



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 30, 2023, 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
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
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	Acting Senior Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Richard Fong	Director of Human Resources and Information Technology
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Economic Development
Ms. Corrinne Garrett	Senior Manager Recreation Facilities and Programs, Parks & Recreation
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Tobi May	Manager, Civic Buildings, Engineering
Ms. Lynn Roxburgh	Manager, Housing, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. John Stark	Manager of Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered 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. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3.1 2023 Point-in-Time Homeless Count: Key Findings and Messages (Information Report from October 16, 2023)

Staff presented on the report which was a snapshot of homelessness in March 2023, which takes place once every three years. This provides a much-needed update particularly with respect to how the COVID pandemic and the opioid epidemic affected the City's homeless count.

Discussion ensued on consideration that solutions need to be specific to the City's local context.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive the report titled 2023 Point-in-Time Homeless Count: Key Findings and Messages for information.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.2 Responding to the Homelessness, Mental Health and Substance Use Crises: Proposed Two-Year Organizational Pilot Project and Implementation Strategy

Staff presented on background information and context of the three related crises of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse which included consultation and advocacy, principles, and the framework driving the City's response.

Discussion ensued on:

- The people-centered approach of emergency responders. New Westminster Fire Rescue Services have been performing roles in addition to their fire protection roles;
- Obtaining reliable and relevant metrics which the City can report on to senior governments, with a relevant model city being the City of Victoria; and
- In the context of finding extra costs to be saved in existing services and departments, the City is struggling to keep up with basic core services and there are no efficiencies to be gained.

Procedural note: An amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added to the main motion:

THAT Council request staff report back regarding an identified set of targets and intended outcomes as they pertain to the 2-year organizational pilot project and implementation strategy; and

THAT Staff report back on a quarterly basis regarding how much funding has been secured from the federal and provincial governments to offset the cost of this pilot project.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Procedural note: The question of the main motion was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the proposed two-year organizational pilot project and implementation strategy to address the three crises of homelessness, mental health and substance use as included in the Analysis section of this report;

THAT Council direct staff to forward the funding request to the 2024 Budget deliberation process;

THAT Council approve the Next Steps as outlined in this report;

THAT Council request staff report back regarding an identified set of targets and intended outcomes as they pertain to the two-year organizational pilot project and implementation strategy; and

THAT Staff report back on a quarterly basis regarding how much funding has been secured from the federal and provincial governments to offset the cost of this pilot project.

Carried, as amended

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

Procedural Note: At this time, Council proceeded with item 5. Opportunity for the Public to Speak to Council.

Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 8:22 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 8:44 p.m.

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 9.1, Mayor Johnstone moved a motion to receive the letter on the agenda in New Business from the New Westminster School Board.

3.3 Canada Games Pool Tank Leak Causation Investigation Results

Staff presented on the causes of the Canada Games Pool (CGP) tank leak, the resulting investigation and potential contributory factors.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report for information on the Canada Games Pool Tank Leak causation investigation results.

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 and 4.3 on consent.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

4.1 Budget 2024: Fees and Rates Review, Amendment Bylaws for Three Readings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT *the following Amendment Bylaws be given three readings:*

Attachment #1 - Engineering Services Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No.8423, 2023

Attachment #2 - Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8428, 2023

Attachment #3 - Economic Development - Business License Amendment Bylaw No. 8420, 2023

Attachment #4 - Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023

Attachment #5 - Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8426, 2023

Attachment #6 - New Westminster Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023

Attachment #7 - Electrical Utility Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023

Adopted on Consent

4.2 Electric Vehicle Ready Requirements for New Non-Residential Buildings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse, in principle, the recommended Electric Vehicle (EV) Ready Requirements for new non-residential buildings as outlined in this report; and

THAT Council direct staff to engage with the development community on the proposed requirements as outlined in this report.

Adopted on Consent

4.3 Report Back on Council Motion Regarding New Westminster Becoming a 15-Minute City

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive this report and confirm that staff should continue to incorporate 15-minute city principles into existing and upcoming planning

and infrastructure work rather than create a standalone plan for becoming a 15-minute city.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

4.4 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **August 28, 2023 City Council Meeting (12:30 p.m.)**
- b. **August 28, 2023 Council Workshop**
- c. **August 28, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**
- d. **August 31, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**
- e. **September 5, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**

Adopted on Consent

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

Mr. Larry Church spoke regarding a confusing agenda on the City's website indicating the meeting tonight is a Public Hearing and led to difficulty in registering for the delegation tonight.

Mr. Church thanked Engineering staff for removing a bike control light at Eighth Street and Seventh Avenue which he noted came after a lengthy time of lobbying. He advised that in July 2023 the City had reduced the minimum distance from a laneway house to the principle house from 16ft to 13ft within the Queen's Park Heritage Conservation Area and requested confirmation. Further, he advised Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) employees had gone into neighbourhoods to review lawn watering compliance contrary to what he believes is a *Community Charter* legislation which authorizes bylaw officers of the local government, rather than the regional district and requested confirmation if City staff supported MVRD employees in this matter.

Staff advised that in July 2023 the City updated guidelines for laneway housing reviews, as part of a streamlining process for housing approval. Regarding lawn watering compliance, staff indicated MVRD does not have bylaw enforcement capacity but instead had employees in an ambassador role to provide information regarding water usage and water restrictions.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

6.1 Break (15 minutes)

7. **BYLAWS**

7.1 **Bylaws for readings**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendments Bylaw No. 8426, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendments Bylaw No. 8426, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Anvil Theatre Fees and Charges Amendments Bylaw No. 8426, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

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

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 8428, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 8428, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Climate Action, Planning and Development Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 8428, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Cultural Services Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8430, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Electrical Utility 2024 Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Electrical Utility 2024 Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Electrical Utility 2024 Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8432, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8423, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8423, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8423, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

g. Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023 first reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023 second reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 8431, 2023 third reading.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Bylaws for adoption

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (902 First Street) No. 8418, 2023.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

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

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.

Procedural Note: Discussion on the proposed motion ensued.

Discussion ensued on:

- Council received communication from residents who were surprised to learn that the City has a severance pay policy for elected members;
- The proposed motion will amend the policy to potentially favour those who consult and punishes those who seek fulltime work after their term of Council; and
- The policy was designed to address the disconnect between elected work and employment afterward.

Procedural Note: The question on the motion was called.

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.

Defeated

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Letter from School Board dated October 25, 2023 Regarding Trustee Resignation and By-Election (On Table)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive the on-table Letter from the School Board dated October 25, 2023 Regarding Trustee Resignation and By-Election.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas will hold a community town hall forum on crime and public safety Wednesday, November 8, at the Inn at the Quay from 7 to 9 p.m.

Councillor Henderson announced Trick or Treat East Columbia Street October 31, 2023, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., a daytime or after-school trick-or-treating event for kids.

11. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER