



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, September 25, 2023, immediately following the Public Hearing  
that begins at 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance  
Council Chamber, City Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor Ruby Campbell  
Councillor Daniel Fontaine\*  
Councillor Tasha Henderson  
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Councillor Paul Minhas

**ABSENT:**

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

**STAFF PRESENT:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ms. Lisa Spitale      | Chief Administrative Officer                                    |
| Mr. Peter DeJong      | Corporate Officer   |
| Mr. Rod Carle         | General Manager, Electrical Utility                             |
| Ms. Jacqueline Dairon | Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer          |
| Mr. Brad Davie        | Deputy Fire Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services     |
| Mr. Dean Gibson       | Director of Parks and Recreation                                |
| Ms. Dilys Huang       | Planner   |
| Ms. Hanna Jarrett     | Planning Technician   |
| Ms. Lisa Leblanc      | Director of Engineering Services                                |
| Mr. Demian Rueter     | Acting Senior Manager, Climate Action, Planning and Development |
| Ms. Denise Tambellini | Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager               |
| Ms. Jackie Teed       | Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development       |

\*Denotes electronic attendance.

---

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

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:50 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**

**THAT** Council accept On Table reports and presentations.

**Carried.**

All members voted in favour of the resolution.

3. **BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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

---

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The tenant relocation policy of the City is currently being reviewed for renewal and alignment with neighbouring municipalities. It is the practice in New Westminster that development applicants have a tenancy support package to aid in the transition of those displaced;
- Although there is a lack of commercial space along the ground floor, the OCP identifies proposals to cluster commercial in a strip on Twelfth Street. Additionally, a recent study indicated the entire street does not need commercial, but rather could be condensed along nodes;
- Because the development proposes townhouse style units, there will still be activation the street level for both street frontages on Twelfth Street and London Street; and
- Staff reduced the originally proposed six storeys to five storeys.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Due to a conflict of interest due to the proximity of his residence, Mayor Johnstone recused himself at 6:46 p.m. and Councillor Fontaine began chairing the meeting.

**4. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS**

**4.1 Development Variance Permit DVP00701 for 311 Ash Street**

Corporate Officer noted fifteen (15) items of written correspondence.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the following written submissions related to Development Variance Permit DVP00701 for 311 Ash Street:

| <b>Written Submissions</b>     |                            |                      |          |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Correspondence Date</b> | <b>Date Received</b> | <b>#</b> |
| J. Rethmetakis                 | September 20, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-1      |
| L. Hanson                      | September 20, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-2      |
| J. LeQuesne<br>and R. Mitchell | September 20, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-3      |
| N. Hebert                      | September 20, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-4      |
| L. Bloxom                      | September 18, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-5      |
| S.                             | September 21, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-6      |
| BC General<br>Employees'       | September 22, 2023         | ON TABLE             | C-7      |

|                            |                    |          |      |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------|------|
| Union                      |                    |          |      |
| P. Mahalle                 | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-8  |
| M. Landingin               | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-9  |
| N. Carleton and<br>M. Reed | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-10 |
| J. Elliott                 | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-11 |
| K. Zuccolo                 | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-12 |
| R. Lester                  | September 24, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-13 |
| T. Horlitz                 | September 25, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-14 |
| K. Yeates                  | September 25, 2023 | ON TABLE | C-15 |

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve issuance of Development Variance Permit DVP00701.

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff advised that the building is a market rental building with long tenured rents present whose rates are rising slower than the average market rent;
- With housing agreements registered on title, staff can add various requirements such as shade structures on south-facing units as there will be trees lost as part of the construction. Generally staff work with bylaws that the building is kept to the required level for health and safety;
- The proposal estimates the length of time will be 6-12 months with significant noise due to the anticipated required excavation; and
- Three trees whose age is estimated to be 40-70 years old will be cut down although several could be relocated and replanted.

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

**THAT** Council approve issuance of Development Variance Permit DVP00701.

**Defeated.**

Councillors Campbell, Henderson and McEvoy opposed.

**Procedural Note:** Mayor Johnstone returned to the meeting and resumed chairing at 7:30 p.m.

## **5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**5.1 2023 New Westminster Intersection Safety Study (Information Report brought forward from September 11, 2023)**

Discussion ensued on:

- The availability of further data regarding scooters or skateboards is scarce and the only indication staff have of those vehicles being involved is if there is a police report. Staff acknowledged the potential that the data the City receives is underreported;
- The provincial government is undertaking a pilot project on e-scooters which will be wrapping up in spring of 2024;
- Staff noted that measuring the impact of e-scooters would be difficult and could only be visible through complaint calls received from the public and indicated nothing significant has been received by City staff;
- Staff are aware of key intersections which are hotspots for vehicle and pedestrian collisions including Eighth Street and Eighth Avenue, Howes Street and Boyd Street, Howes Street and Ewen Avenue, Eighth Avenue and McBride Boulevard and Sixth Street and Sixth Avenue, all of which noted elevated incidents across a five year period;
- Staff have identified key intersections around the new t̄m̄əsew̄tx̄w Aquatic and Community Centre which will have increased traffic and will take measures to increase their levels of safety.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the report titled 2023 New Westminster Intersection Safety Study for information.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for Items 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11 and 6.12 on consent.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**6.1 Budget 2024: Fees and Rates Review**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Insurance fees required at Block Parties have been unsurmountable for some residents, staff indicated the City's

approach is to insure the City and event organizers will be covered under that policy;

- The inflationary cost increases at 3% across many budget components are necessary to maintain the City's levels of service.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approves in principle the proposed changes in fees and rates; and

**THAT** Council direct staff to prepare the necessary amendment bylaws.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Mayor Johnstone requested agenda item 6.5 be pulled in order to move a motion to refer the item to a future Regular Council meeting.

### **6.2 Decriminalization – Update to the exemptions to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council accept the report titled Decriminalization – Update to the exemptions to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act as an update.

**Adopted on Consent.**

### **6.3 Massey Theatre Working Group**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Massey Theatre Working Group as outlined in this report; and

**THAT** Council appoint Councillors Campbell and McEvoy to serve on the Massey Theatre Working Group.

Council considered the process of Councillor appointments being made at a Council meeting without prior discussion and opportunity to provide a notice of interest.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Massey Theatre Working Group as outlined in this report; and

**THAT** Council appoint Councillors Campbell and McEvoy to serve on the Massey Theatre Working Group.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**6.4 Permissive Property Tax: Exempt Properties - Review of Application Result**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the proposed Taxation Exemption list and forward the Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023 (Attachment A) for three readings.

**Adopted on Consent**

**6.5 Response to February 6, 2023 Special City Council Motion for Utilities Commission Open Minutes Extracts regarding the Advance Metering Infrastructure Project**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council postpone item 6.5 to the City Council Meeting of October 16, 2023.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**6.6 Rezoning Application for Duplex: 902 First Street – Comprehensive Report**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the application to rezone 902 First 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**

**6.7 Update on Council Motion Regarding the Chinatown Community Stewards Program**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to pause other projects in the Community Planning work program to conduct further research on the Chinatown Community Stewards Program, including its implications for the New Westminster “I’s on the Street” Program, and that staff report back the findings to Council.

**Adopted on Consent.**

- 6.8 Proclamation: Farhan Lalji Day**  
**Adopted on Consent.**
- 6.9 Proclamation: United Way BC Day, September 26, 2023**  
**Adopted on Consent.**
- 6.10 Proclamation: National Seniors Day, October 1, 2023**  
**Adopted on Consent.**
- 6.11 Proclamation: Wrongful Conviction Day, October 2, 2023**  
**Adopted on Consent.**
- 6.12 Proclamation: KidSport Powered by Sport BC Week, October 1-7, 2023**  
**Adopted on Consent.**
- 6.13 Proclamation: Homelessness Action Week, October 7-14, 2023**  
Councillor Campbell noted Platinum Awards of the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce will feature a new award this year, the Community Catalyst Award.  
MOVED and SECONDED  
**THAT** Council proclaim October 7-14, 2023, as Homelessness Action Week.  
**Carried.**  
All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **7. BYLAWS**

- 7.1 Public Hearings not held**
- a. Zoning Amendment (376 Keary Street) Bylaw No. 8404, 2023**  
MOVED and SECONDED  
**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (376 Keary Street) Bylaw No. 8404, 2023 first reading.  
**Carried.**  
All members present voted in favour of the motion.  
MOVED and SECONDED  
**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (376 Keary Street) Bylaw No. 8404, 2023 second reading.  
**Carried.**



All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (376 Keary Street) Bylaw No. 8404, 2023 third reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**b. Zoning Amendment (808 Royal Avenue) Bylaw No. 8416, 2023**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (808 Royal Avenue) Bylaw No. 8416, 2023 first reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (808 Royal Avenue) Bylaw No. 8416, 2023 second reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment (808 Royal Avenue) Bylaw No. 8416, 2023 third reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**7.2 Bylaws for readings**

**a. Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023**

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023 first reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023 second reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED AND SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023 third reading.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Due to a conflict of interest due to the proximity of his residence, Mayor Johnstone recused himself at 8:02 p.m. and Councillor Fontaine began chairing the meeting.

### **7.3 Bylaws for adoption**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Housing Agreement (311 Ash Street) Bylaw No. 8382, 2023.

**Defeated.**

Opposed by Councillors Campbell, Henderson and McEvoy.

**Procedural Note:** Mayor Johnstone returned to the meeting and resumed chairing at 8:04 p.m.

**Procedural Note:** Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 8:04 p.m.

**Procedural Note:** Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 8:15 p.m.

## **8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

### **8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision**

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

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

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;

**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.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- City of New Westminster's bylaws allow for cycling on sidewalks, but electric scooters and electric skateboards are not permitted under the Motor Vehicle Act. It would not be possible for the City to further prohibit these devices as there is already a provincial restriction however staff can proactively address issues of safety on the roads, particularly with motor vehicles, however further input would be needed from the New Westminster Police Department;
- There needs to be some time given for the data of the pilot project, which has 6 municipalities participating, to be released and the pilot project is scheduled to end in April 2024;
- The City's Electric Mobility Strategy will look to address e-devices such as the ones in this motion and in the future staff intend to bring a report exploring considerations around e-bikes in the City.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the motion be amended with the additional resolution that a public education campaign be undertaken.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct 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; and  
**THAT** a public education campaign be undertaken.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

MOVED and SECONDED

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.

Discussion ensued on confirming that holding a by-election in the school district, due to recent staff changes at the School Board, will not have any budget impact to the City of New Westminster.

**Procedural Note:** A motion was made to divide the resolution.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the motion be divided into two separate resolutions.

**Carried.**

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the election will not be borne by the City as it will be contracted out and charged back to the School District. A new Request For Proposals process would not be necessary as election contracts and bylaws are approved for 4 years.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the first motion was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**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.

**Defeated.**

Opposed by Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Fontaine, Henderson, McEvoy, Minhas and Nakagawa.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Extension of the Terms of Reference of Economic Development Advisory Committee**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council extend the current Terms of Reference and member appointments of the Economic Development Advisory Committee to January 31, 2024.

**Carried.**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Johnstone offered condolences to the family and colleagues to RCMP Constable Rick O'Brien.

Councillors Henderson, Fontaine and Campbell made announcements and updates regarding community events.

**11. END OF THE MEETING**

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

---

Patrick Johnstone  
MAYOR

---

Peter DeJong  
CORPORATE OFFICER