



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, August 28, 2023, 2:45 p.m.

Meeting held electronically and in 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
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager of Engineering Services
Mr. Ron Au	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Mr. Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Gordon Duggan	Executive Director, New Media Gallery
Mr. Steven Faltas	Senior Manager, Electrical
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Communications
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Heidi Hughes	Manager, Marketing, Anvil Centre
Mr. Indeeep Johal	Manager, Finance
Ms. Sarah Joyce	Director and Curator, New Media Gallery
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering
Ms. Priscila Lopes-Hilland	Active Transportation Engineer
Ms. Vali Marling	General Manager, Anvil Centre
Ms. Tobi May	Manager, Civic Buildings
Mr. Rob McCullough	Manager, Museums
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement

Mr. George Otieno	Infrastructure Engineer
Mr. Demian Rueter	Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Gary So	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Manager, Intergovernmental and Community Relations
Ms. Serena Trachta	Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

OTHERS:

Mr. Ian Gerritsen	Associated Engineering – Consultant
Mr. Simon Kras	WSP Global – Consultant
Mr. Neil Peters	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants – Consultant

*Denotes electronic attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered 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. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 New Westminster Flood Resilience Plan Update

Staff presented on the various long-term planning studies on the Fraser River's flood profile, city-wide flood protection projects and diking upgrades in the region.

Discussion ensued on:

- Levels of support in proceeding with flood mitigation upgrades at an accelerated timeline;
- Diking in Queensborough is of importance as it is the fastest growing community, faces the biggest danger and stands to gain the most from dyke upgrades. A communication strategy around this would be beneficial going forward which staff can maintain with residents of this neighbourhood;
- Quayside is most at risk of a rise in Fraser River water levels or if there is a shock to dredging operations;
- City staff regularly hold discussions with Emergency Management BC to discuss readiness and the state of flood management plans;

- Council noted both extreme rainfall and rising Fraser River levels are a priority. There is potential to develop funding and communication strategies with the regional district with neighbouring municipalities; and
- With the phased approach of the flood protection plan, currently the dykes are at a sufficient level for average annual water levels until 2050 with Queensborough being at higher risk.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopts the proposed 2050 Climate Change Fraser River Flood Profile in the implementation of future diking projects;

THAT Council authorize staff to implement the recommendations of the New Westminster Flood Resilience Plan in Phase II; and

THAT Council authorize staff to continue to work with the Province of BC in the development of the BC Flood Strategy to address critical & sustainable funding required for diking upgrades in the region

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councilor Fontaine left the meeting from 4:17-4:19 pm but was present for the vote.

2.2 Sewer & Drainage Asset Management Plan, 2023

Procedural Note: Due to time constraints, this item was referred to the Open Council Workshop Meeting of September 11, 2023.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 4:22 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 4:26 p.m.

2.3 Anvil Centre - Council Workshop

Staff presented on the Anvil Centre's (AC) ongoing community activities and initiatives within the context of the City of New Westminster's Strategic Plan.

Discussion ensued on:

- How is the AC living up to its original mandate as it was when it was first built and what is its impact in the community. It houses the City's corporate archive as well as the community archives;
- The City may benefit from hosting and facilitating real-time community engagement sessions to align activities with the needs and wants of the community;

- There is potential to improve physical signage and social media action plan to communicate changes and increase community awareness and better reflect the range of programs and services;
- The physical space inside may be a perceived barrier but could be improved dynamically to better suit the activities taking place;
- Because the AC is an arts and recreation space, the cost recovery process is unique and staff will need to develop metrics which can be used by Council to better analyze performance – potential for comparisons to other City facilities and other municipalities;
- There are other municipal facilities which require a strategic alignment review and the AC may be able to synergize together with and consider partnered program opportunities. The loss of traditional media and programs around Canada is forcing all municipalities and facilities to review their programs;
- Further considering barriers in and around the space, residents noted uncertainty about whether they are able to book a space at the AC and are unaware who can be contacted;
- The AC was envisioned as a third space for the neighbourhood and that everyone is welcome among the variety of residents from young children to the elderly. With the appropriate changes it can have a warm and welcoming energy, changing Columbia Street overnight;
- The AC has a different business model than a public library – art is a difficult concept to measure qualitatively and quantitatively as part of a business plan. Art as a local government service does not necessarily need cost recovery;

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to develop a pilot program, a communications plan and financial reporting processes with relevant metrics, and continue on to the next steps as outlined in the report titled Anvil Centre – Council Workshop.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. **END OF THE MEETING**

The meeting ended at 5:27 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Peter DeJong
CORPORATE OFFICER