



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Council Chamber

City Hall

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

ABSENT:

Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Jamie McEvoy

STAFF PRESENT:

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|-------------------|---|
| Ms. Lisa Spitale | Chief Administrative Officer |
| Mr. Marius Miklea | Acting Corporate Officer |
| Ms. Jackie Teed | Acting Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development |

OTHERS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hon. Jennifer Whiteside | MLA New Westminster |
| Mr. Aman Singh | MLA Richmond-Queensborough |
| Ms. Maya Russell | Trustee, School District 41 |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 11:03 a.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. MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO THE CLOSED MEETING

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items relate to matters listed under Section 90 and where required, Council does consider that the matters could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public:

90(2)(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

Carried.

Opposed by Councillor Fontaine.

Procedural Note: Council was moved into open meeting at 11:07 a.m.

3. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mayor Johnstone provided a brief update from staff regarding population projections pertinent to bus service for Queensborough (QB) to New Westminster Secondary School.

MLA Singh noted he is working with the province and school board – after meeting with students in 2020 there are serious concerns indicating students and their parents are experiencing hardship. The bus will be coming but there are concerns on what is the ideal model, and School District 40 (SD40) is best suited to making that decision. Previous data sources are from a Queensborough bus service which existed historically but ended service in 2012.

Discussion ensued noting the provincial bus service transportation funding formula does not factor the Queensborough Bridge. SD40 would like the province to calculate this – ideally for an inclusive and accessible bus. The school district's updated long range strategic plan will be out soon for public consultation.

Minister Whiteside advised this is related to higher than projected population growth. Provincial focus has been on statistics and projections, receiving updates from transit and SD40 specifically with the focus of what is the best model to fund this service. It is important to align all of the provincial, school district and City long range plans with respect to population and transit.

The annualized cost of the bus service, as well as the model, frequency and timeline for deployment is unclear at this time as the data utilized in previous discussions are no longer valid. Required now is time for funding, research and preparation to refine figures and engage with parents. SD40 is working towards a

public announcement with various updates including a preliminary survey of bus needs.

Council considered what is known about transiting between QB and NWSS. The school district advised busses are full and evidence suggests that families are struggling to participate in active transportation. MLA Singh has statistics from TransLink which can be shared with Mayor Johnstone and City staff.

Minister Whiteside advised the province is working to determine what 'regular service' looks like and will closely evaluate the service once the bus is up and running as the current information is based on the interim solution.

Mayor Johnstone noted the City wants to work with the province on the long term solution to the QB bus which is a very prominent issue, as well as the long term transportation plan.

4. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 11:45 a.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER