



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, April 24, 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. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Ms. Silisha Ali	Program Coordinator, Youth
Ms. Carolyn Armanini	Senior Planner
Mr. Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Garey Carlson	Engineering Technologist
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Mr. Brad Davie	Acting Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Communications and Economic Development
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Indeeep Johal	Manager, Revenue and Collection
Ms. Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Ms. Wendee Lang	Development Planner
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Erica Mashig	Manager of Parks and Open Space Planning Design and Construction
Ms. Christy Mereigh	Manager, Strategic Projects

Mr. Demian Rueter	Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Gary So	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Serena Trachta	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
Ms. Debbie Reimer	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group

*Denotes electronic attendance

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adds Item 11.1 – 2023 Summer Heat Response Update to the agenda; and

THAT Council adopt the agenda as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. **MINUTE OF SILENCE**

3.1 **Honouring the Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job, April 28, 2023**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone recognized the Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job and noted that a ceremony will be held on April 28, 2023 to honour the occasion.

Mayor Johnstone requested the observance of a minute of silence.

4. **BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

4.1 **Official Community Plan Amendment (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8374, 2023**

Council members noted the location is a high amenity neighbourhood and suitable for a family-friendly development. Council requested staff to contact the Public Hearing delegate who expressed parking access and noise concerns.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Official Community Plan Amendment (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8374, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.2 Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) No. 8375, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102-104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) No. 8375, 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

5.1 Youth Week, May 1-7, 2023

A youth delegate provided information regarding Youth Week and the number of events planned for the week of May 1 to 7, 2023 to educate and empower youth in the community.

Mayor Patrick Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed May 1 to 7, 2023 as Youth Week in the City of New Westminster.

6. REPORTS FOR ACTION

6.1 Train Whistle Cessation – Update (Information Report from April 3, 2023)

In response to questions from Council members, staff advised:

- Train whistles are governed at the federal level and will supersede the municipal noise bylaw;
- Regular applications are filed for whistle cessation funding; and,
- The Rail Technical Committee met and had a productive conversation with railway company representatives.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receives the report titled “Train Whistle Cessation – Update” on the April 24th, 2023 agenda for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: The order of the agenda was varied to consider Item 8.1 and 8.2 prior to Item 7.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 8.3, 8.6, 8.8 and 8.10 on consent.

Carried

8.1 2023 Tax Rates Bylaw No 8395, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give three readings to the Tax Rates Bylaw No. 8395, 2023 as presented in Attachment #1 of this report.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

8.2 City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Concern regarding lack of consultation on the use for the proposed funding of \$8,000;
- Suggestion that other opportunities be considered to support art and artists in the community; and,
- The Art Advisory Committee supported the installation.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the establishment of a City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program as outlined in the report titled “City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program” on the April 24, 2023 agenda.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED that Council recognize limited staff capacity and human resource challenges by halting the establishment of a City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council redirect the \$8,000 earmarked in the April 24, 2023 report titled “City Hall Community Art Exhibition

Program” to the City’s Community Grant Program and make it available to local arts groups to support them displaying their work throughout our community.

Defeated.

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

In discussion, Council members noted:

- The Arts Advisory Committee and Arts Council collaborated on the space at the direction from Council;
- The installation will promote art in the community; and,
- The need for City Hall to be welcoming and inclusive for the community.

Procedural Note: The question on the main motion was called:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the establishment of a City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program as outlined in the report titled “City Hall Community Art Exhibition Program” on the April 24, 2023 agenda.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

7.1 Break

The meeting recessed at 7:37 p.m. and reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

Procedural Note: The order of the agenda was resumed.

8.3 Construction Noise Exemption: 651 Carnarvon Street – Signia Construction Ltd.

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to Signia Construction Ltd. from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 8 pm to 11 pm Monday through Friday, excluding Saturday nights and Statutory Holidays, but including alternating Sundays from 9 am to 6 pm, for the purposes of re-roofing and adding insulation and cladding to the exterior of the Provincial Courthouse from April 24, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

Adopted on Consent.

8.4 Economic Impact Model Scope of Work

In response to questions from Council members, staff noted that the new model would incorporate staff learning and engage a consultant to identify goals and metrics for the proposed model.

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Suggestion that the report be presented in a workshop;
- Suggestion that reports include information on staff resources required for projects;
- Concern regarding the staff impacts of decisions on reports; and,
- The cost of operating amenities in New Westminster.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the scope of work for an economic impact model and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8.5 Queen's Park Farm Master Plan Adoption

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the Queen's Park Farm Master Plan, as outlined in the report titled "Queen's Park Farm Master Plan Adoption" on the April 24th agenda and included as Attachment A; and,

THAT staff proceed with next steps as outlined in the report titled "Queen's Park Farm Master Plan Adoption" on the April 24th agenda.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

8.6 Recruitment 2023: Appointments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

THAT Council receive the report titled, "Recruitment 2023: Appointments to the Accessibility Advisory Committee," for information.

Adopted on Consent.

8.7 Rezoning and Special Development Permit (810 Agnes Street and 815 - 821 Victoria Street) - Application Consideration

In discussion, Council members noted:

- Public hearings are encouraged;

- Cost impact of delays; and,
- Concern regarding efficacy of public hearings.

In response to a question from Council, staff noted that consideration has been given to the findings of both the City-led and applicant-led consultations.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the application to rezone 810 Agnes Street and 815-821 Victoria Street be considered, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*;

THAT notification be circulated in accordance with the *Local Government Act*; and,

THAT a Housing Agreement Bylaw to secure 352 secured market rental housing units at 810 Agnes Street and 815-821 Victoria Street be forwarded to Council for consideration.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council insert “no public hearing held” to the first paragraph of the motion to read:

“**THAT** the application to rezone 810 Agnes Street and 815-821 Victoria Street be considered and no Public Hearing held, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.”

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the application to rezone 810 Agnes Street and 815-821 Victoria Street be considered and no Public Hearing held, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*;

THAT notification be circulated in accordance with the *Local Government Act*; and,

THAT a Housing Agreement Bylaw to secure 352 secured market rental housing units at 810 Agnes Street and 815-821 Victoria Street be forwarded to Council for consideration.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8.8 Salmonbellies Municipally Significant LCRB Resolution

THAT Council support the declaration of the New Westminster Salmonbellies Senior A Lacrosse Club games to be of municipal significance and forward this resolution to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

Adopted on Consent.

8.9 Proclamation: Red Dress Day, May 5, 2023

Council members noted the importance of the recommendations for actions that governments should take from the report on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Mayor Johnstone read the proclamation and proclaimed May 5, 2023 as Red Dress Day, also known as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People in the City of New Westminster.

8.10 Minutes for Adoption

- a. March 27, 2023 City Council Meeting (9:00 a.m.)
- b. March 27, 2023 Special Council Workshop
- c. March 27, 2023 Public Hearing
- d. March 27, 2023 City Council Meeting (following the Public Hearing)
- e. April 3, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- f. April 3, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Adopted on Consent.

9. BYLAWS

9.1 Bylaws for adoption

a. Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8388, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Five Year Financial Plan 2023 - 2027 Bylaw No 8392, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Five-Year Financial Plan 2023 - 2027 Bylaw No. 8392, 2023 be adopted.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

9.2 Bylaws for readings

a. Tax Rates Bylaw No. 8395 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Tax Rates Bylaw No. 8395 2023 be given First Reading.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Tax Rates Bylaw No. 8395 2023 be given Second Reading.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Tax Rates Bylaw No. 8395 2023 be given Third Reading.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

10. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.1 Notices of Motion

a. Inviting the Community to Celebrate and Say Goodbye to the Pattullo Bridge

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

WHEREAS the Pattullo Bridge is an iconic part of the City of New Westminster's history;

WHEREAS the historic Pattullo Bridge will be decommissioned and replaced by a wider, more modern bridge which will be operational in 2024; and,

WHEREAS the public should be provided with a unique opportunity to experience the Pattullo Bridge without truck and vehicle traffic.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor write a letter on behalf of Council to the BC Ministry of Transportation to determine the feasibility of opening the Pattullo Bridge to pedestrian, cycle and other non-vehicular modes of transportation for a period of three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) subsequent to the opening of the new bridge; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council enter into discussions with the Ministry of Transportation to facilitate a community-based celebration of the existing Pattullo Bridge by way of an 'on bridge' day-long street festival during the three-day public access period.

b. Updating and Determining the Effectiveness of the City's Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster introduced a Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw in 2016;

WHEREAS the overall tree canopy within the City of New Westminster has continued to decline since the introduction of the Tree Protection and Regulation bylaw;

WHEREAS it is important to regularly review bylaws for their effectiveness; and,

WHEREAS there is increasing evidence that trees and other greenspaces offer significant health and well-being benefits, including reduced deaths from cardiovascular disease and improved mental health outcomes.

BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to report back to Council regarding the costs, potential sources of funding and operational impacts pertaining to the City conducting an independent and arms-length review and public consultation regarding the effectiveness of our Tree Protection and Regulation Bylaw.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 2023 Summer Heat Response Update

In discussion, Council Members noted:

- The need for the public to be informed about procedures prior to a heat event;

- Suggestion that regulatory changes be implemented in advance of a heat event; and,
- Suggestion that staff explore regulatory changes to require a heat emergency plan for buildings.

Brad Davies, Acting Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, noted:

- High risk buildings will be identified for the air conditioner loan program;
- A communication plan is in place to notify residents regarding a heat event; and,
- Additional spray parks and misters will be initiated in advance of the heat event.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to explore what regulatory and policy tools are available to regulate heat plans.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councillor Campbell announced that City staff are creating a display of red dresses and asked the public to contribute red dresses with no logo to any city facility.

Councillor Fontaine is hosting a Community Town Hall Forum at Queensborough Community Centre on April 25, 2023 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

13. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8:48 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER