



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 16, 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. Todd Ayotte	Manager, Community Arts & Theatre
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Economic Development
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dave Jansen	Chief Constable, New Westminster Police Department
Ms. Jacque Killawee	Acting Records and Information Administrator
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer, Legislative Services

* Denotes electronic attendance.

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.

Defeated.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the agenda not including on table item 3.3 Council Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023.

Defeated.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the agenda with an on table presentation at item 5.1 Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) Program Update - Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural Note: Council proceeded with the agenda as presented on October 11, 2023.

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3.1 Train Whistle Cessation – Q3 Update

Discussion ensued regarding the change in the Spruce Street deadline respecting whistle cessation. The crossing is complex and has been progressing with a particular design but a question regarding that design may impact the expected cessation date; staff, in the interest of transparency, indicated the potential need to change the date.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Correspondence dated September 18, 2023 regarding Burnaby New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth - Invitation for Council member to join the Task Force

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Councillor Henderson be appointed to sit on the Burnaby New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8 and 4.10 on consent.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.1 Amendments to 2023 Schedule and Proposed 2024 Schedule of Council Meetings

MOVED and SECONDED

That Council approve the amendments to the 2023 Schedule of Council Meetings as set out in Attachment 1 and approve the 2024 Schedule of Council Meetings as set out in Attachment 2 of this report.

Adopted on Consent.

4.2 Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee – Draft Terms of Reference

Discussion ensued on:

- Arts New West will be maintaining their position as an umbrella organization facilitating arts and cultural events in New Westminster;

- The committee is looking forward to coming together and continuing to guide and update all parties within the arts scene in the City; and
- Consideration around how to include local indigenous representation in terms of business and art within the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the draft Terms of Reference for the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with recruitment for the committee.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.3 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 1031 Quebec Street, New Westminister – Metro Vancouver Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing (the “Project”)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council hereby grants an exemption to Metro Vancouver contractor Traylor Aecon General Partnership (TAGP) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992, from October 16, 2023 to December 21, 2023, and from March 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024 on week days from 8 PM to 11 PM and Saturdays from 7 AM to 9 AM and 6 PM to 9 PM, excluding Sundays and Statutory Holidays, to construct the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing (the “Project”).

Adopted on Consent.

4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Columbia Street at 8th Street (New Westminister SkyTrain Station)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to TransLink from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM starting October 31, 2023 to February 28, 2024 including Saturdays and intermittent Sundays, but excluding Statutory Holidays, to demolish and restore original walkways, install new maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminister SkyTrain station.

Adopted on Consent.

4.5 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 receive this report for information.

Adopted on Consent.

4.6 Support for TransLink’s Bus Rapid Transit Action Plan

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council supports in principle TransLink’s Bus Rapid Transit Action Plan to advance the provision of fast, reliable, high-quality rapid transit along the Marine Drive/Way corridor from 22nd Street SkyTrain Station to Marine Drive Canada Line Station, and in other priority regional corridors that could reduce regional traffic passing through New Westminster.

THAT Council direct staff to work with TransLink and coordinate with adjacent municipalities towards the planning, design, and implementation of Bus Rapid Transit within New Westminster.

THAT Council ask the Mayors’ Council to prioritize the Marine Drive/Way corridor as a priority BRT project, along with other BRT corridors that reduce regional traffic passing through New Westminster.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.7 Update on Council Motion Regarding “The Right Person, the Right Time, The Right Place”

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to reach out to the Century House Association to share information related aging in place in New Westminster and to inform the latter of engagement opportunities related to policy, planning and development processes.

THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Century House Association on senior government advocacy with a focus on New Westminster and to report back on specific initiatives and potential financial and staff work program implications.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

**4.8 Uptown Business Association Business Improvement Association
Renewal: 2024 – 2028**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT renewal of the Uptown Business Improvement Area by Council initiative, at the request of the Uptown Business Association, be commenced;

THAT Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 be forwarded for Council's consideration of three readings; and

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the notice requirements under the *Community Charter*.

Adopted on Consent.

4.9 Westminster Pier Park Fire Site – Next Steps

Discussion ensued on the importance of this site being on the Fraser River and how that creates an opportunity for the city and Host Nations to engage in meaningful ways. Council also noted that many in New Westminster share a connection to the river and therefore the park requires additional care in its design and construction.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information; and

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Next Steps as outlined in this report.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.10 Proclamation: World Polio Day, October 24, 2023

Adopted on Consent.

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

5.1 Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) Program Update - Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division

Jonny Morris, Canadian Mental Health Association, presented on the Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) program update.

Mr. Morris provided an introduction to PACT and its role in British Columbia – focusing on shifting interactions from health crisis to health

care. He further described common scenarios and typical PACT responses in comparison to police force responses along with data from Metropolitan Police in the UK. The top three reasons to call PACT are assistance requests for those going through a mental health crisis, wellness checks, and substance use-related crises.

Discussion ensued from Council supporting the work PACT is doing, acknowledging that Mr. Morris has been very diligent in pushing for progress in proper care for crises in the community, and giving a reminder that residents in New Westminster can call PACT at 778-727-3909. Mayor and Council noted the importance of the work and creativity behind PACT, a parallel system which frees up police resources.

5.2 Open Delegations

Bob Mackerricher presented on World Polio Day and recounted that in the 1950s, polio was a devastating virus which attacks the nervous system, frequently resulting in death or paralysis. Rotary International has been working to eradicate polio for several decades now.

Council expressed thanks for the work of the Rotaract and Interact Clubs in New Westminster, the importance of such groups to offer a space for members and the additional work they do in the community and around the world.

Mayor Johnstone read the proclamation declaring October 24, 2023, as World Polio Day.

Naomi Perks presented on making New Westminster a safe place for 2SLGBTQIA+ for community members by flying pride flags at civic buildings and adding inclusive recreation opportunities such as 'queer swim' and others.

Council expressed the importance of continuing the work of protecting the rights of this community and speaking up and noting that the community needs more leaders to continue this work. Council looks to such leaders as the delegate presenting to guide the way for all residents of New Westminster and also noted that the City had a well-attended flag-raising at City Hall for Pride Week this year and it is important that community advocates continue to come to such events.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

6.1 Break (15 minutes)

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Public Hearings not held

a. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (902 First Street) No. 8418, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (902 First Street) No. 8418, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (902 First Street) No. 8418, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (902 First Street) No. 8418, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for readings

a. Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 first reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 second reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 third reading.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.3 Bylaws for adoption

a. Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8419, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (376 Keary Street) No. 8404, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (376 Keary Street) No. 8404, 2023.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.1 Notices of Motion

a. Amending the City's separation allowance policy to eliminate possibility of 'double dipping' by former Mayors and Councillors

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster compensation package for elected officials includes the payment of a separation allowance upon completion of their term(s) in office equivalent to ten percent of their highest annual remuneration for each year of service commencing after December 1st, 2008 (with a twelve year cap); and

WHEREAS there is no impediment for Council members to receive a separation allowance from New Westminster taxpayers even if they transition successfully into new employment within a short period of time; and

WHEREAS the intent of the separation allowance ought to be limited to bridging the employment gap after a member has ceased to serve on Council;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request legal counsel to draft an amendment to the Council Remuneration Policy such that the separation allowance be set up as a salary continuance for a maximum of 12 months that can be terminated upon a former Council member becoming gainfully employed full-time within the first year after ceasing to serve on Council, rather than as a lump sum payment at the time of separation.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

It was announced that New Westminster Film Festival is taking place starting Friday, October 20, 2023.

11. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER