



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Monday, April 3, 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. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Brad Davie	Assistant Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Ms. Jackie Teed	Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Serena Trachta	Manager, Inspections
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mr. Erin Williams	Acting Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

#### **GUESTS:**

Ms. Wendy Itagawa                      Executive Director, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project

**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 approve the agenda.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**3.1 Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project – Project Update**

**a. Presentation: Wendy Itagawa, Executive Director, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project (On Table)**

Wendy Itagawa, Executive Director, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project led the review of the presentation titled “Pattullo Bridge Replacement – Presentation for New Westminster City Council” and highlighted:

- The new bridge is located upstream of the existing bridge and will utilize existing traffic patterns
- The Province will own and maintain the new bridge that will provide a safer and more reliable crossing
- The pile installation has been completed
- The lower crossbeam has been completed
- Upcoming construction work in New Westminster
- Columbia Street construction (April/May 2023):
  - Trench required will take five weeks to complete with 24-hour access
  - Trench work will require a closure between Elliott Street and McBride Boulevard
  - Night and weekend closures expected
  - Drivers will be notified in advance of disruptions
  - Dynamic and static messaging signs are installed
- Royal Avenue overpass deck replacement commences in April 2023:

- Columbia Street will be open when work commences
- Requires a three-day closure of the bridge connector
- McBride Boulevard and Columbia Street intersection improvements (spring/summer 2023):
  - Will require weekend closures
  - Will require partial intersection closure and lane closures
- Later summer/fall 2023 requirement for Front Street and Columbia Street closures:
  - Two roads will be open at all times
- First Nations' engagement and ongoing public consultation and engagement.

Discussion ensued on:

- Snow mitigation:
  - The new Pattullo Bridge will not have cables over the road
  - Snow and ice removal system can be deployed remotely
- Cultural recognition will play an important part in the naming of the bridge
- The old Pattullo Bridge cannot be seismically retrofitted and is unsafe
- Ideas for commemoration and memorialization of the old Pattullo Bridge
- Active communication program engagement in one on one meetings and door to door visits
- Suggestion that the Pattullo Bridge project consult with schools and daycares
- Compliance with accessibility requirements
- Anticipated opening in 2024.

#### **b. Report: Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project – Project Update**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of upcoming works and construction milestones for the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project, through the accompanying presentation which will be delivered by a representative of the Transportation Investment Corporation (TI Corp).

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for items 4.3 to 4.5 on consent.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

##### **4.1 Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023: BC Energy Step Code Alignment – Bylaw for Three Readings**

Discussion ensued on:

- No consultant fees are required,
- Concern regarding financial implications and scope of work;
- Suggestion to include the amount of staff resources used for the project; and
- The Province has changed the framework and the City must align with the BC Energy Step Code.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give First, Second and Third Reading to Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023: BC Energy Step Code Alignment.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

##### **4.2 New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) Cycling Connector – Mitigation of Business Concerns**

Discussion ensued on:

- Challenges with deploying enforcement offers for parking infractions;
- Pavement marking installation is weather dependent;
- Clear signage will be installed to notify cyclists of changes;
- Suggestion to consider physical measures to discourage parking that will continue to allow deliveries;
- Usage data will be available once project is complete;
- Parking rates can be adjusted to influence parking occupancy; and
- Concerns regarding sufficient bicycle parking.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to implement the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the April 3, 2023 report titled “New Westminster Secondary School (NWSS) Cycling Connector – Mitigation of Business Concerns” to address business and public concerns.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**4.3 Proclamation - Green Shirt Day, April 7, 2023**

**Adopted on Consent.**

**4.4 Proclamation - Prevention of Violence Against Women Week, April 16 - 22, 2023**

**Adopted on Consent.**

**4.5 Minutes for Adoption**

- a. March 6, 2023 Special City Council Meeting
- b. March 13, 2023 City Council Meeting

**Adopted on Consent.**

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

Irina Almasen, Resident, provided information regarding a vehicle incident on her property and raised safety concerns for vehicles, and pedestrians and requested that Council consider road safety measures on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to McBride Boulevard.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** staff provide information regarding safety concerns for vehicles, pedestrians and residents and provide potential long-term or short-term safety measures on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to McBride Boulevard and report back.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Carmen Dunn, Resident, expressed concern that the gardens planned for the Queens Park petting zoo does not encourage health and physical fitness. It was requested that more facilities be provided for children under five.

Rick Folka, Resident, provided a summary of motions provided by Councillors and cited concerns regarding the budget and the level of inflation and high cost of living.

**Procedural Note:** The meeting recessed at 7:58 p.m. and reconvened at 8:14 p.m.

## 6. BYLAWS

### 6.1 Bylaws for readings

#### a. **Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023 be given First Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023 be given Second Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023 be given Third Reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### 6.2 Bylaws for adoption

#### a. **Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8386, 2023 be adopted.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## 7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

### 7.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

#### a. **Parks and Recreation Registration Process Submitted by Councillor Henderson**

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff will report back with workload and funding required to implement the motion;
- The need to consider equity;
- Steps to reduce and remove financial barriers; and
- Concern that registration opens prior to the provision of computer access at the library.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster is committed to increasing equity and accessibility in the City's policies and programs;

**WHEREAS** there is a consistent demand for affordable, high-quality programming recreation programming throughout the City; and

**WHEREAS** the City's Parks and Recreation current registration process presents a number of challenges to registrants including the time of registration, access to a credit card, access to technology, the reliability of registration software, waitlist management, and others.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council direct staff to explore opportunities to improve the equity and accessibility of the Parks and Recreation registration process and report back to Council with options to address the current challenges.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**b. Preserving, Protecting and Enhancing the Samson V museum for Future Generations**

**Submitted by Councillor Fontaine**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**WHEREAS** the Samson V museum is currently shrink wrapped on New Westminster's waterfront and has undergone major repairs over the past several years due to damage incurred as a result of a pesky pigeon problem;

**WHEREAS** the draft 5-year capital plan calls for significantly more tax dollars be invested in repairing and maintaining this civic museum which will continue to be severely impacted by outdoor weather conditions; and

**WHEREAS** this important part of our history deserves to be respected, kept in pristine condition and fully accessible to tourists, local citizens and students.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff report back on the costs, potential sources of funding and operational impacts associated with temporarily placing the Samson V in dry dock to repair and restore the vessel for public viewing;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff report back on options to find a permanent indoor home for the Samson V adjacent to or on our waterfront as part of a possible pier expansion and/or long-term tourism strategy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff consult with the Fraser River Discovery Center and other key stakeholders and report back regarding the opportunity and costs associated with undertaking a pilot program that would permit short-term pleasure craft usage at the moorage vacated by the Samson V

**Defeated.**

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

**c. Hearing from the Communities Regarding their Priorities for the new Growing Communities Fund**

**Submitted by Councillor Minhas**

Discussion ensued on:

- Concern regarding public engagement process for the Growing Communities Fund
- Concern regarding the lack of equity in the public engagement
- The need for a broader public discussion regarding prioritization of capital spending
- New funding is not allocated in the Capital Plan.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

**WHEREAS** the Government of British Columbia has provided the City of New Westminster with almost \$16M as part of their Growing Communities Fund; and



**WHEREAS** these are not funds that were considered as part of our 2023 operating budget or 5-year capital plan and will need to be invested in the near term on key city priorities; and

**WHEREAS** Council has an opportunity to engage with our citizens and listen to their feedback regarding what they think our priorities should be for this new investment.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council hold a special open meeting at City Hall at the earliest opportunity to obtain feedback from the public regarding what the priorities should be for the Growing Communities Funding; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff develop an online survey opportunity for the public to provide their feedback regarding what priority areas Council should consider as part of the Growing Communities Funding.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the motion “Hearing from the Communities Regarding their Priorities for the new Growing Communities Fund” be tabled to allow consideration of an alternative motion.

**Carried.**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**Procedural Note:** As a result of the discussion, the following main motion was introduced.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** early in the 2024 budget process, community engagement staff lead a structured consultation including an online survey component with the goal to involve a representative sample of the community in determining priority areas for future capital budget spending.

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

Discussion ensued on:

- Concern regarding the public process in determining funding options
- Concern regarding an extensive scope of engagement.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** the resolution be amended by adding” BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED THAT no decision will be made regarding the Growing Communities Fund until Council has received the report back on the engagement consultation process, per the motion above.

**Carried.**

Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Campbell opposed.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

**BE IT RESOLVED** early in the 2024 budget process, community engagement staff lead a structured consultation including an online survey component with the goal to involve a representative sample of the community in determining priority areas for future capital budget spending; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED THAT** no decision will be made regarding the Growing Communities Fund until Council has received the report back on the engagement consultation process, per the motion above.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

Council requested that Item 11.1 be included on a future agenda for Council consideration.

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Anvil Centre hosted an event to promote Sikh Heritage month.

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

Councillor Fontaine will host a Townhall Forum at Queensborough Community Centre on April 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**10. END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 9:24 p.m.

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER