At 9:05 p.m., Councillor Paul Minhas declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting and did not return until the conclusion of the vote on this matter.

6.5 Site-Wide Liquor Licensing Program for Special Events

Discussion ensued on:

- Concern that reports specify changes that are in Council's purview;
- Concern that non-Business Improvement Association (BIA) events are encouraged; and
- Restaurant patios are permitted to open in alignment with the terms of their own license.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council directs staff to implement the Site-Wide Liquor Licensing Program using the proposed guidelines for Special Events; and,

THAT Council direct staff to seek feedback from businesses on the proposed Site-Wide Liquor Licensing for Special Events.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councillor Minhas returned to the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

6.6 Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative Update and Proposed Tree Planting at City Hall

During discussion, concern was noted regarding the extent of the community consultation undertaken with respect to alternate locations for the biodiversity enhancement initiative.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the May 13, 2023 report titled “Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Update and Proposed Tree Planting at City Hall” be referred back to staff for a more detailed budget and opportunities for community consultation.

Defeated.

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this progress update on the Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Initiative; and

THAT Council approve planting of a full tree grove (Option A) on a portion of City Hall lands as outlined in the March 13, 2023 report titled Urban Reforestation and Biodiversity Enhancement Update and Proposed Tree Planting at City Hall.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: Item 6.7 was considered in Item 7.0.

6.7 Proclamation: World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, March 24, 2023

Ashminder Gill, Results Canada, spoke to raise awareness on the impact of tuberculosis, marked by the World Health Organization as one of the world’s worst infectious diseases which disproportionately affects Indigenous people and newcomers to Canada.

Mayor Patrick Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed March, 24, 2023 as World Tuberculosis Day in the City of New Westminster.

6.8 Proclamation: Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness, March 26, 2023

Adopted on Consent.

6.9 Proclamation: Amyloidosis Awareness Month, March 2023

Adopted on Consent.

6.10 Minutes for Adoption

- a. January 9, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- b. January 9, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- c. January 18, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- d. January 23, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- e. January 25, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- f. January 30, 2023 Special Council Workshop
- g. January 30, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- h. January 30, 2023 City Council Meeting (following Public Hearing)
- i. February 3, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- j. February 6, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- k. February 13, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- l. February 13, 2023 Council Workshop
- m. February 13, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Adopted on Consent.

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

Elaine Su, New Westminster Public Library, provided information regarding the Seed Library launch event to promote climate activism.

Peijiang Miao, Resident, led the review of a presentation titled “Neighbours Support 22nd Station Master Plan” to support the continuation of the 22nd Street Station Master Plan to provide opportunities for improving the environment and attracting more residents to the Connaught Heights community.

Jag Sall, Sukh Sagar Gurdwara, highlighted the benefits of a sports facility in the Queensborough community to prevent isolation of seniors, support at-risk youth, and support a growing community.

Sukh Sidhu, Resident, expressed concerns for the health and wellness of the Queensborough community and commented on the benefits of a sports field and track in the community to promote physical exercise and mental health.

Sukh Sadhre, New Westminster Soccer Club, provided information regarding the growing Queensborough community and the need for facilities to support the growth. He expressed concerns regarding the decline in soccer registration, citing the barrier of access to fields and facilities.

Harpreet Bal, Queen Elizabeth Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee, raised concerns regarding the lack of outdoor spaces and suggested that a track would allow children to maintain activity levels.

Bernadette Gourlay, Queensborough Middle School Parent Advisory Committee, requested the construction of a full running track in Queensborough to support lifelong mental and physical health for its residents.

Mike Savage, Resident, spoke in support of increasing facilities for the Queensborough area.

Procedural Note: The Council meeting recessed at 8:44 p.m. and considered Item 6.2 upon resuming at 8:55 p.m.

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Bylaws for readings

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8385, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8.2 Bylaws for adoption

a. Housing Agreement (612 Seventh Avenue) Bylaw No. 8376 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Housing Agreement (612 Seventh Avenue) Bylaw No. 8376 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

9. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.1 Notices of Motion

9.1.a Providing an Update on the City's Age-Friendly Community Strategy was withdrawn.

b. Ensuring the timely removal and replacement of dead and/or dying trees on city property

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas it is a core function of our City to maintain a healthy stock of trees on public property and to have dead trees removed in a timely manner; and

Whereas a number of sidewalks, boulevards and areas in the public realm have dead or dying trees that have been there for at least one year; and

Whereas the City is committed to keeping all of our publicly-owned trees healthy and free of disease and/or vandalism; and

Whereas the City may be planting a significant number of new trees as part of our capital plan

BE IT RESOLVED that staff report back regarding the resources required and staffing implications to conduct an audit of how many

dead or dying trees are on city sidewalks, boulevards and adjacent to arterials that require replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report incorporate the estimated costs associated with the removal of all dead and/or dying trees on city-owned land and have them replanted prior to the April 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of this resolution any tree on city-owned property which must be cut down to a stump will be removed and replanted within a 12 month period

c. Supporting Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas for low-income youth whose families may not have access to a vehicle and the means to provide transit passes, and youth facing marginalization, transit access is a survival lifeline to access shelter, school, support services, health care, and food security; and

Whereas the cost of ensuring at-risk youth can access the essential programs and services funded to support youth outcomes in BC is downloaded onto non-profits that often struggle to 'remove the access barrier' of lack of access to transit; and

Whereas youth-in-need may miss the lifesaving supports available in BC due to mobility poverty and lack of access to transit is an avoidable travesty solved with free transit up to age 18; and

Whereas the City of New Westminister is committed to supporting our youth as well as issues which address equity, diversity and inclusivity

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminister endorse the Single Mothers' Alliance Transit for Teens Campaign; and in doing so, the Mayor write a letter to the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, the board of directors of BC Transit, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Office of the Premier, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and

the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth to work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for teens aged 13 to 18 in B.C.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 East Columbia at Brunette Intersection and Roadway Improvement Plans and Implications

Discussion ensued on:

- The criteria for the “dangerous” intersection designation; and,
- Road capacity changes require TransLink approval.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the next steps as outlined in the March 13, 2023 report titled “East Columbia at Brunette Intersection and Roadway Improvement Plans and Implications”.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

10.2 Request to Modify the Call to Action on Creating More Equitable Municipalities Motion Forwarded to LMLGA and UBCM

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council support the proposed UBCM motion, approve co-sponsorship of the motion and direct staff to communicate this decision to LMLGA.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Farmer’s Market season starts on March 30, 2023.

Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas will host a Councillor Café on March 16, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 pm at Amelia’s Restaurant.

Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas will host a Business Café on April 19, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Massey Theatre.

12. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 10:11 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Jacque Killawee

CITY CLERK