



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 11, 2023

**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 Leblanc	Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Acting Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Gabe Belliveau	Manager, Engineering Operations
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electric Utility
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Kim Deighton	Manager, Integrated Services
Mr. Greg Ellis	Fleet Superintendent, Engineering Services
Mr. Blair Fryer	Senior Manager, Economic Development
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Jeff Gill	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Demian Rueter	Manager, Development Planning
Mr. Gary So	Senior Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Serena Trachta	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Erin Williams	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Katie Stobbart	Council Clerk, Legislative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:02 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

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.9, and 3.10 on consent.

3.1 2024 Council Appointments to Internal Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations

The appointment of Council members as Chairs and Council representatives to Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations is conducted annually at the end of the year for the following year.

Council corrected the appointments to Residents Associations, as Councillor McEvoy is appointed to Sapperton and Councillor Henderson to Glenbrook North, not the reverse.

Council noted that Councillor Nakagawa also serves on Metro Vancouver's Culture Committee, Parks Committee, and Liquid Waste Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council reappoint for 2024 Council members to the Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations as set out in this report dated December 11, 2023, and titled "2024 Council Appointments to Internal Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations", as amended to reflect current Metro appointments to their committees, subject to Council's appointment of Councillor Paul Minhas to the Tourism New Westminster Board in place of Councillor Ruby Campbell.

Procedural Note: An amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Councillor Fontaine be appointed to the Board of Metro Vancouver.

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

Procedural Note: A further amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Councillor Nakagawa be replaced as the alternate for the Board of Metro Vancouver by Councillor Fontaine

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

Procedural Note: A further amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Councillor Campbell be replaced on the Tourism New Westminster Board by Councillor Minhas.

Carried

Procedural Note: A further amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Councillor McEvoy be replaced as TransLink Mayor's Council alternate by Councillor Minhas.

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

Procedural Note: A further amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Mayor Johnstone be replaced on Metro Vancouver's Indigenous Relations Committee with Councillor Fontaine.

Mayor Johnstone noted that the appointment to the Indigenous Relations Committee is made by Metro Vancouver; all Council can do is make a recommendation to them.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council request the Chair of Metro Vancouver consider appointing Councillor Fontaine as the representative on Metro Vancouver's Indigenous Relations Committee.

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

The Corporate Officer clarified that the asterisks in the document refer to appointments made for the full term of Council.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council reappoint for 2024 Council members to the Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations as set out in the report dated December 11, 2023 and titled “2024 Council Appointments to Internal Advisory Bodies of Council and External Organizations”, with the noted corrections and replacing Councillor Campbell with Councillor Minhas on the New Westminster Tourism Board.

Carried

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

3.2 Authorization of LTSA Document Signing of Corporate Officer

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council authorize Peter DeJong, as Corporate Officer, to sign Land Title documents on behalf of the Corporation of the City of New Westminster effective December 15, 2023.

Adopted on Consent

3.3 Fire Department Strategic Plan (Circulated Separately)

Discussion ensued on:

- The need to plan for replacement of Hall Number Two;
- Resources needed to deal with new complexities addressed by the fire department, like the three crises response, and challenges created by density; and,
- The plan helped Council to understand the Fire department’s role in social planning, infrastructure and asset management, and more.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the 2023 – 2026 New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services (NWFRS) Strategic Plan

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.4 Multilingual Services for Energy Save New West: Outcomes and 2024 Initiatives

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to operationalize the feedback received in the 2023 Empower Me program year, as outlined in the Next Steps section of this report.

Adopted on Consent

3.5 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report (Circulated Separately)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve the 2023 quarterly capital budget adjustments as outlined in Table 1-1 of the 2023 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance report dated December 11, 2023.

Adopted on Consent

3.6 Renewal of Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area - Results from Notification of Affected Property Owners

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Corporate Officer's report dated December 11, 2023, regarding the results from the notification of property owners affected by renewal of the Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area be received for information.

THAT Council approve the Uptown New Westminster Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 for adoption.

Adopted on Consent

3.7 Rezoning (408 East Columbia Street) – Preliminary Report

Discussion ensued on:

- The impact on the vibrancy of the area if the only businesses that can afford the space are office uses;
- There are businesses moving from New Westminster citing high rent as the reason;
- There may be a policy gap between the retail strategy and the building policy; and,

- The need for work on those policies should not stand in the way of this project.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council direct staff to work with the applicant to prepare a Zoning Amendment Bylaw for the subject property suitable for consideration of First, Second, and Third Readings, as outlined in the “Application Review Process” section of this report.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.8 Temporary Amendment to the Vehicle Procurement Process

Discussion ensued on the length of time the temporary amendment should be in effect.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approve a temporary amendment to the Procurement Policy for a period of one year to allow for the direct purchase of vehicles and operating equipment up to a value of \$100,000.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

3.9 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 2126 Seventh Avenue (22nd Street SkyTrain Station) (Circulated Separately)

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to Translink contractor, Smith Bros. & Wilson (SBW), from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 10 PM to 7 AM from Monday, December 11, 2023 to Monday, April 1, 2024 excluding Sundays and statutory holidays and the period between Sunday, December 24, 2023 and Tuesday, January 2, 2024 inclusive, to modify the 22nd Street SkyTrain infrastructure to increase egress from the station.

Adopted on Consent

3.10 Minutes for Adoption

- December 9, 2022 Special City Council Meeting**
- June 30, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**

- c. **September 14, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**
- d. **September 25, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)**
- e. **September 25, 2023 Special Council Workshop**
- f. **September 25, 2023 Public Hearing**
- g. **September 25, 2023 City Council Meeting (following the Public Hearing)**
- h. **October 5, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**
- i. **October 10, 2023 Special City Council Meeting**

Adopted on Consent

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

The Mayor provided guidelines and rules for public delegations.

Amanda Renyard of Citizen Action New Westminster is part of a movement in solidarity with Palestinians advocating for human rights. She asked Mayor and Council to call for a ceasefire, ask the Federal government to end the sale of arms and military goods to Israel, and call on Israel to let humanitarian aid in. She noted other examples of Council speaking on issues beyond their jurisdiction, including the War in Ukraine.

Robyn Kurtz, who said she is also a member of Citizen Action New Westminster, spoke in support of the motion to request a ceasefire in Palestine, asking Council to move forward their decision to this meeting. She described the situation in Gaza as an ongoing genocide and shared social media posts from Palestinians in Gaza.

Councillor Nakagawa asked whether the notice of motion could be heard as a motion at this meeting.

The Corporate Officer explained that the Procedure Bylaw does not allow for a methodology to advance the discussion or debate on a notice of motion other than if it were an emergency impacting the citizens of New Westminster—but that would need to be through the declaration of a State of Emergency considered by Council.

Joanne and Mike Gauthier spoke regarding their involvement with BC People First, an organization which advocates for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. They would like to encourage people to sign up as members, and to advocate on issues around housing for people with disabilities of all types, such as someone is a wheelchair user or blind. They spoke about inconsistencies in ramp availability at intersections, and would like to work with the City in some capacity.

Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 7:38 p.m.

Councillor Campbell recommended Joanne and Mike Gauthier work with the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Councillor Henderson noted that she and Councillor McEvoy recently did a tour with CNIB for people experiencing sight loss as a pedestrian and transit-user, to see what the challenges and barriers to accessibility are. She expressed an interest in a tour with someone who has a physical disability as well.

Councillor McEvoy advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee is open to public attendance, and that he would like to meet with the delegates. The delegates left contact information with the Corporate Officer.

Christopher Bell spoke to Council about the proposed financial plan, specifically Council's proposal to shift climate action from being funded by the operational budget over to utilities and with approximately \$1.3M in new jobs funded by the Climate Action Levy (CAL) and Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF). The Climate Action Reserve Fund's Terms of Reference allows for investments in one-time capital expenditures to accelerate climate action, mitigation and adaptation projects and apparently do not allow the fund to be used ongoing costs such as salaries – Mr. Bell was concerned that these new salaries are going to be funded by the CAL.

Mr. Bell referenced a citizen's exchange regarding the CAL in 2021, in which the Finance Team advised the CAL helps finance carbon-reduction projects and initiatives which aligns with the City's environmental strategies and goals. At the December 11 Workshop, it was advised that there is \$14 million in the CARF and into that fund is going \$2 million per year from the CAL. Mr. Bell calculated \$10M per year into the CARF, which itself could be viewed by many departments as a source of funding. He said the CAL could potentially be used in a similar manner as the reGENERATE Ideas Challenge which seeks bold ideas for reimagining the residential neighbourhood around 22nd Street SkyTrain station and offers cash prizes to winning ideas. The new staffing will burn through the CAL money through the rest of this term.

Council noted Mr. Bell's points around the bylaw and the restrictions around the usage of funding in the CARF and funds obtained through the CAL. Staff advised they would be able to comment on the delegate's assertion that the bylaw as currently drafted restricts the City to one-off capital projects by email after the meeting.

Angela Jurgensen and the Monkey Rebels (students) attended to speak on the group's excitement to see the direction the City is taking with regard to 15-minute cities, and noted their support of the Climate Action Levy. She expressed that

eliminating the levy would not significantly relieve burdens on taxpayers, but the money from all families and businesses to fund climate action projects in the city can make a big difference.

Councillor Nakagawa expressed appreciation for the Monkey Rebels' work in the community.

Aggie Black introduced herself as a mom, registered nurse, healthcare leader, and concerned citizen. She expressed that there is no issue more urgent or pressing to her than climate change, and spoke against the motion to temporarily remove the Climate Action Levy.

Councillor Fontaine asked whether the delegate believes taxing green energy is more advantageous than taxing fossil fuels. The delegate answered that she is happy to pay the five or ten dollars per year, and that it is a fair way for the City to collect money to create meaningful movement on climate change.

Councillor Fontaine asked the delegate's opinion on charging a flat tax. The delegate responded that it seems fair for someone in a large house to pay more than someone in low-income housing, as an example, but that people with detached homes should definitely pay the levy.

Jesse Clark spoke in opposition to the motion to temporarily remove the Climate Action Levy. He noted that a large part of what makes him happy to live in New West is his perception of the City's priorities on climate action. While he appreciates the focus on affordability, the amount this levy represents has no impact on his finances, but has a huge impact on his mental wellbeing to feel the City is taking action on climate.

Betty Furey shared that she became aware of the climate crisis about a year ago through a group at church, and was impressed to learn about the City's Seven Bold Steps. She worries about the effects of climate change we have already seen—floods, forest fires, and the impacts of those events on people's health and lives. She feels lifting the levy, even temporarily, would be a step backward.

Karin Roberts introduced herself as a mother, grandmother, and semi-retired music therapist. She is concerned that her children and grandchildren will not have access to the same necessities of life (clean air and water) that she has enjoyed, and supports keeping the Climate Action Levy in place.

David Brett spoke about heritage in New Westminster, and his concerns about the preservation of heritage in the face of what he called the Province's blanket up-zoning. While his understanding is that heritage areas will be protected, there are areas with beautiful heritage character that are outside those protections.

Councillor Fontaine asked staff whether declaring the City of New West a heritage conservation area would protect the city from the Province's new rules.

Demian Rueter, Manager, Development Planner, advised that staff are still in the process of assessing the impact of the new rules and will come to Council with a workshop in January. He added that with regards to heritage, the legislation is clear that heritage cannot be used as a means of avoiding the types of growth it is intended to facilitate.

5. **SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY**

5.1 **Break (15 minutes) 8:30 – 8:40**

6. **BYLAWS**

6.1 **Bylaws for adoption**

a. **Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

b. **Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council rescind third reading of the Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023.

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

c. **Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Heritage Designation (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8407, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Heritage Revitalization Agreement (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8406, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

f. Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8939, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8939, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

g. Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Uptown Business Improvement Area Bylaw No. 8424, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Amendment Bylaw (808 Royal Avenue) No. 8416, 2023 be adopted.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 7:02 p.m.

7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

7.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Improving affordability for New West residents by temporarily eliminating the 3.5% Climate Action Levy on electrical rates

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

WHEREAS according to a staff report dated April 20, 2020, the City's Climate Action Levy imposed on New Westminster Utility "costs electrical customers approximately \$15 per 1,000 KWH" ; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the temporary removal of the Climate Action Levy would have helped local residents and businesses deal with inflationary pressures by reducing their electrical costs by approximately \$1.9 million; and

WHEREAS there is no clear evidence that imposing 'made-in-New Westminster' levies, taxes or fees on green energy generated by BC Hydro will reduce our carbon footprint

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff incorporate into the City's 2024 Operating Budget a temporary one-year elimination of

the 3.5% Climate Action Levy imposed by the New Westminster Electrical Utility

The motion was ruled out of order as it would be the fifth time it has been considered in a two-week period.

b. Creating safer streets for everyone with intersection safety cameras

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster adopted “Safe Movement of People” as a strategic priority for 2022-2026 and has committed to advance a ‘Vision Zero’ mindset across the city which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS the Government of BC’s Road Safety BC website states that:

1. “Most crashes in British Columbia happen at intersections. To reduce injuries and save lives, B.C. installs intersection safety cameras—sometimes called red light cameras—at intersections where crashes occur frequently. Warning signs let drivers know the intersection has cameras. ”
2. “The cameras are proven to be effective at reducing side-impact, head-on and pedestrian crashes, and are located where red light running and high speed cause serious crashes.”; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has been working towards improving road safety through a variety of initiatives and infrastructure improvements, limited by capital budget funding and staff resources while the use of speed and red light cameras can be quickly implemented; and

WHEREAS secondary benefits would include directing the revenue from these cameras toward road safety initiatives across the community and complementing the work of traditional police enforcement, enabling police officers to focus on other critical and time-sensitive tasks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT New Westminster City Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the Provincial

Government to request that the Provincial Government install additional speed and red light intersection safety cameras in the City of New Westminster, prioritizing:

- Intersections with a high rate of crashes that resulted in injuries or fatalities as identified in the 2023 New Westminster Intersection Safety Study; and
- Intersections near schools with a high rate of crashes that resulted in injuries or fatalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the letter request that the Provincial Government allow BC local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own cost and collect fines and that the Provincial Government provide all revenue from additional speed and red light cameras to municipalities as grants to be invested in implementing local road safety improvements.

Procedural Note: An amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED **THAT** the following should be sent forward as a resolution to the Lower Mainland LGA to be further considered by our regional cohort and UBCM:

THAT the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and UBCM call on the Provincial Government to expand the implementation of speed and red light intersection safety cameras in cities across BC, prioritizing intersections near schools and those with a high rate of crashes that resulted in injuries or fatalities as identified by ICBC and that the Provincial Government provide all revenue from additional speed and red light cameras to municipalities as grants to be invested in implementing local road safety improvements; and

THAT the Lower Mainland LGA and UBCM request that the Provincial Government allow BC local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own cost and set and collect fines directly to be earmarked for road safety improvements.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion as amended.

c. Direct election of Metro Vancouver representatives

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

WHEREAS the population of our region was approximately 930,000 in 1967 when Metro Vancouver was first incorporated, however our population is now over 2.6 million people; and

WHEREAS the annual budget for Metro Vancouver is now estimated to be \$2.6 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS the residents of our region are currently unable to directly elect the representatives who govern and oversee the Metro Vancouver budget; and

WHEREAS it is important to regularly review the governance structure of organizations such as the Metro Vancouver Regional District to ensure they meet the needs of ratepayers;

THAT Council support the concept that voters in our region should be asked by way of a ballot question during the 2026 municipal election whether they want to have the opportunity to directly elect their Metro Vancouver representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council writes a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting they undertake a public consultation regarding a governance review of Metro Vancouver with the goal of establishing an appropriate ballot question to be included in the 2026 municipal election.

Discussion ensued on:

- The importance of asking voters a question they can answer, as many voters don't know about Metro Vancouver, who serves on it, and why—there would need to be education about that;
- As people already vote for their representatives to make decisions, is there a need to have them vote again to represent them on an external board; and
- New West should approach suggesting the idea of a governance review of Metro Vancouver with caution, as we have a small population relative to the rest of the regional district.

Procedural Note: A request was made to divide the motion into two parts. Council proceeded with a question on the first part.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council support the concept that voters in our region should be asked by way of a ballot question during the 2026 municipal election whether they want to have the opportunity to directly elect their Metro Vancouver representatives.

Defeated

Councillors Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy, Nakagawa, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council writes a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting they undertake a public consultation regarding a governance review of Metro Vancouver with the goal of establishing an appropriate ballot question to be included in the 2026 municipal election.

Procedural Note: An amendment to the motion was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be amended to add that Council write a letter to the Mayor's Committee recommending they undertake an internal governance review of Metro Vancouver.

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 writes a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting they undertake a public consultation regarding a governance review of Metro Vancouver with the goal of establishing an appropriate ballot question to be included in the 2026 municipal election, and writes a letter to the Mayor's committee recommending they undertake an internal governance review of Metro Vancouver.

Carried.

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

7.2 Notices of Motion

a. Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

WHEREAS human rights groups such as Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders and the United Nations have cited growing atrocities in Israel and Gaza including the deaths of many civilians, including children; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster condemns the rising incidences of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in our communities; and

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster stands up strongly for human rights everywhere

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster write a letter to the Prime Minister urging the Canadian government to immediately:

- Call for a ceasefire
- Support unrestricted access to humanitarian aid
- Secure the release of all hostages.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 MOTION to cancel the December 18, 2023 Workshop meeting

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the December 18, 2023 Workshop meeting be cancelled.

Carried

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Johnstone extended thoughts and condolences to the family and friends of the victim of an incident on Princess Street and noted that such an incident is a reminder to Council that there is a lot of work to be done to get to where we want to be with regard to pedestrian safety.

Councillor Fontaine thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for providing festive plants in Council Chamber and wished the public a happy holiday.

10. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER