



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, June 12, 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:

Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager of Engineering Services
Todd Ayotte*	Manager of Community Arts & Theatre
Rod Carle*	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Indeep Johal*	Manager of Financial Services
Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Debbie Reimer*	Recording Secretary, Mosaic Writing Group
Lynn Roxburgh	Supervisor of Land Use Planning
Patrick Shannon*	Manager of Purchasing Services
Gary So	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Alex Tam*	Senior Financial Analyst

Serena Trachta	Manager, Inspections, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Erin Williams*	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Eva Yip*	Acting Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

GUESTS:

Alex Godfrey	Turnbull Construction Project Managers
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* Denotes electronic attendance.

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 accept all on table items.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

That Council add Item 9.1 – Appointment of Voting Member for the E-Comm AGM

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

That Council vary the order of the agenda to consider Item 3.1 following Item 7;

That Council vary the order of the agenda to consider Item 8.1.c following Item 6; and

That Council adopt the agenda as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: In accordance with Item 2, Item 3 was considered following Item 7.

Procedural note: Item 4.1 was discussed at this point. The minutes are listed in agenda order.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Procedural Note: In accordance with Item 2, Item 3.1 was considered following Item 7.

3.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Supporting the victims of random and violent crimes in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS the streets of New Westminster have been the scene of an increasing number of violent crime incidents including shootings in broad daylight and stabbings;

WHEREAS an increasing number of residents, business owners and tourists are concerned about their safety; and,

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster should play an important role in helping to ensure that residents, business owners and tourists remains safe.

Procedural Note: It was noted that a motion was passed at the May 29, 2023 Council Meeting to consider the main motion as distinct propositions. The question on Part 1 of the motion was called at the May 29, 2023 Council meeting and it was defeated. The question was called on Part 2 of the main motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED that Council endorse a request made in February 2023 by the Business Improvement Areas of BC to establish a new provincially funded program which supports initiatives aimed at curtailing the impacts of vandalism and property crime.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council amend the motion to write a letter to Premier David Eby, Finance Minister Katrine Conroy and Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport in support of the request made in February 2023 by the Business Improvement Areas of BC to

establish a new provincially funded program which supports initiatives aimed at curtailing the impacts of vandalism and property crime.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Question was called on Part 3 of the main motion.

During discussion it was noted the Province could be encouraged to amend the *Police Board Act*.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED that Council request an urgent meeting with the New Westminster Police Board to develop a joint strategy and determine what additional initiatives can be immediately implemented to ensure our streets remain safe from further violent crime.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Implementing initiatives to reduce catalytic converter thefts in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Discussion ensued on:

- Concern regarding the enforceability of the proposed bylaw as stolen converters are not sold through physical businesses located in New Westminster
- Police confirmation of the significance of catalytic converter thefts
- Concern that local government bylaws are ineffective in deterring theft.

WHEREAS the theft and resale of stolen catalytic converters is considered an issue within the City of New Westminster; and

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC) says converter theft claims have climbed from 89 in 2017 to 1,953 last year, totaling more than \$4 million in claim costs for 2021; and

WHEREAS the theft of catalytic converters is costly and impactful to the victims of this crime.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED that staff work with ICBC and the New Westminster Police Department to determine the feasibility of replicating Surrey’s “Etch It, We Catch It” campaign in our city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back regarding the feasibility of implementing a by-law that would place a temporary ban on the resale of catalytic converters and impose serious fines to those individuals and/or businesses who knowingly sell stolen catalytic converters in our city.

Defeated.

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

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

4.1 Massey Theatre Renovation - Scope, Schedule and Budget

a. Presentation (On Table)

b. Report: Massey Theatre Renovation - Scope, Schedule and Budget

Lisa LeBlanc, Director of Engineering Services, led the review of a presentation titled “Massey Theatre Renovation”, dated June 12, 2023.

Mayor and Council noted:

- It is vital to move this project forward;
- Important to consider scope creep and cost escalation, what supports are there to prevent costs from increasing uncontrollably;
- Seismic safety is an important consideration;
- Accessibility is not an optional expense, the building needs a comprehensive update in that regard;
- The City needs to recognize there will be further opportunities for upgrades to civic buildings with significant climate considerations; and
- The Growing Communities Fund would be a beneficial resource in this project.

City staff advised:

- The Massey Theatre renovation budget includes a 15% contingency fund;
- Internal governance is made to be similar as the tēmōsew'tx^w, which has an internal steering committee and a project manager for internal and external communication;
- Upon completion, the Massey Theatre will be within 20% of seismic safety compliance; and
- Staff determined the Climate Action Fund was not appropriate to use in this building.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council approve the recommended scope of work, schedule and estimated costs to completion for the renovation of the Massey Theatre described herein; and

That Council direct staff to bring back, as a Quarterly adjustment, a \$6.0M increase to the MTS Capital Plan, funded from the Provincial Growing Communities Fund.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.2 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report

a. Presentation (On Table)

No presentation was given.

b. Report: 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report

Mayor and Council noted:

- During discussion, it was noted that JTS Consulting Inc. was consulted due to their knowledge of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council receive the report titled 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report for information; and,

That Council approve the 2023 quarterly capital budget adjustments as outlined in Table 1-1 of the report titled 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council adopt the recommendations for items 5.3, 5.4, 5.12, 5.13, 5.14, 5.16, 5.17 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural note: A recess was declared from 6:52-7:00 p.m.

Procedural note: The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. at which time items 6 and 8.1c were discussed respectively.

5.1 2023 Council Remuneration

Mayor and Council noted:

- Acknowledging the work of Mayor and Council and it being necessary to maintain remuneration which tracks the CPI and inflation; and,
- That the 6.8% pay hike is not equitable among residents of the City of New Westminster.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council receive the report titled 2023 Council Remuneration on the June 12th, 2023 agenda for information.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

5.2 22nd Street Station Area Bold Vision Relaunch

Mayor and Council noted:

- The re-visioning process is welcome;
- There is much confusion and fatigue around consultation, how can residents determine what sanctioned information events are;
- This development is an opportunity for the City, it is important to get it right;
- and,
- The footprint as presented in the Master Plan may not be optimal large

City staff advised:

- “Love Your City” survey identified additional areas outside the boundary and are expected to be consulted.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council direct staff to proceed with the proposed 22nd Street Station Area Bold Vision process as outlined in the report titled 22nd Street Station Area Bold Vision Relaunch, with a dual focus on First Nations collaboration and building climate resilience.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.3 327 Louellen Street: Sale of Abutting City Property

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council authorize the sale of the City Property described in the report titled 327 Louellen Street: Sale of Abutting City Property to Lisa Marie Harry, subject to satisfying the conditions in the subject Agreement of Purchase and Sale between the Corporation of the City of New Westminster and Lisa Marie Harry (the “Agreement”) and authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Agreement.

Adopted on Consent.

5.4 Advisory Committee Engagement Results (Circulated Separately)

That Council receive the summary of feedback received from advisory committee members; and

That Council direct staff to prepare a workshop with Council on the future of committees on June 26, 2023.

Adopted on Consent.

Procedural Note: Councillor Minhas recused himself from the meeting at 9:06 p.m. due to his residential proximity to the proposed bylaw exemption request.

5.5 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 660 Quayside Drive (Bosa Development)

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council grant a noise exemption from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to Bosa Development for construction-related activity occurring on Saturday, June 17th, 2023 and June 24th, 2023 between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councillor Minhas returned to the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

5.6 Housing Needs Report Update: 2021 & 2022

Mayor and Council noted:

- Need for clarity on a breakdown of the data in terms of home ownership and condominiums;
- Does the development that the City is seeing enough to meet transitional housing targets;

carol phrased this as follows:

The proposed 30-unit supportive housing project will meet the transitional housing targets but does not address the backlog from previous years

- Positive development that purpose-built rental is higher than anticipated;
- The Minister noted capital funding is made available to municipalities on the list, indicating they are not meeting provincially mandated guidelines; and,
- Concern around making four-unit multi-family homes in areas which may be far from amenities and basic needs.

City staff advised:

- There is a shortfall emerging and the transitional housing targets are not being fully met; and,
- Staff are working with the province to prevent densification in areas that do not need or cannot handle increased density.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council endorse the updated housing unit targets (2021-2031) outlined in the report titled Housing Needs Report Update: 2021 & 2022, and direct staff to report annually on progress towards achieving these goals.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.7 New Westminster Pesticide Use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council gives three readings to New Westminster Pesticide Use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023, as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled New Westminster Pesticide Use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023.

Adopted on Consent.

5.8 Parks and Recreation 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Process

Mayor and Council noted:

- Lacking some clarity on what the report was speaking to, what are the new fees and what are the old fees;
- How can the City engage with different teams and organizations to ensure their admission prices are sustainable and that they can maintain it along with their own registration costs; and
- Fees are aligned with neighbouring municipalities

City staff advised that this report was around potential premium pricing structuring and that there is a report forthcoming with new fees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council consider, provide comment and endorse the proposed process, as outlined in the report titled Parks and Recreation 2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw Process, for the preparation of amendments to Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw (Attachment "A").

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.9 Potential process for updating the City's corporate logo

Mayor and Council noted:

- Would like more clarity around a breakdown of the \$40,000 for the design of the new logo;
- Will there be any engagement with First Nations;
- Who will be selected for the proposed Working Group;
- Would like more clarity around \$450,000 for physical items corporate logo and newly branded stationery;
- Excited at the prospect of seeing what residents of New Westminster say about what they want the new logo to be; and,
- Concern around the timing of this expenditure.

City staff advised:

- Design cost is approximately \$35,000:

- \$5,000 is allocated to the consultation cost
 - Staff will follow the City’s recruitment process and ensure there are diversity of perspectives in the design process represented in the design process; and,
 - Half of the budget (\$450,000) cover large wayfinding items, and when the report refers to ‘over time...’ it means that old-logo items will be replaced with new-logo items at their end of life.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council endorse, in principle, the steps outlined in the report titled Potential process for updating the City’s corporate logo as a process to consider a new logo for the organization;

That Council direct staff to incorporate the logo project into their work plans, pending prioritization of projects that directly address Council’s strategic plan, and report back to Council on a proposed timeline for project launch.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

5.10 Rezoning and Development Permit (145 to 209 East Columbia Street) – Preliminary Report

MOVED AND SECONDED

That Council direct staff to work with the applicant to prepare a plan of development for the subject property suitable for consideration of First and Second Readings, as outlined in the “Application Review Process” section of the report titled Rezoning and Development Permit (145 to 209 East Columbia Street) – Preliminary Report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

That Council endorse in principle that no Public Hearing be held for this application in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Withdrawn.

5.11 Rezoning Application for Duplex: 926 First St – Preliminary Report

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council direct staff to work with the applicant to prepare a plan of development for the subject property suitable for consideration of First and Second Readings, as outlined in the “Application Review Process” section

of the report titled Rezoning Application for Duplex: 926 First St – Preliminary Report.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.12 Rezoning Application for Infill Townhouse: 1032 and 1036 St. Andrews Street – Comprehensive Report

That the application to rezone 1032 and 1036 St. Andrews 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*.

Adopted on Consent.

5.13 Rezoning, Development Variance Permit and Development Permit: 114 and 118 Spruce Street – Comprehensive Report

That the application to rezone 114 and 118 Spruce 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 Council provide notice that it will consider issuance of a Development Variance Permit (DVP00697) to vary the minimum permitted lot frontage for all ten proposed lots and vary the permitted height of the detached garages for Type B lots.

Adopted on Consent.

5.14 Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023

That Council give three readings to Bylaw No. 8369, 2023 - Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw as presented in Attachment 1 of the report titled Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023.

Adopted on Consent.

5.15 Proclamation - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, 2023

Procedural note: This item was considered in Item 6.

5.16 Proclamation - Deafblind Awareness Month, June 2023

Adopted on Consent.

5.17 Proclamation - Filipino Heritage Month and Philippine Independence Day, June 2023 and June 12, 2023

Adopted on Consent.

5.18 Proclamation - Recreation and Parks Month, June 2023

Procedural note: This item was considered in Item 6.

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

Representatives of the Monkey Rebel Club led the review of a presentation titled “Make New Westminster a 15-minute City” and noted that climate change is the biggest crisis of our time, a 15-minute city is a place where everything you need is within 15 minutes and what is needed to achieve a 15-minute city.

Alison Silgado, Senior Services Society, spoke about World Elder Abuse Day as a public health and human rights issue. She reported that seniors face prejudice and stereotypes which leave them vulnerable in the community. She urged Council to make elder abuse a priority in the community.

Mayor proclaimed June 15, 2023 to be World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Procedural note: Councillor Fontaine left the meeting at 7:22 p.m. and returned at 7:25 p.m.

Carole Wylie and Corinne Garrett, Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities and Programs, presented on Parks and Recreation and the Mayor proclaimed June 2023 as Recreation and Parks Month.

Mayor Johnstone read the proclamation and declared the month of June, 2023 Recreation and Parks Month in the City of New Westminster.

Amy Juschka and Shauna Shortt led the review of a presentation titled “YWCA City Shift, Making Cities Work for All”. It was noted that the YWCA strives for equal opportunities for clients and families. The presenters requested Council consider embedding social equity in decision making.

Brennan Williams spoke about business frontage cleanliness and bylaw enforcement. He requested Council consider the implementation of a Good Neighbour Agreement for the area.

Val MacDonald Resident, spoke in support of the Purpose Society Supporting Housing application and noted an individual’s right to housing as a necessary human right and expressed concern over shared toilets in the supportive housing initiative.

Fulton Tom led the review of a presentation titled “Community Bike Month” and noted ideas and events for residents of New Westminster to participate in Community Bike Month and encourages the public to get active.

Wallace Wallace Resident, noted concerns regarding the discriminatory business practices to offer rewards through technology, requests free parking extension on Sunday and requested payphones be installed in some areas of New Westminster and noted concerns regarding the motorized street blowers.

Rozina Jaffer expressed agreement with the supportive housing initiative, claiming that it offers hope and support to those in need. She reported that the City has an obligation to care for people in need and expressed concern regarding some dissenting opinions in New Westminster.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council allow an 11th delegation to speak at the regular Council meeting of June 26, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

Meher Kasam Resident, offered support to the 15-minute city proposal and recounted the advantages of walkable cities and proximity to amenities. A 15-minute city also creates better access for emergency vehicles. The proposal offers additional housing and services important to all residents and allows for freedom of mobility for all demographics.

Procedural Note: In accordance with Item 2, Item 8.1.c. was considered following Item 6.

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Public Hearings not held

Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Off-Street Vehicle Parking - Multiple Dwellings) No. 8396, 2023

An amendment to reduce off-street parking rates for multiple dwellings and require end-of-trip bicycle maintenance facilities for new non-residential buildings, and bicycle maintenance facilities for new apartment buildings.

Bylaw No. 8396, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Off-Street Vehicle Parking - Multiple Dwellings) No. 8396, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Off-Street Vehicle Parking - Multiple Dwellings) No. 8396, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (Off-Street Vehicle Parking - Multiple Dwellings) No. 8396, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

7.2 Bylaws for readings

a. New Westminster Pesticide use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023

An amendment to reflect current requirements of the Provincial Integrated Pest Management Regulation.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give New Westminster Pesticide use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give New Westminster Pesticide use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give New Westminster Pesticide use Amendment Bylaw No. 8403, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

b. Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023

An amendment to improve the City's development projects processes by providing clarity to applicants regarding the City's Offsite Works and Services standards and design requirements.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council give Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8369, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

7.3 Bylaws for adoption

a. Street and Traffic Miscellaneous Amendments Bylaw No. 8397, 2023

To update definitions and clauses related to Cycle Network, Parking Regulations, Street Occupancy Permits and Use of Streets in the Street and Traffic Bylaw.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council adopt Street and Traffic Miscellaneous Amendments Bylaw No. 8397, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. **Enhancing Livability in New Westminster**

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

During discussion, concern was expressed regarding staff workload.

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is focusing on enhancing livability in the downtown and throughout the entire city; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster prioritizes compassion and proven solutions;

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council directs staff to report back on opportunities to bring a program similar to the Chinatown Stewards model to New Westminster.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour.

b. **The Right Person, the Right Time, the Right Place Report**

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

During discussion it was noted that senior care falls under provincial jurisdiction.

WHEREAS June 5 to 11 is Seniors Week providing an opportunity to honour and celebrate seniors contributions and acknowledge the integral part seniors play in communities across British Columbia.

AND WHEREAS, The City, working with seniors, has been a leader in policy to assure seniors in our community have the supports they need to thrive , such as the Age-Friendly Community Strategy, Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan, the development of a Seniors Engagement Toolkit and other resources to optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security.

AND WHEREAS, our recently adopted Strategic Plan includes a focus on New Westminster Community Belonging and Connecting as well as Homes and Housing Options

AND WHEREAS, the Century House Association produced a report entitled The Right Person, the Right Time, the Right Place, which addresses critical issues presented in a webinar titled Long Term Care-Time for Change, organized with the BC Healthy Coalition, which featured The Provincial Seniors Advocate, Simon Fraser

University Department of Gerontology Professor Emerita, and Fraser Health Authority Board Chair, with recommendations to local and senior levels of governments that prioritized supports for seniors to age in place.

Procedural note: Councillor Fontaine left the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That Staff provide a report back to Council on opportunities to action the local government recommendations presented in the Century House Association report The Right Person, the Right Time, the Right Place; and

That City Staff work with Century House Association, Senior Services Society and other New Westminster senior support agencies to develop a senior government advocacy strategy to support the additional recommendations in the report.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

Procedural note: Councillor Fontaine returned to the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Procedural Note: In accordance with Item 2, Item 8.1.c. was considered following Item 6. The minutes follow the agenda order

c. New Westminster: a 15-minute City

Submitted jointly by Councillors Nakagawa and Henderson

Discussion ensued on:

- The 15-Minute City motion was created by the Monkey Rebel Club
- Prioritization of the building of a complete and sustainable city
- 15-minute cities support the ability of seniors to age in place
- Challenges to achieve a 15-minute city due to the age of New Westminster
- Time required to determine the cost of a City policy prior to endorsement.

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster declared a climate emergency with an accompanying plan of 7 Bold Steps, and is committed to a just energy transition to greener infrastructure; and

WHEREAS walking and biking stimulate and improve health, both mental and physical, and the City of New Westminster has seen a recent uprise of mental health issues; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is already committed to creating a safe and comprehensive network of bike paths in order to give people more options in addition to personal vehicles and transit and is committed to a more connected way of life, as demonstrated by their environmentally friendly plans and recently introduced Strategic Plan 2023-2026;

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of New Westminster endorse the concept of becoming a 15-minute city and create a plan to implement the plan by 2030.

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of New Westminster request a report back from staff regarding the financial, policy, social, environmental and other identified impacts on city budgets and operations prior to endorsing the concept of becoming a 15-minute city and create a plan to implement the plan by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific analysis be incorporated in the staff report regarding how endorsement of a 15 minute city concept would impact the residents of Queensborough considering they continue to remain more than 15 minutes away from a number of critical public services such as a high school, swimming pool and artificial turf sports fields.

Defeated.

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

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster declared a climate emergency with an accompanying plan of 7 Bold Steps, and is committed to a just energy transition to greener infrastructure;

WHEREAS walking and biking stimulate and improve health, both mental and physical, and the City of New Westminster has seen a recent uprise of mental health issues; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is already committed to creating a safe and comprehensive network of bike paths in order to give people more options in addition to personal vehicles and transit and is committed to a more connected way of life, as demonstrated by their environmentally friendly plans and recently introduced Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City of New Westminster endorse the concept of becoming a 15-minute city and create a plan to implement the plan by 2030.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

d. Implementation of a temporary Low-Income Energy Assistance Program in 2023

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Discussion ensued on:

- Concern regarding the impact of climate change on residents
- Concern regarding the effectiveness of the low-income assistance program
- Concern regarding cost of the proposed program.

WHEREAS New Westminster had the highest per capita death rate during the 2021 “Heat Dome” which according to the BC Coroner’s office killed 28 residents, many of whom were renters living in tree-canopy deficient neighbourhoods;

WHEREAS according to the BC Coroner’s Office most decedents were in homes without adequate cooling systems such as air conditioners or fans; and Whereas the ‘Heat Dome’ event had significant financial and operational impacts on New Westminster’s first responders including our fire and police departments; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the City of New Westminster injected \$26 million dollars into our Climate Action Reserve for which no funds have been allocated and this in addition to the \$1.9M we anticipate collecting this year by way of a Climate Action Levy charged to all New Westminster electrical utility ratepayers;

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council extend the City Council meeting beyond 10:30 p.m.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective June 1st, 2023 the New West Electrical Utility be directed to provide a one-time reimbursement of up to \$500 to low income residents to install a new or replace an older non-functioning air conditioning unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New West Electrical Utility establish a low-income energy assistance program effective June 1st to provide up to \$500 in credits for eligible residents who are facing markedly higher energy bills due to increased consumption during the summer season (June through September); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of low-income mirror that of the Province of BC which is defined as individuals with an income of \$39,115 or less, and families with a household income of \$50,170 or less in 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that up to \$500,000 be sourced from the Climate Action Reserve Fund to cover the cost of this temporary program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on urgent basis the CAO be authorized, in consultation with the Mayor, to establish the streamlined program eligibility and temporarily reallocate the necessary internal resources to support the operations of this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor write a letter to the Premier of BC requesting the 14 recommendations contained in a June 7, 2022 BC Coroner's Office report titled "Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021" be fully implemented in an expedited manner.

Procedural Note: As a result of the discussion, a motion to refer was introduced.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council refers the motion titled "Implementation of a Temporary Low-Income Energy Assistance Program in 2023" to the Electric Utility Commission.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Invitation to E-Comm 2023 Annual General Meeting

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council appoint Councillor McEvoy as the voting member and to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of E-Comm to be held on June 22, 2023 on behalf of the City of New Westminster.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Fontaine attended the 513 Hornet Squadron Ceremonial Review and reported that next year is the 75th anniversary of cadets.

Councillor Campbell announced that June is Filipino Heritage Month and attended the 125th Philippine Independence Day event and noted the Philippine Independent Film festival at the Anvil Centre from June 21 to June 25, 2023.

11. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 10:47 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER