



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, September 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting held electronically and in the Poplar Island Room,
Queensborough Community Centre**

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. 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
Ms. Britney Dack	Senior Heritage Planner
Ms. Corinne Garrett	Senior Manager, Recreation Facilities
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Dilys Huang	Planner
Ms. Wendee Lang	Development Planner
Ms. Tobi May	Senior Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties
Mr. Demian Rueter	Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Meredith Seeton	Policy Planner
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Stephanie Trasolini	Manager, Recreation Services and Facilities

Mr. Marius Miklea

Assistant Corporate Officer

OTHERS:

Geoff Watson

Turnbull Construction

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:00 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.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council:

- correct item 5.9 report date of August 28, 2023 and replace with Sept 11, 2023;
- move items 5.4 and 8.1.d. to be immediately after open delegations;
- and to add item 12.3 Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project - Upcoming Traffic Impacts information report to the end of the agenda; and

THAT Council adopt the agenda, as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

3.1 Hydro Rates

MOVED and SECONDED

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: Discussion ensued regarding various ways to employ fair pricing on hydro rates.

Discussion ensued on:

- The Utility Commission (UC) potentially could be directed to create a two-tiered cost program for hydro rates based on resident income which aligns with the City's values. Based on the Utility's agreement with BC Hydro it is not clear if there are any limitations to charging residents less than the City's costs to BC Hydro;
- An added complexity to the motion would be to define low income and staff need to be given further direction for this additional requirement.

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

Procedural Note: Further discussion ensued regarding the amendment and the billing structure which the City employs.

Council discussed:

- The amendment is in a different spirit than the motion proposed, as it diverges between supporting those of a lower income versus incentivizing lower consumption and increasing efficiency which are not easily available to renters;
- Council members noted the amendment does fit with the City's climate action initiatives which harmonize the City's Utility rates with that of BC Hydro's rates and charges more to those who consume more; and
- Staff noted that BC Hydro has gone to a flat rate for commercial customers as it is simple and previously there were many complaints and questions regarding rates and applicability.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion also contains 'and that it explores implementing a two-tiered fee structure based on usage, similar to that currently in use by BC Hydro'.

Carried.

Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

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

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 and that it explores implementing a two-tiered fee structure based on usage, similar to that currently in use by BC Hydro.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

4.1 TACC Project Update

Staff presented various updates on the progress of building təməsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre. The project completion date has been delayed by two months and the existing community centre's programming will end in November as scheduled. The finances of the building are on track with funds left in the project's contingency funds.

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff recruitment and training is continuing despite the construction delays. Aquatics programmers have been proceeding with the STEP program to onboard groups of applicants to be trained and certified as lifeguards. Staff noted it has been difficult to train staff for their roles until the building is complete;
- There will be gap of several months between the closure of Centennial Community Centre and the opening of təməsewtxw. Staff have developed a strategy and are working with several program providers around the City to find alternative spaces in town to continue providing existing services as shown in Attachment 2 – Program Relocation Plan; and
- Council recognized the achievement of nearing completion of a major project, within budget and on time.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to provide on-going updates on the təməsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre project as the project nears completion.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 5.11 and 5.12 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.1 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report

Discussion ensued on additional costs incurred on the installation of new bike racks which now also include building an enclosure for the purposes of allowing the City to apply for grants on the project. There was further discussion on repair of City Hall exterior lighting and elevator damage.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the 2023 quarterly capital budget adjustments as outlined in Table 1-1 of the report titled 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.2 Accelerating Climate Action to Meet Targets and Address Extreme Heat: Staffing and Financial Considerations

Discussion ensued on the uses and differences between the Climate Action Levy and the money in the actual reserve fund – neither of which could be used toward staff salaries. It was clarified that the funding of various new staffing positions would come from the City operating budget for 2024 and 2025 and this report seeks to refer them to the budget process for the next year.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to forward the service enhancement requests, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the report titled Accelerating Climate Action to Meet Targets and Address Extreme Heat: Staffing and Financial Considerations, to the 2024 and 2025 operating budget deliberations. These service enhancements would be offset by Climate Action revenues.

THAT Council direct staff to pursue steps required to use Climate Action Levy to offset Climate Action Team operating costs.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called for a recess at 6:55 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 7:03 p.m.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2. Council proceeded with agenda item 6. Open Delegations.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2. Council proceeded with agenda item 8.1.d. Supporting our seniors by increasing Century House hours of operation during the summer.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called for a recess at 8:35 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2. Council proceeded with agenda item 5.4 Heritage Revitalization Agreements in Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area, at this time.

5.3 22nd Street Station Area Visioning Update

Discussion ensued on the timing of this project; currently it is in the visioning phase and will be followed by the technical planning phase which will create the neighbourhood plan and land use designations. The current community public engagement will take place from November until early January, the draft vision will be finalized in spring of 2024, and final confirmation by Council of that vision is expected in late 2024.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the next steps for the 22nd Street Station Area Visioning process identified in the report titled 22nd Street Station Area Visioning Update.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

5.4 Heritage Revitalization Agreements in Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area

Discussion ensued on:

- Consideration whether there is a middle ground to allow for new HRA applications while also maintaining the ongoing work of other projects such as infill housing and particularly 22nd Street Station, which requires a large amount public engagement and intensive reporting;
- Staff acknowledged there may be residents looking for updates to their applications since the start of the freeze but noted resources have been put towards the provincial government's direction for housing, which requires an increase the future density of all neighbourhoods in New Westminster. Because there are limited resources available to address all needs, one solution is to create a priority list of topics and focus areas which Council could use to direct CAPD respecting staff reallocation;

- Council debated whether it is also possible to allow the two existing applications which had a substantial amount of work done to proceed.

Procedural Note: Council moved Option 2 as presented in the report with an amendment providing an exemption to past applicants.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to continue the suspension of new Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) applications in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area until the Infill Housing Program is complete; and

THAT Council provide staff with the authorization to allow for an exemption to HRA applicants which had significant interactions with the City prior to the freeze.

Procedural Note: A motion was made to refer the matter.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council refer the report and options for consideration at the next meeting of the Community Heritage Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The CHC being the best venue for deliberating this issue and body to make the decision whether to continue or suspend the freeze, as the mandate of the commission is to advise Council and staff on matters related to the City's heritage program, acknowledging staff will need time to bring forward a report to the commission;
- When the HCA was initially resolved by Council, it was not intended to mean the end of change in Queen's Park but rather managing change in a way that is more sensitive to the heritage values of the neighbourhood by using HRAs; and
- Potential to separate the two halves of the motion, allow staff to process the two previous applicants with significant progress and to refer the question of freezing of new HRA applications to the CHC.

Procedural Note: The question was called on the motion to refer the discussion to the CHC.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council amend the motion to refer the report and options for consideration at the next meeting of the Community Heritage Commission regarding whether to continue or suspend the freeze.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Discussion continued on whether the referral to a commission is best as it is Council's duty to discuss the merits or deficiencies of the motion as presented by the report.

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

THAT Council refer the question to continue the suspension of new Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) applications in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area until the Infill Housing Program is complete to the Community Heritage Commission; and

THAT council provide staff with the authorization to allow for an exemption to HRA applicants which had significant interactions with the City prior to the freeze.

Defeated.

Councillors Fontaine, Henderson, Minhas and Nakagawa opposed.

Discussion ensued:

- Important that there be a priority list for staff housing in the City;
- Majority of HRA applicants are homeowners with their own expenses and it would not be fair for the City to keep residents in a position of uncertainty after they had invested significant funds to begin the HRA process;

Procedural Note: A question on the main motion as presented under Option 2 in the agenda was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to continue the suspension of new Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) applications in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area until the Infill Housing Program is complete; and

THAT council provide staff with the authorization to allow for applicants that had significant interactions with the City prior to the freeze to continue with their applications.

Defeated.

Mayor Johnstone, Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

Discussion ensued that option 1 may deprioritize existing HRA applications and that allowing for new applications now, when staff have been allocated to deal with the province's new direction on the densification, may be a mistiming of the City's resources.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council direct staff to remove the suspension on new Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) applications in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area and to create a Council priority list for staff to pursue in respect of housing matters.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine, McEvoy and Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 2. Council proceeded with agenda item 5.5 Housing Agreement Bylaw and Development Variance Permit to Vary Parking Requirements: 311 Ash Street.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa recused themselves due to their residence being in close proximity to the proposed development and left the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Procedural Note: Councillor Fontaine as Acting Mayor began chairing the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

5.5 Housing Agreement Bylaw and Development Variance Permit to Vary Parking Requirements: 311 Ash Street

Discussion ensued on:

- Beneficial for residents and the neighbourhood that cooling requirements were a part of this development's application requirements. Especially given there is a tree deficit in the Brow of the Hill neighbourhood;
- The 3- to 4-storey walk-ups in the Brow of the Hill are some of the most affordable housing units and it is important that the City remain a leader in affordable housing; and
- Potential tracking of how many trees are cut down and evaluate what influence the City has in development proposals when it comes to trees cut. Staff indicated there is no easy way to track the data and the numbers presented to Council would need to be annually measured and calculated.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT third reading of Housing Agreement Bylaw (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be rescinded.

THAT Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be re-considered and re-read a 3rd time as amended.

THAT Council, should the Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 be adopted, direct the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Housing Agreement.

THAT Council provide notice that it will reconsider issuance of a Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces by 34% from the Zoning Bylaw requirements for secured market rental units.

THAT Council endorse that fifty-one long-term bicycle parking spaces and six short-term bicycle parking spaces be included as part of the Development Permit application for 311 Ash Street, should the Development Variance Permit (DVP00701) be approved by Council.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone resumed chairing the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

5.6 Rezoning and Special Development Permit - 808 Royal Avenue: Application Consideration

Discussion ensued on the importance of giving the opportunity for residents to voice their opinions and allowing there to be a venue for these opinions.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the application to rezone 808 Royal Avenue 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*.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

5.7 Official Community Plan Amendment, Rezoning, Road Closure, and Land Sale: 909-915 Twelfth Street – Bylaws for First and Second Readings

Discussion ensued on:

- The potential of adopting policies for resident relocation when considering applications which will demolish existing residences. Such a policy would be intended to mitigate the effects of the displacement felt by businesses and residents of

existing properties who may have difficulty finding new arrangements priced similarly to their existing tenancies;

- The development is in accordance with the Official Community Plan (OCP) designation but an OCP amendment was required for a lane to be built on the property; and
- Staff can discuss with the applicant expediency in continuing the project to ensure that the building site does not remain vacant for a long time.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 8399, 2023 for First Reading.

THAT Council consider Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 8399, 2023 in conjunction with the City's Capital Expenditure Program as contained in the Five Year Financial Plan and the Region's Solid Waste Management Plan and Liquid Waste Management Plan, and which is deemed to be consistent with said program and plans in accordance with Section 477(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act*.

THAT Council consider Official Community Amendment Bylaw No. 8399, 2023 for Second Reading, and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing.

THAT Council consider Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8400, 2023 and Road Closure, Dedication Removal, and Disposition Bylaw No. 8401, 2023 for First and Second Readings, and forward the bylaws to a Public Hearing.

THAT Council authorize the City to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement, which includes the sale of a portion of lane right-of-way at the rear of 909 and 911/913 Twelfth Street should Council adopt Road Closure, Dedication Removal, and Disposition Bylaw No. 8401, 2023.

Carried.

Councillor McEvoy opposed.

5.8 Application for Grant Funding to the 2023 UBCM Asset Management Planning Program

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approves the submission of a grant application for the Pavement Condition Assessment & Condition Framework to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) 2023 Asset Management Planning Program.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councillors Minhas and Nakagawa recused themselves due to their residences being in close proximity to the proposed development and left the meeting at 10:14 p.m.

5.9 Authorization to Enter Into License Agreements for 68 Sixth Street and 824 Agnes Street (Circulated Separately)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the License Agreements for 68 Sixth Street and 824 Agnes Street in substantially the form attached to this report dated August 28, 2023 (the “License Agreements”) between:

1. The Corporation of the City of New Westminster (the “City”) and the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (“PRHC”); and
2. The City and 1111262 BC Ltd.

AND THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the License Agreements.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Councillors Minhas and Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

5.10 Proclamation: Ethiopian New Year, September 11, 2023

Mayor Johnstone noted this was the first time the Ethiopian flag was raised at the friendship garden at City Hall, celebrating Enkutatash with residents and recent arrivals from Ethiopia.

5.11 Proclamation: Terry Fox Week, September 10-17, 2023

Adopted on Consent.

5.12 Proclamation: Rail Safety Week, September 18-24, 2023

Adopted on Consent.

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

Cassius Khan presented on the ongoing annual tradition of the Mushtari Begum Festival, scheduled to take place September 23, 2023 at the Massey Theatre.

Brynn Bourke of BC Building Trades presented on the need for fair wages for employees of building contractors and sub-contractors. Trades workers have been taken advantage of by developers who bid on projects and can pay sub-contractors any rate. It was noted the Cities of North Vancouver and Burnaby

currently have fair wage programs for trades workers as published in schedules released each year with details based on negotiations with the Construction Labour Relations Association.

Daniel Polyakov presented on his experience working with the Ukrainian community in New Westminster and highlighted activities such as Fridays on Front Street, raising funds for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. The community is looking for volunteers and those wish to engage with the community, who is currently organizing next summer's Ukrainian Festival.

Larry Church presented on intersection concerns regarding a flashing green light at Sixth Avenue and Second Street and the need for a crosswalk sign for children at that intersection. Mr. Church also requested additional scrutiny at Second and Eighth as it is a half controlled intersection and is an illegal crossing in his opinion.

Carole Wylie thanked the work of Century House staff to keep it running through the pandemic and ongoing disturbances or shortages. She presented that not all seniors live within walking distance of Century House, nor have access to internet. The Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan needs to find ways to connect with seniors who may be missed as part of the general engagement process as there are varying needs across the senior population in New Westminster.

Ted Grewcutt presented on the need to involve all parties in any discussion of Century House: Mayor and Council, staff and the patrons of Century House. Specific concerns were noted around the hours of operation in July and August which are shortened and closed on Saturdays. Mr. Grewcutt explained there are many community centres open with extended hours, there is no reason for the early closure of Century House, and that it is well attended in the evening hours as many patrons work during the daytime, and that he supports the upcoming motion regarding Century House.

Leo Yu presented on his experience as a HandyDART bus driver and a campaign to minimize taxicab replacements when there is a shortage of HandyDART busses or drivers, as it does not meet the complex needs of HandyDART clients. Mark Beeching and Sam Wiese additionally presented on their experiences indicating TransLink operates through numerous corporations and contractors, resulting in HandyDART clients receiving a fluctuating level of service quality. Staff morale has been affected and Mr. Yu questioned if there is any possibility of insourcing versus continued outsourcing.

Council indicated they are aware of the ongoing rallies to save HandyDART. Mayor Johnstone expressed interest to sign the open letter and to support such a motion at the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation. Council wanted

review any potential motion on this topic as there are many taxi drivers and bus drivers who are doing good work and a motion must be appropriately crafted.

Caroline Roussy and Kirsten Sutton presented on Heritage Revitalization Agreements (HRAs) in the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area (QPHCA) being paused without public consultation, including their application which had begun in 2021. They recognized the need for HRAs as well as new homes for growing families in the community.

Discussion ensued on details of the subject house, which is not permitted to be demolished due to the QPHCA and it was noted that the application would be brought to Council for decision if the building does have heritage value. Staff had been working with the applicant at the time of pausing the HRA Policy Refresh.

Elana Zysblat presented on the use of HRAs as a necessary tool in Queen's Park, which can protect houses not just from demolition but renovations, which may reduce their heritage value. She noted that heritage conservation is meant to manage change rather than prevent it outright, and that HRAs are the correct tool for review of proposals which are not covered by existing HCA bylaws.

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaws for readings

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa recused themselves due to their residence being in close proximity to the proposed development and left the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

Procedural Note: Councillor Fontaine as Acting Mayor began chairing the meeting at 10:19 p.m.

a. Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council rescind third reading of Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8382, 2023 third reading, as amended.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone and Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Procedural Note: Mayor Johnstone resumed chairing the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

b. Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8399, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8399, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8399, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

c. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8400, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8400, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8400, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

d. Road Closure, Dedication Removal and Disposition Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8401, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Road Closure, Dedication Removal and Disposition Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8401, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Road Closure, Dedication Removal and Disposition Bylaw (909-915 Twelfth Street) No. 8401, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for adoption

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Subdivision and Development Control Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8412, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417, 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. Fair Wage and Living Wage Policies

A discussion ensued regarding the leadership of the City of New Westminster in providing fair wages by having established a Living Wage Policy, but the question was raised of whether it is a fulsome policy that attends to all residents and those working within the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff bring a report to Council outlining a process for adoption of a Fair Wage Policy similar to that of Burnaby or the City of North Vancouver to complement New Westminister'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 Westminister Council requesting that Fair Wage and Living Wage policies be developed and adopted by the Regional Government.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: A motion was put forward to refer the remaining items to a future meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT items 8.1 b, c and e be referred to the City Council meeting of October 16, 2023.

Defeated.

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

Procedural Note: A motion was made to continue the Council meeting past 10:30 p.m.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Council meeting continue to 11:30 p.m.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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 dry dock for a period of up to 12 months for necessary repairs, safety and cosmetic upgrades/refurbishment.

Discussion ensued on:

- The importance of protecting aquatic life and taking steps to direct staff to do so;
- Additional consideration for what was the cost of this oil spill in both monetary and ecological terms. The City is still receiving information from Provincial and Federal liaisons to be able to report back in a fulsome manner.

Procedural Note: A Motion to sever into two parts at the last point was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council sever the motion into two parts at the second last and last bullet point.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine, McEvoy and Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: The question on the first part was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

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; and
- Analysis of circumstances that triggered the Samson V oil spill released into the Fraser River.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: The question on the second part was called.

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

- Cost analysis of moving the Samson V into dry dock for a period of up to 12 months for necessary repairs, safety and cosmetic upgrades/refurbishment

Defeated.

Mayor Johnstone, Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

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

Discussion ensued on:

- Fire hydrant fountain and sprinkler systems are regular fixtures in the City of Vancouver and the City of New Westminster could have similar opportunities to provide fresh drinking water during the heat for humans and pets;
- Engineering and New Westminster Fire Rescue Services indicated the modifications to fire hydrants would be fairly complex and adding a drinking fountain potentially takes the fire hydrant out of commission. Vancouver has their own permanent fire suppression system so each fire hydrant is self-sustained; and

- There is the potential of a fountain attachment which can be added to fire hydrants and staff would need to research the equipment available on the market for a report back.

MOVED and SECONDED

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.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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 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.

Discussion ensued on:

- The primary user group is seniors but not the only user group and the building should be open and available to a broad demographic;
- Staff clarified summer hours at Century House are Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. but the Century House Association (CHA) programs end earlier in the day – a distinction not clear on the website or building signs and staff could work to clarify that better and will discuss this at their next regular meeting with the CHA. Additionally, going into the fall the building will be open on Saturday;
- Staff advised the City depends on CHA for volunteers and program assistance delivered at Century House. During heat

events, staff at Century House will work with the emergency operations team to determine opening and closing hours;

- Based on new information from staff, Council considered whether this motion could be referred to the Parks and Recreation (PR) Comprehensive Plan in order to integrate the needs of the community which the main motion is seeking to address.

Procedural Note: A secondary motion was made to refer the main motion to the PR Comprehensive Plan.

Council continued discussing regarding the benefits of referral and the speed at which it may be reported back to Council.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be referred to the PR Master Plan.

Carried.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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 p.m. during the business week from the current 8 p.m. setting in all commercial and business districts.
- Parking will be free on Sunday and all statutory provincial holidays in all areas of the city.

Discussion ensued on:

- Council had received comments from various residents and residential associations with respect to a preference to attend businesses and locations which offer free parking,

which is a deciding factor where they go when going to the City of Vancouver;

- Local businesses expressed concerns about offering free parking in front of shops, as they would rather see high turnover which parking rates can affect;
- Staff indicated 85% parking occupancy is ideal and many transportation strategies in the Lower Mainland operate with this target. Parking rates affect turnover and there is no evidence that free parking will increase business traffic in urban environments like New Westminster.

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

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 p.m. during the business week from the current 8 p.m. setting in all commercial and business districts.
- Parking will be free on Sunday and all statutory provincial holidays in all areas of the city.

Defeated.

Mayor Johnstone, Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed.

8.2 Notices of Motion

a. Implementing speed limits for motorized vehicles operating on sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety

Submitted by Councillor Daniel Fontaine

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has been lowering speed limits on roadways to help increase public safety and reduce injuries; and

WHEREAS these speed limits do not apply on sidewalks and pedestrian safety is a top priority for the City of New Westminster; and

WHEREAS non-insured electric motorized scooters and other similar modes of transportation using our sidewalks can reach high speeds; and

WHEREAS an impact between a pedestrian and high speed motorized mode of transportation can cause severe injuries; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding the operational and budget considerations pertaining to the implementation of a by-law that would impose speed limits on our sidewalks to help reduce the risk of pedestrian injuries.

b. Increasing trust and accountability for civic officials in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Paul Minhas

WHEREAS public trust in elected civic officials is a fundamental consideration in our local government system and is reflected by the key principles of integrity, accountability, leadership, respect, and openness found in City Council's Code of Conduct; and

WHEREAS improper use of social media has the potential to erode public trust in elected civic officials; and

WHEREAS these considerations are reflected in Council's Code of Conduct through the key principles and their applicability to the use of social media by Council Officials in relation to City of New Westminster related matters;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council call upon all elected officials to engender public trust by abiding to such key principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City's Chief Electoral Officer report back to Council on the City's state of readiness for and budget impacts pertaining to a possible school trustee by-election.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No items.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

No items.

11. END OF THE MEETING

The meeting ended at 11:09 p.m.

12. INFORMATION REPORTS

12.1 2023 New Westminster Intersection Safety Study

Procedural Note: Report requested for discussion at the next regular Council meeting.

12.2 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Report for 2022

12.3. Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project - Upcoming Traffic Impacts (On Table)

Procedural Note: The information report “Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project – Upcoming Traffic Impacts (On Table)” was pulled at the start of the meeting for discussion and Council awareness.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER