

Utility Commission

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically and in Committee Room 2
City Hall**

PRESENT

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Sally Bhullar-Gill
Maya Chorobik*
Councillor Paul Minhas
Lino Siracusa
Lisa Spitale

Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

STAFF

Ron Au
Rod Carle
Katie Stobbart

Senior Financial Services Analyst
General Manager, Electrical Operations
Committee Clerk

*Denotes virtual attendance

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

Mayor Patrick Johnstone opened the meeting at 1:34 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. **INTRODUCTIONS**

2.1 Welcome to new Councillor Paul Minhas

The Commission welcomed Councillor Paul Minhas as a new Commissioner.

3. CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENT

3.1 Appointment of a new Chairperson (External Member)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Lino Siracusa be appointed as the new Chairperson of the Utility Commission.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT item 5 be addressed after all other items on the Agenda.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

5. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED MEETING

Procedural Note: This item was addressed following all other agenda items. The minutes are recorded in numerical order.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Utility Commission will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, on the basis that the subject matter for all agenda items relate to matters listed under sections:

(1)(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee, or agent of the municipality or another person appointed by the municipality;

(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations;

(1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the

council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Minutes of October 18, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the October 18, 2022 Utility Commission meeting be adopted.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT items 7.2, 7.3, and 7.5 be adopted on Consent.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

7.1 BridgeNet Dark Fibre Utility

Rod Carle, General Manager, Electrical Utility, provided a brief overview of the BridgeNet Dark Fibre Utility report, noting the following:

- BridgeNet 2.0 was an initiative brought forward by IT to bring service to all the cities around us and create a hub at City Hall;
- An individual has been hired to handle marketing; and
- Currently working on agreements with the first customer to use the new Wavelength service.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Carle advised that the Commission's oversight of BridgeNet is similar to its oversight of the electric utility.

The Commission recommended that staff report back on BridgeNet to the Commission more regularly, starting with the next Commission meeting.

7.2 Purchasing and Sales Report

7.3 Financial Report

7.4 2023 Utility Commission Meeting Schedule

7.5 Next Meeting

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the reports for items 7.1 and 7.4 be received for information.

Carried.

All Commissioners present voted in favour of the motion.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

9. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 1:52 p.m.

10. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remaining scheduled meetings for 2023, which take place at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- May 9
- June 20
- July 11
- September 19
- November 21