



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, November 20, 2023

Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance

Council Chamber, City Hall

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone (Police Board Chair)

Councillor Ruby Campbell

Councillor Tasha Henderson

Councillor Paul Minhas

Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

ABSENT:

Councillor Daniel Fontaine

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Spitale

Chief Administrative Officer

Peter DeJong

Corporate Officer

Lisa Leblanc

Director of Engineering Services

Marius Miklea

Assistant Corporate Officer

POLICE BOARD:

Heather Boersma

Board Member

Drew Hart

Board Member

Patrick Lalonde

Board Member

Mary Trentadue

Board Member

POLICE STAFF:

Dave Jansen

Chief Constable

Jacqueline Dairon

Manager, Police Finance Services

Andrew Perry

Inspector

Paul Hyland

Deputy Chief Constable

Aman Gosal

Inspector

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 1:01 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. REPORTS AND PRESENTATION FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

2.1 2024 New Westminster Police Department Budget

Police Board Staff presented on various updates to the New Westminster Police Department (NWPD) 2024 Operating Budget since the previous Joint Council and Police Board meeting on September 14, 2023.

Discussion ensued on:

- Attrition of NWPD staff to Surrey Police Service (SPS), staff noted it is low and remains at 7%;
- Additional cost of recruitment is related to the education costs at Justice Institute of British Columbia, previously shouldered by the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills but recently downloaded to local governments;
- Consideration potentially that Mayor Johnstone, in consultation with the New Westminster Police Board, to write a letter to the Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, requesting additional funding for NWPD alongside the SPS;
- Victims Services to be removed from local police and moved to provincial services coordinated by VictimLinkBC. NWPD Board has discussed this and its implications but nothing to report at this time;
- Staff noted the NWPD budget is most heavily influenced, in order, by salaries, collective agreements and finally enhancements;
- If the City's budget process can start earlier, Mayor, Council and the Police Board can be in a position to have fulsome discussion with enough information regarding the provisional budget. Reaching agreement on where values are aligned, the budget can be discussed in a way in which changes can be envisioned and enacted. Come October, a meeting can be held to review individual budget lines, because ultimately a decision has to be made. Discussions around implications and meeting strategic alignments can take place outside of the budget period any time throughout the year.

3. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER