



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, June 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell*
Councillor Tasha Henderson*
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

ABSENT:

Councillor Daniel Fontaine
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 and Theatre
Rod Carle*	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Jacqueline Dairon*	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Gordon Duggan*	Executive Director, New Media Gallery
Dean Gibson*	Director of Parks and Recreation
Heidi Hughes*	Manager of Conference Sales and Marketing
Sarah Joyce*	Director, Curator New Media Gallery
Craig MacFarlane*	Manager of Legal Services
Vali Marling*	General Manager, Anvil Center
Robert McCullough*	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Jennifer Miller*	Manager of Public Engagement
Eva Yip*	Acting Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

*Denotes electronic attendance.

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

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at **3:01 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. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

2.1 **Anvil Centre Workshop Planning**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's feedback and direction on the discussion topics and questions to be explored as part of an upcoming Anvil Centre workshop.

Mayor and Council discussed:

- Finding all the potential uses and opportunities for the space ;
- There are residents asking for recreational and aquatic activities downtown, could the Anvil Centre be used in that capacity;
- The Anvil Centre and residents would likely benefit from a cost-subsidy model for the programming;
- Would like to see more awareness of what is taking place through either conventional or social media;
- What is the economic impact generated for the City of New Westminster by having a conference hosted at the Anvil Centre;
- Data and statistics on attendance and traffic;
- Are there other potential revenue streams possible within the space;
- How can the City work with and collaborate with community partners and what is the engagement strategy;
- What is the current situation regarding signage of the building and how can it be improved;
- What is the cultural impact the Anvil Centre is making in the city and province;
- Getting more information on the customer base and demographics;
- Further examination into how residents are using the space and if it is how the space was originally envisioned; and
- How to engage with users and the community without making this too broad a request of staff resources.

City staff advised:

- The August 28th Council Workshop will discuss:

- The Anvil Centre's Alignment with the Strategic Plan 2023-2026;
- Response to changing demographics in the City of New Westminster;
- The Anvil Centre's communications strategy; and
- Budgetary considerations.
- The Anvil Centre adds to the City landscape beyond arts and culture;
- It is possible to create a report on the Anvil Centre's economic benefits to the City, both qualitative and quantitative;
- Staff can work with the engagement team at the Anvil Centre and involve community groups in future discussions with Mayor and Council; and
- Ultimately staff want to take the Anvil Centre in a useful direction which matches the vision Council sets forward.

3. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 4:07 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER