



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 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
Ms. Christina Coolidge	Indigenous Relations Advisor
Ms. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Steven Faltas	Senior Manager, Electrical
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Jeff Gill	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Indeep Johal	Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Jacqueline Killawee	Acting Records Information Administrator
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services
Mr. Robert McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Mr. Demian Rueter	Manager, Development Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Director of Climate Action, Planning and Development

Ms. Serena Trachta	Manager, Inspections, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer, Legislative Services

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

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone 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 adopt the agenda.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 on consent.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.1 **Anvil Centre Engagement Objectives**

Discussion ensued on:

- This is an opportunity to promote the Anvil Centre and learn about its various user groups with data collected over several years of operations;
- Staff indicated focus groups have been contemplated but are tending towards open public consultation for any and all feedback;
- Staff will be able to provide options for the public reflect on all possibilities respecting the Anvil Centre. Additionally, there will be

options for public feedback respecting the way users with disabilities experience the venue;

- Staff also noted there will be opportunities for consultation and engagement with Indigenous users, who are normally contacted as part of all public engagement in the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the Engagement Objectives outlined in this report; and

THAT Council endorse the Next Steps for engagement as outlined in this report.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Appointment of Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council appoint Shehzad Somji to be the City of New Westminster Director of Finance, with the responsibility of financial administration set out in Section 149 of the *Community Charter*, and the responsibilities set out in section 2(c) of the Officers Establishment and Indemnity Bylaw No. 7175, 2007 and section 8 of the Delegation Bylaw No. 7176, 2015, effective December 1, 2023.

Adopted on Consent

3.3 Approval of Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give three readings to the Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023.

Adopted on Consent

3.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 660 Quayside Drive (Bosa Developments)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council grant a Construction Noise exemption to Bosa Developments from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM to

9:00 PM and for Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for construction-related activity at 660 Quayside Drive related to concrete pump dismantling and crane removal.

Adopted on Consent

3.5 Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Heritage Designation: 441 Fader Street – Bylaws for First and Second Readings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023 and Heritage Designation Bylaw (441 Fader Street) No. 8407, 2023 for First and Second Readings, and forward the Bylaws to a Public Hearing.

THAT Council add the building currently located at 441 Fader Street to the City's Heritage Register following the adoption of Heritage Designation Bylaw No. 8407, 2023.

THAT Council approve the proposed strata plan for 441 Fader Street and authorize the Approving Officer to sign the strata plans, subject to the completion of required steps outlined in this report, following the adoption of Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023 and Heritage Designation Bylaw (441 Fader Street) No. 8407, 2023.

Adopted on Consent

3.6 Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8389, 2023 (810 Agnes St) – Bylaw for Three Readings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8389, 2023 for First, Second and Third Readings; and

THAT Council, should the Housing Agreement Bylaw No. 8389, 2023 be adopted, direct the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the Housing Agreement and No-Stratification Covenant.

Adopted on Consent

3.7 Motion Response: Increasing Access to Fresh Drinking Water for Local Residents and Their Pets

Discussion ensued on:

- The level of ancillary work which staff can undertake needs to be reviewed in light of the regular winterizing of hydrants. This could have an added layer of complexity with the proposed new fire hydrants;
- The decision-making framework on climate action could be used to determine if climate action funds would be appropriate to be utilized to fund this initiative; and
- The City of New Westminster has data for permanent water hydrants online via the Open Data Catalogue and this would serve both the staff potentially upgrading hydrants as well as residents looking to find the nearest hydrant.

Procedural Note: A motion was proposed with ‘and temporary’ added in the second part of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receives this report as a response to the motion to 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;

THAT Council direct staff to undertake a fresh drinking water study in 2024 and report back to Council on the implications of implementing additional permanent and temporary drinking water stations across the City.

Discussion ensued regarding the amendment as the City of Vancouver experienced some challenges with temporary drinking fountains and are moving toward permanent installations. Consideration was given around costs of temporary solutions which would be replaced by a full permanent system and whether that is cost-effective.

Procedural Note: An amendment was proposed to remove “and temporary”

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be amended to remove “and temporary”.

Carried

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine, McEvoy and Minhas

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receives this report as a response to the motion to 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;

THAT Council direct staff to undertake a fresh drinking water study in 2024 and report back to Council on the implications of implementing additional permanent drinking water stations across the City.

Carried, as Amended

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 6:48 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Brandon Chapman came to Council to ask for a refund of \$365 which was the price of a recent parking citation he has paid. Mr. Chapman described a situation where his elderly mother had visited from the Okanagan and had her car towed. Additionally he described a situation where he received a ticket on the street at 9:00 pm on a night and then subsequently had his car towed at 9:30 a.m. the next morning.

Staff advised the bylaw is a complaint-driven enforcement mechanism. If the vehicle has been moved it can continue to park on the street and that the specific provision is meant to address cars which are either stored on the street or abandoned. Further, staff advised the ticket could be reviewed through the adjudication process.

Procedural Note: A resolution was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to review potential mechanisms for residents to apply for a temporary long term parking permit.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Bart Slotman described the site-specific issues regarding the Princess Street and Sixth Street construction site. During the consultation process, business owners were informed that covered boarded sidewalks would be installed but have been

dealing with a fenced walkway on the road and now that excavation has been completed, the fenced walkway has not been moved or replaced by covered walkways. Mr. Slotman noted that other cities would have Council discussion or policies around pedestrian continuity and particularly cranes on weekends.

Staff noted the construction operator was balancing a number of requirements; the Uptown Business Association, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch located across the street, the neighbourhood residents and the greenway users. Staging for construction is always preferred to be on private property however this was not possible in this case as the property has limitations and overhead boarding is not yet required. Engineering has done several assessments of the site indicating pedestrian and motor vehicle movements and nothing of concern has been observed.

Staff can follow up with the developer and contractor of the site as they have good neighbour protocols and should be following those protocols.

Procedural Note: A resolution was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to limit the erection of construction cranes primarily on the weekend period unless an exemption is provided by Council.

Procedural Note: Discussion was held regarding the proposed resolution.

Staff indicated the construction experienced technical issues regarding the installation of the crane at the corner of Princess Street and Sixth Street. Staff avoid this in every case possible however this the technical issues were not a planned event and needed to be rectified. Council noted policy decisions need to be made upon staff recommendations and not exceptional circumstances.

Procedural Note: The previous motion was amended by a proposal to refer the matter to staff.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council refer the matter to staff – to limit the erection of construction cranes primarily on the weekend period unless an exemption is provided by Council.

Carried

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

Larry Church announced the success of his Residents Association meeting which was well-attended by neighbours as well as members of Council. Mr. Church noted he had been advocating for a full signal at the intersection of Second Street and Sixth Avenue near Herbert Spencer Elementary School. The intersection is complex in that it is a double lane on Second Street and children have difficulty assessing the safety of the intersection.

Procedural Note: A resolution was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to report back as part of the 2024 budget process regarding the opportunity to prioritize the installation of a fully controlled traffic signal at the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue.

Procedural Note: Discussion was held regarding the proposed resolution.

Council considered moving forward with getting a full signal for the benefit of the community but debated if the resolution is appropriate given the Intersection Safety Report recently which did not include any recommendations for this intersection.

Procedural Note: The question on the resolution was asked.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to report back as part of the 2024 budget process regarding the opportunity to prioritize the installation of a fully controlled traffic signal at the corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue.

Carried

Opposed by Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Nakagawa.

5. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

5.1 Break (15 minutes)

6. BYLAWS

6.1 Bylaws for readings

a. Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Heritage Designation (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8407, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Designation (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8407, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Designation (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8407, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

c. Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Council asked for clarity around the Province's bylaw providing a list of infrastructure and amenities which funds can be put toward and staff confirmed the bylaw is interpreted appropriately.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

d. Housing Agreement (810 Agnes Street) Bylaw No 8389, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Housing Agreement (810 Agnes Street) Bylaw No 8389, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Housing Agreement (810 Agnes Street) Bylaw No 8389, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Housing Agreement (810 Agnes Street) Bylaw No 8389, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

6.2 Bylaws for adoption

a. Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendments Bylaw No. 8426, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendments Bylaw No. 8426, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. Business License Amendment Bylaw (2024 Fee Schedule) No. 8420, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Business License Amendment Bylaw (2024 Fee Schedule) No. 8420, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

c. Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8428, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8428, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

d. Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

e. Electrical Utility 2024 Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Electrical Utility 2024 Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

f. Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8423, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8423, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

g. Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

7.1 Notices of Motion

a. Providing equitable funding to cities with municipal police forces impacted by the Surrey Police Service transition

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas the Province of BC has committed up to \$150M to the City of Surrey to cover part of the transition costs related to the transition from the RCMP to the Surrey Police Service; and

Whereas the City of New Westminster and other jurisdictions with their own municipal police force have been impacted by the Surrey police transition as it pertains to the recruitment and retention of staff;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request a memo from the NWPD Chief regarding the current and anticipated future impacts of the Surrey Police Service transition on our NWPD staffing retention and recruitment strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor be asked to write a letter to the Solicitor General asking the Province of BC to provide additional funding to municipal police forces that have been or may be impacted by the Surrey Police Service transition.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Campbell announced the annual celebration of Diwali, The Festival of Lights on November 6, 2023.

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas announced The Inn at the Quay will host their Crime and Safety Forum on November 8, 2023, and will include several guest panelists.

Councillor Fontaine noted he is wearing a beaded poppy made by a Saskatchewan Métis artist and reminded the community of the Remembrance Day event at City Hall on November 11, 2023.

10. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER