



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, August 28, 2023, 6:00 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, Engineering
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager, Transportation
Ms. Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Steven Faltas	Senior Manager, Electrical
Ms. Corrinne Garrett	Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Cory Hansen	Emergency Management Coordinator
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering
Ms. Erika Mashig*	Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction
Mr. Christy Mereigh	Manager, Strategic Projects
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Ms. Lynn Roxburgh	Supervisor, Land Use Planning

Mr. John Stark	Supervisor, Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Manager, Intergovernmental and Community Relations
Ms. Serena Trachta	Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Demian Rueter	Senior Manager, Development Planning
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer
*Denotes electronic attendance.	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at **6:04 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 receive all on-table items;

THAT Council add item 9.1 – 2023 Mann Cup Media Day Hosting Opportunity;

THAT Council move item 3.6 – 12 K de K Court Boulevard Trees to be discussed immediately after public delegations; and

THAT Council adopt the agenda, as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3.1 Report Back on School Zone Enforcement Hours (Information Report brought forward from June 26, 2023)

Mayor and Council thanked staff for the fast turnaround in developing the report and noted New Westminster is a leader in road safety.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Train Whistle Cessation – Q2 Update (Information Report brought forward from June 26, 2023)

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff is working towards complete cessation in the presented timeline and will have further information at quarterly budget updates;
- Staff continue to apply for grants and have received substantial funding from the Federal Rail Safety Program.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receives this report for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.3 422 Sixth Street: Good Neighbour Agreement and Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference - Information Report (brought forward from July 10, 2023)

Discussion ensued on:

- The *Residential Tenancy Act* does not apply to residents of transitional housing, but there are provisions for non-profit organizations;
- Reports out from the parties of Good Neighbour Agreements are normal practice with BC Housing, however, if requested in an FOI, reports would be anonymized with personal information redacted;
- Residents would be reminded that there is no smoking within 7.5 metres of the facility. The Fraser Health Authority is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Smoking Bylaws;
- Most issues are expected to be resolved at the staff level or the Community Advisory Committee.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the signed Good Neighbour Agreement and Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.4 Response to Council Motion Re: Parks and Recreation registration process (Information Report brought forward from July 10, 2023)

Discussion ensued on:

- The total registration of 3,000-4,000 individuals. Residents are increasingly using online registration, while telephone registration is decreasing.
- Registration is taking place at the tēmәsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre – the department has been staffing up accordingly and working with a specialist to modernize the various programs offered;
- The subsidy application program is instantaneous. If an applicant indicates they require a subsidized application, it is streamlined and quick.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.5 Budget 2024 Engagement Results and Next Steps

a. Presentation (On Table)

b. Report: Budget 2024 Engagement Results and Next Steps

Staff presented on the public engagement process for the 2024 Capital and Operating Budgets and the top capital projects by allocation of funding if receiving unencumbered funds. Residents had advised the City their preference with respect to the balance of saving and spending through targeted workshops, including: suggestions to support vulnerable community members, ideas to increase revenue, and suggestions regarding percentages spent on the New Westminster Police Department.

Discussion ensued on:

- Balancing how much the survey can inform residents participating in the survey with how many questions can be asked. The value proposition is maintained when the survey is not too onerous and both sides benefit by having their voices heard and the City obtains valuable data. There would be difficulty adding more granularity to the spending options while keeping the survey manageable to the average resident;

- HUB Cycling recently completed a study that implies those in lower income brackets have less access to active transportation;
- Staff advised they do not reach out to businesses, but there is targeted outreach with renters and those who may not have ready access to the internet, managing the confounding variable that privileged voices can be heard louder than others;
- General governance questions were seen to be vague and suggested to be broken up into more granular data, and due to their importance to be pulled out for presentation by staff.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the Budget 2024 public engagement input for information and consideration during budget deliberations, and

THAT Council direct staff to consider and incorporate, as much as possible, the community input as they develop the draft Capital and Operating budgets for 2024.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 7:19 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 7:23 p.m.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2, at this point item 5.1 was discussed.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2, at this point item 5.2 was discussed.

Procedural Note: A motion was made to move an agenda item to be discussed sooner.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council vary the agenda and move item 8.1 to be immediately after item 3.6.

Carried.

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

3.6 12 K de K Court Boulevard Trees

Discussion ensued on:

- The arborist's technical evaluation indicates it is risky at this stage of the trees' lives for safe removal and transplanting of the trees;
- Staff indicated that increased frequency of pruning would not contain the trees;

- A discussion about removal of trees is difficult to have during the active wildfire situation in the province but Council recognizes it is important to residents to have a view corridor of the Fraser River;
- There are a number of similar cases in New Westminster, what are the differences among them and how they compare to the 12 K de K Court trees is to be reviewed.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council refer this matter to staff with instructions:

- a. That City staff meet with Dockside residents and seek a mutual resolution on the issue; and
- b. That City staff come forward with information about the City's tree maintenance program resources.

Carried.

Opposed by Councillors Henderson and Nakagawa.

Procedural Note: In accordance with the motion at 3.5, item 8.1 was discussed at this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 4.3, 4.7, 4.10, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15 and 4.16 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.1 2023 Stream 1 Accelerated Heat Plan Update

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff advised an update to provincial building code is forthcoming in 2024;
- The selection of the 360 residences was determined by data from the 2021 Heat Dome which indicated which buildings in New Westminster were at the highest risk of heat-related complications;
- New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services (NWFRS) amended the original goal to purchase 120 A/C units to a number reduced down to 60 due to storage issues;
- NWFRS developed a fast response to bring cooling to as many residents as possible in a short time by entering into residential buildings and setting up cooling rooms in common areas.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to develop regulations for cooling centres and continue advocacy to support our vulnerable population living in multifamily residences.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.2 Accelerating Climate Action: Four Year Workplan to Meet Targets and Address Extreme Heat

Discussion ensued regarding the list of items which is exhaustive and there is difficulty in determining how to prioritize them optimally. In order to conceivably meet targets, items have been intentionally put together combining short term and long term items, which can all be initiated simultaneously and worked on at various times.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council endorse in principle, the outlined accelerated climate action workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat, subject to approval of required resources.

THAT Council direct staff to report back on resource requirements to support the proposed workplan to meet climate emergency targets and address extreme heat for consideration.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.3 Changes Announced to the Current Government of Canada Cabinet July 23, 2023 Update and Meeting Requests

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the information on the Federal Cabinet shuffle for information;

THAT Council authorize letters of congratulations be forwarded requesting follow up meetings to the following Ministers:

- Sean Fraser Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Jonathan Wilkinson (BC) Minister Energy and Natural Resources
- Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change

- Harji Sajjan (BC) President of the King's Privy Council, Minister of Emergency Preparedness, and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada
- Dominic Leblanc Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs; and

THAT Council approve copies of the above letters be sent to the local Member of Parliament for New Westminster.

Adopted on consent.

Procedural Note: A motion was called to extend the meeting.

THAT the August 28 Regular Council meeting continue past 10:30 p.m.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.4 City of New Westminster and New Westminster School District No. 40 Draft Child Care Guiding Principles

Discussion ensued on:

- The various initiatives taking place such as the School District recently hired for a position with a child care space creation mandate and the Provincial Ministry of Education's goal of universal child care, and how can these and other initiatives keep up with an increasing rate of population growth;
- Staff advised that creating a protocol was considered too rigid and reached an agreement to draft guiding principles offers;
- Council noted regarding Principle 2 that it is unfair to say that childcare is a shared responsibility; there can be mutual agreement but it is not a mandate of the city;
- Council reviewed whether the principles indicate that childcare workers are adequately recognized and remunerated and considered adding it.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the City of New Westminster and School District No. 40 draft Child Care Guiding Principles.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council strike out in the Pathways section "ensures that child care workers are adequately recognized and compensated".

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: A further amendment was introduced.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the draft Child Care Guiding Principles be referred back to staff with the feedback provided at tonight's meeting, to be included in further discussions with the School District regarding the Guiding Principles.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Further discussion ensued focusing on the City's strategy for childcare needs receive feedback from residents who are parents.

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

THAT Council endorse the City of New Westminster and School District No. 40 draft Child Care Guiding Principles, as amended to strike out "ensures that child care workers are adequately recognized and compensated" and they be referred back to staff with the feedback provided at tonight's meeting, to be included in further discussions with the School District regarding the Guiding Principles.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.5 City of Surrey Fraser Heights Metro 2050 Amendment Application

Staff explained the nature of this report, and advised that through this process the developer is dedicating half the property back to the city, noting a number of trees have already been removed.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to Metro Vancouver commenting on the City of Surrey's application to change the regional land use designation of lands in the Fraser Heights area from Industrial to General Urban designation, specifically encouraging consideration of opportunities for housing choice by the City of Surrey.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.6 Community Advisory Assembly Draft Terms of Reference and Next Steps

Discussion ensued on:

- The current structure will not allow the Community Advisory Assembly (Assembly) the opportunity to bring topics of their interest, outside of what staff and Council prescribe;
- The number of Assembly members has been adjusted from 50 to 36, as part of a consultation with an expert recognized for having worked with this model around the world;
- The demographics of the Assembly is that each member will fulfil characteristics which staff are seeking for the purposes of equity, inclusion and intersectionality. If these spots do not get filled there will be a preference to leave them open until the right applicant does express interest;
- Council will be actively involved in the work of the Assembly and will be kept actively apprised of their work and fulfilment of the mandate; and
- A professional facilitator will be hired to work with the group and build consensus on the issues discussed during meetings.

Procedural Note: Councillor Nakagawa left the meeting at 10:53 p.m.

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy left the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

Procedural Note: Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Procedural Note: Councillor McEvoy returned to the meeting at 10:58 p.m.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the draft Terms of Reference for the Community Advisory Assembly, and refer the draft to the Assembly for discussion, feedback and revisions once the group is established; and

THAT Council endorse the next steps as outlined in this report.

Carried.

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

4.7 Consideration of a Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023 to Provide for Alternative Methods of Publication

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council consider giving Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023, first, second and third readings; and

THAT Council direct that any statutory notices required pursuant to section 94 of the *Community Charter* to be given between August 28, 2023 and adoption of Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023 on or before September 11, 2023, be given in accordance with the means set out in the

proposed Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023, pursuant to section 94.1(3) of the *Community Charter*.

Adopted on consent.

4.8 Council Strategic Plan Workshop Model

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff indicated that in the previous two Council terms, task forces created inefficiencies where Councillors met at Task Force meetings and recommendations were referred to Council for decision, creating delays; and
- This proposed model will offer potential efficiencies and the opportunity for Council work more collaboratively with staff and in reducing the less rules-of-order approach.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the expanded Strategic Plan Workshop Model as outlined in this report; and

THAT Council endorse the next steps as outlined in this report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councillors Minhas and Nakagawa recused themselves due to the proximity of their residences to 824 Agnes Street.

4.9 Interim Relocation of the Downtown Dog Off Leash Area (824 Agnes Street)

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff have done work to ensure this project to be as fast as possible and the timelines proposed have been reduced to the minimum; and
- There is a lack of shade on the property and it may be optimal to include that somewhere otherwise dog owners may be reluctant to use the space.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve, in principle, the relocation of the Downtown Dog Off Leash Area (OLA) from 824 Agnes Street to 68 Sixth Street on a temporary basis, and

THAT staff proceed with next steps as outlined in this report to:

- a. provide a draft licensing agreement for Council consideration at the September 11, 2023 meeting,
- b. begin preparing the site to meet City standards as a dog OLA, and
- c. continue working on planning for permanent off-leash space(s) in the Downtown neighbourhood given the time and space constraints, including an opportunity to explore the potential for a shared use area or enclosed dog OLA as part of the discussion with the community to develop a Master Plan for Albert Crescent Park towards the end of this year.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.10 Repealing Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement of 2000

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to terminate the City of New Westminster's rights and responsibilities under Clause 5 of the Greater Vancouver Regional District Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement of 2000.

Adopted on consent.

4.11 Rezoning, Development Permit, and Development Variance Permit Application: 317-319 Howes St – Preliminary Report

Discussion ensued on:

- There is a dangerous road underneath the highway which has an opportunity for significant improvement;
- The bus stop is also in a dangerous area and can serve to be moved further back from the road. Staff advised such modifications require a lot of planning and work due to the pre-loading and raising required in the unique landscape of Queensborough; and
- Retention of trees was noted as important and staff will return with additional information on the potential maintenance of existing trees on the property.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to work with the applicant to prepare a plan of development for the subject properties suitable for consideration of First and Second Readings, as outlined in the "Application Review Process" section of this report.

Defeated.

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine, McEvoy, Minhas and Nakagawa.

4.12 Rezoning Application for Duplex: 376 Keary Street – Comprehensive Report

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the application to rezone 376 Keary 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.

4.13 Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023

To request that Council consider the recommendations for Subdivision and Development Control Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give three readings to Bylaw No. 8412, 2023 - Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw as presented in Attachment 1 of this report.

Adopted on consent.

4.14 Township of Langley Metro 2050 Amendment Application

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to Metro Vancouver *not* supporting the amendment and commenting on the Township of Langley's application to change the regional land use designation of 23699 and 23737 Fraser Highway, specifically encouraging measures that would address environmental and agricultural impacts and the ongoing need for cautious consideration of expanding Industrial use outside of the Urban Containment Boundary.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.15 Proclamation: Literacy Month, September 2023

Adopted on consent.

4.16 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **October 23, 2019 Special City Council Meeting**
- b. **June 26, 2023 Special Council Workshop**
- c. **June 26, 2023 City Council Meeting (2:30 p.m.)**

- d. June 26, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- e. July 10, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- f. July 10, 2023 Council Workshop
- g. July 10, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Adopted on consent.

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

5.1 Presentation regarding the trees at 12 K de K Court

A presentation was provided by Jim Sinclair of Dockside Strata Council. Mr. Sinclair described the history of a 2007 decision to maintain the pruning of trees at 12 K De K Court. Mr. Sinclair explained that in 2017 there was a decision by Council to change the tree maintenance. As a result, the trees grew quickly, inhibiting the tenants' view of the Fraser River. Mr. Sinclair brought a printed arborist's report which indicated that the trees need to be managed carefully with each pruning cycle and that a three-year schedule of pruning is ideal.

Discussion ensued by Council on the various options presented in the staff report, their benefits and the best option to meet the City's Urban Forest needs as well as the desires of the Dockside Strata to maintain a view of the water.

5.2 Open Delegations

Shelley Comer spoke regarding the motion put forward to install A/C units in apartments in the city. She noted that the motion referenced the death of 28 people in New Westminster during the 2021 Heat Dome, as the temperature in their units was too high. Furthermore, for every death, there were others who did not die but needed to be taken to hospital and receive care for heat stroke. Ms. Comer explained that 55% of residents in New Westminster live in rental units. The situation of predatory landlords in the City who will not provide permission for their tenants to install air conditioners is very unfortunate and she asked for Council to consider changing this.

Ms. Comer described a recurring scenario whereby a renter purchases an A/C unit, uses it and shortly thereafter receives an eviction notice.

Andrew Evans described the ongoing situation of seniors and low income individuals being unable to install A/C units in their residences due to landlords who use gray areas of the law to prevent them from doing so. Mr. Evans indicated these landlords are responsible for the heat dome injuries and deaths.

Jessica Gillis presented to Council that having an A/C unit has been a blessing for herself and those in her building who visited her during the past month when the temperatures reached extremes.

Council indicated the New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services (NWFRS) are looking for buildings to sign up to the Accelerated Heat Plan, as well as a potential program for shuttle busses to pick up seniors and take them to cooling centres in New Westminster.

Margaret Wanyoike explained her situation of living in a residential tenancy arrangement where the landlord will not agree to A/C installations and that the cooling centre is too far away to be able to easily access. She described her living arrangement as a difficult.

Monica Bhandari came up as a representative of BC ACORN explaining that residential landlords are kept to task to provide clean water, electricity and heat, but not for safe temperatures via cooling. Ms. Bhandari noted that the City of Hamilton recently passed the “adequate temperature” bylaw which requires landlords to ensure residents have access to A/C units.

Brook Jensen came as a representative of the New Westminster Tenants Union and described various situations in New Westminster in which tenants had been dealing with difficulties in obtaining landlord permission to receive a free A/C unit from BC Hydro – including a situation where a landlord was caught pumping heat into a seniors’ apartment building.

Rick Vugteveen presented as a representative of the Brow of the Hill Residents Association who had met recently and heard from various residents regarding their concerns around lack of cooling and dangerous situations. He noted that it is important that governments, both local and senior, coordinate to achieve a resolution to provide cooling to all residents.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY - 8:00 P.M.

6.1 Break (15 minutes)

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaws for readings

a. Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council give Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for adoption

a. Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8405, 2023

THAT Council adopt Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8405, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

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

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Cooling Equipment in Rental Units

Submitted by Councillor Henderson and Councillor Nakagawa

WHEREAS the majority of the 28 deaths in New Westminster during the 2021 heat dome extreme weather event occurred in rental multi-unit residential buildings in the Brow of the Hill neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster's BUSINESS REGULATIONS AND LICENSING (RENTAL UNITS) BYLAW NO. 6926, 2004 requires that heating equipment in all rental units be capable of maintaining every room at a temperature of 22 C (72 F) measured at a point 1.5 meters (5 feet) from the floor and in the centre of the room, but does not list requirements for cooling equipment or measures; and

WHEREAS extreme weather events are more frequent and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, particularly for lower-income households;

BE IT RESOLVED that City Council direct staff to explore the tools available for the City to adopt a bylaw that requires rental units to have cooling equipment, or passive means, that prevents at least one room of the unit from exceeding the standard recommendation of 26 C (79 F);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City write a letter to the Minister of Housing to request clarification and confirmation that

these upgrades would not trigger legal renovations or the Above Guideline Rent Increase permissible by the Province.

Discussion ensued on:

- Can a tenancy agreement contain a provision that does not allow landlords to forbid A/C units, and does this fall within the *Residential Tenancy Act*;
- The tenancy needs to suit the specific context of the unit and consider cooling needs. A municipality has the power to enforce units to receive adequate clean water, heat and electricity but it does not include cooling in that list of items; and
- Should the province pay landlords for various A/C considerations in these circumstances, as they are running a private business.

Procedural Note: An amendment to the main motion was called.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council amend the motion to add the following:

...and that the Province would be open to providing direct or indirect financial incentives to support the retrofitting of older buildings to accommodate this initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the estimated cost to landlords associated with implementing this initiative be brought to the attention of Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tenants' rights organizations and the BC Landlords Association be consulted to obtain their feedback prior to the implementation of any pilot project.

Defeated.

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

Procedural Note: Council continued discussion.

Discussion continued:

- Staff advised that New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services reviewed wiring in older buildings and looked at options to retrofit plugs which would allow for an increase in loads in apartments; and

- Council noted the motion explores what it looks like in practice to motivate landlords to allow for A/C units without renovicting tenants while staying within the bounds of municipal and provincial law.

Procedural Note: An amendment to the main motion was called.

THAT Council rearrange the motion and add language to seek confirmation by the Province, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City write a letter to the Minister of Housing to request clarification and confirmation that these upgrades would not trigger legal renovictions or the Above Guideline Rent Increase permissible by the Province; and upon that confirmation,

BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council direct staff to explore the tools available for the City to adopt a bylaw that requires rental units to have cooling equipment, or passive means, that prevents at least one room of the unit from exceeding the standard recommendation of 26 C (79 F);

Defeated.

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

Procedural Note: A point of order was called regarding language indicating voting along party lines, to which an appeal against the chair was raised and immediately put to a vote.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council sustain Mayor Johnstone as chair of the meeting.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED that City Council direct staff to explore the tools available for the City to adopt a bylaw that requires rental units to have cooling equipment, or passive means, that prevents at least one room of the unit from exceeding the standard recommendation of 26 C (79 F);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City write a letter to the Minister of Housing to request clarification and confirmation that

these upgrades would not trigger legal renovations or the Above Guideline Rent Increase permissible by the Province.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Hydro Rates

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

MOVED AND SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has included equity as a core context in the 2023-2026 strategic plan; and

WHEREAS affordability is a challenge for many residents of New Westminster;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New Westminster requests that the Electrical Commission explores piloting a program to provide rates geared to income for low income community members and engage with City Council to discuss implementation and targeting.

Procedural Note: In noting the time it would take for a fulsome discussion, a motion was made to defer the motion to a future Regular Council meeting.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council refer the motion to the Regular Council meeting of September 11, 2023.

Carried.

Opposed by Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa.

8.2 Notices of Motion

a. Fair Wage and Living Wage Policies

MOVED AND SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster was a leader in adopting a Living Wage Policy in 2011 to assure all employees of the City and service providers to the City earn a living wage as a minimum; and

WHEREAS cohort municipalities such as the City of North Vancouver and Burnaby have adopted Fair Wage Policies to ensure that no contractor or sub-contractor working for the City gets an unfair advantage by paying lower than fair market wages for skilled workers; and

WHEREAS New Westminster is committed to affordability for working people, and ensuring fair and household-supporting wages are paid for all work performed by or on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS Metro Vancouver is a major builder of capital works that are funded by utility ratepayers through municipal governments, and has significant procurement power that impacts the regional labour market;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff bring a report to Council outlining a process to adoption of a Fair Wage Policy similar to that of Burnaby or the City of North Vancouver to complement New Westminster's successful Living Wage Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Mayor Johnstone take a motion to the Board of Metro Vancouver on behalf of New Westminster Council requesting that Fair Wage and Living Wage policies be developed and adopted by the Regional Government.

b. Conducting a Review Regarding the Cause and Cost Pertaining to the City of New Westminster Oil Spill in the Fraser River

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

Whereas on July 20th an oil spill occurred in the Fraser River with the source being identified as the Samson V Museum which is owned and operated by the City of New Westminster; and

Whereas oil contamination in the Fraser River can have significant impact on the environment, protected fish species, habitat and shoreline; and

Whereas the public deserves a full explanation regarding the circumstances which led to the oil spill as well as the costs related to the cleanup.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to produce a public report regarding the July 2023 oil spill which emanated from the Samson V Museum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this oil spill public report include the following core components:

- An overview of the negative environmental impacts caused by the Samson V oil spill to the Fraser River and surrounding communities;
- The full list of government agencies, regulators, community partners, environmental non-governmental organization involved in responding to the Samson V oil spill;
- Full costing of the environmental cleanup including an estimate of staff time;
- An estimate of any fines that may be levied by regulators and senior orders of government;
- Analysis as to circumstances which triggered the Samson V oil spill released into the Fraser River;
- Cost analysis of moving the Samson V into drydock for a period of up to 12 months for necessary repairs, safety and cosmetic upgrades/refurbishment

c. Increasing access to fresh drinking water for local residents and their pets

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

Whereas it is important for New Westminster citizens and their pets to have access to fresh drinking water in outdoor spaces during the warm summer months; and

Whereas the technology currently exists and has been proven to work in other cities throughout Metro Vancouver to install temporary water fountains using existing fire hydrants; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding the cost and operational requirements of installing temporary water fountains connected to a fire hydrant in time for summer 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff reach out to the City of Vancouver who have successfully implemented fire hydrant water fountains to determine if there are learnings that can be applied in New Westminster.

d. Supporting our seniors by increasing hours of operation for Century House during the summer

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas other Metro Vancouver cities have ensured their seniors centers are more accessible throughout the year by keeping them open in the evening during summer; and

Whereas Century House is a critical gathering place for our seniors in New Westminster and it currently closes at 4:00 pm during the summer; and

Whereas Century House can serve as a cooling center during the hot summer months.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed as part of Budget 2024 to provide Council with the costs and operational requirements to extend the hours of operation at Century House to 9:00 pm on weekdays during the summer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the membership of Century House be surveyed regarding their level of interest in expanding the service hours during the summer and that the results of this survey be provided to Council for further consultation and evaluation.

e. Supporting our local business community by implementing a pilot project to reduce parking fees

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas it is vital for the City of New Westminster to support our local businesses by retaining regular customers and attracting new patrons to our commercial and business districts; and

Whereas the high and ever-increasing cost of parking for short visits to our businesses located in our commercial and business districts can be a deterrent and decrease economic activity in our city; and

Whereas it is city policy to provide free public parking at City Hall, Queen's Park, Century House and a number of other city-owned facilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the budget implications and operational requirements associated with establishing a pilot project to reduce parking fees in 2024 which will include the following core components:

- First hour of on-street parking (where paid on-street metered parking currently exists) will be complimentary. This would

apply to the Downtown, Uptown, Sapperton and 12th Street commercial and business districts.

- Expand free on-street parking to after 7 pm during the business week from the current 8 pm setting in all commercial and business districts.
- Parking will be free on Sunday and all statutory provincial holidays in all areas of the city.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 ON TABLE 2023 Mann Cup Media Day Hosting Opportunity

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT this report dated August 28, 2023 and titled “2023 Mann Cup Media Day Hosting Opportunity” be received by Council for information and comment.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Nakagawa acknowledged the work of the New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services in working closely with residents and vulnerable populations to identify and set up air conditioning units.

11. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 11:45 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER