



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, September 11, 2023, 2:00 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	Acting Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Ron Au	Senior Financial Services Analyst
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. James Doan	Manager, Parks and Recreation
Ms. Sloane Elphinstone	Coordinator, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Priscilla Lopes-Hilland	Acting Transportation Engineer
Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Ms. Tobi May, Manager	Civic Buildings, Engineering
Mr. George Otieno	Infrastructure Engineer
Mr. Alex Tam	Senior Financial Analyst
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and

Mr. Erin Williams
Mr. Marius Miklea

Development
Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Assistant Corporate Officer

OTHERS:

Ms. Faye Chaisang	Analyst, KPMG
Ms. Karen Gorecki*	Analyst, KPMG
Mr. Brian Johnston*	Consultant, RC Strategies
Mr. Jaimie Sokalski	Consultant, Applied Engineering
Ms. Vivian Wai-Ling Chan	Partner, KPMG

*Denotes electronic attendance.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. **PRESENTATIONS**

2.1 **Asset Management – Sewer AMP Update**

Staff provided an update on the sewer asset and drainage operations of the City and the ways an asset management plan can align with New Westminster's Strategic Plan, repercussions for funding, reserves and current replacement values and the condition of all assets as of 2023.

Discussion ensued on:

- The funding path which is most realistic and efficient replaces aging assets just in time. When prioritizing which assets to renew on a year by year basis, Applied Engineering (AE) took into account the likelihood and criticality of failure;
- Staff work with Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) to receive funding and mitigate risks, particularly in working with developments and timing with other projects across the city, to maximize opportunities for efficiency and cost-savings. Council additionally noted the need to be better insulated from rising user fees at MVRD and to better communicate to residents the effects of federal funding coming into the city;
- The Climate Action Fund (CAF) can be funded through user rates, not on property tax, although it is not clear if the CAF can be put towards asset renewal; and
- The City is comparable to other Canadian cities when using the Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. Older than average

infrastructure puts the City in a unique situation and staff are careful with the approach additional densification.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the next steps as outlined in the report titled Asset Management – Sewer AMP Update to direct staff to:

- Implement process changes/enhancements to support tracking of level of service indicators;
- Improve asset data quality and accuracy and integrate available data sets to support lifecycle costing and planning; and
- Develop long-term funding strategies to address funding deficits and build reserves.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.2 Stadium Assessment

b. Report: Queen's Park Stadium - Projected Need for Spectator Support Amenities

Staff presented on the current and potential future activities of the stadium and the related numbers of users, as well as the usage of the main and auxiliary grandstands and their physical condition.

Discussion ensued on:

- Queen's Park Stadium (QPS) was selected for a comprehensive review before other assets as staff determined it has a more imminent need for physical rehabilitation and potentially addressing accessibility concerns compared to newer facilities;
- Data used in the report was from QPS usage in 2018-2019 due to COVID-era data not being representative of typical use; and
- Staff will be undergoing further public engagement to determine potential uses according to resident responses.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the report titled Queen's Park Stadium - Projected Need for Spectator Support Amenities for information; and

THAT the report titled Queen's Park Stadium - Projected Need for Spectator Support Amenities be referred to the 2023 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan process.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

2.3 Climate Action Decision Making Framework

b. Report: Climate Action Decision Making Framework Criteria Workshop

Staff presented on the proposed guiding principles of the Climate Action Decision Making Framework as a means to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption, while increasing climate resilience and decreasing risk.

Discussion ensued on:

- Differentiating community compared to corporate emissions, at this time there is no data collection differentiating the two;
- Council noted renters are some of the most underrepresented in all City-wide public engagement opportunities – how can the data collected better represent all residents and not just those with the loudest voices;
- Council considered various ways data and numbers may need to be included in further studies, particularly which would compare how Canada compares to the rest of the world, BC within the nation of Canada, as well as New Westminster within BC on a per capita basis. Staff noted that density helps with emissions, especially when compared to more rural locations;
- The decision making framework will only be available to Council, not intended for use within committees at this time;
- The framework's primary use is meeting the requirements of the climate emergency, while the second layer in decision making respects residents health and safety;
- Council noted that electricity in BC is considered a low carbon fuel source, so any heat and air conditioning considerations reflect an increase in electricity consumption rather than an increase in GHG emissions. 43% of city-wide GHG emissions come from buildings and there is an increasing prominence of reducing GHG emissions in new builds, especially City owned buildings;

- Climate Action is often viewed as a burden or as an expense, however it is an increasingly important service that is offered by the municipality; and
- Staff noted senior governments are interested in offering funding for climate-related initiatives, but the application process can be onerous in several ways and there is a need for dedicated staff to put together the necessary documents for successful applications.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receive the draft Climate Action Decision Making Framework Criteria and direct staff to further refine the Climate Action Decision Making Framework.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. END OF THE MEETING

Meeting ended at 4:39 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER