



# Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES

**Monday, November 27, 2023, 6:30 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 of Engineering Services
Mr. Mike Anderson	Manager of Transportation, Engineering Services
Ms. Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Gabe Belliveau	Manager, Engineering Operations
Ms. Britney Dack	Senior Heritage Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
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. Richard Fong	Director of Human Resources
Ms. Claudia Freire	Social Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Indeeep Johal	Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Mr. Craig MacFarlane	Manager of Legal Services

Ms. Penny Page-Brittin	Community Energy and Emissions Specialist
Mr. Patrick Shannon	Manager, Purchasing
Mr. John Stark	Manager of Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Director, 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

\*Denotes electronic attendance.

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

*Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:42 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 none.

## 3. **BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

### 3.1 **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 third reading.

**Procedural Note:** Discussion ensued regarding the proposal.

Discussion ensued on:

- The specific square footage was advised by staff to be 1,968sqft for the infill house and the original house as renovated, 1,414sqft. Original square footage of the house is not known;
- With respect to provincial legislation increasing density across the province, if passed, the subject property would receive at 4 or 6 strata units. If the heritage designation and rezoning is not approved by Council, the changes in legislation potentially would allow such applications to bypass Council;

- Staff advised the heritage consultant reported a great deal of the exterior of the home will remain original. If anything needs repair it will be restored rather than replaced and in the case of replacement being necessary, it will be done exactly as the original; and
- Stratification and subdivision were both considered on the subject property and stratification is considered to be the best option to share services for residents of both dwellings.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the main motion was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

### **3.2 Heritage Designation (441 Fader Street) Bylaw No. 8407, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

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

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

## **4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

### **4.1 Report Back on Motion Regarding Speed Limits for Motorized Devices Operating on Sidewalks (information report brought forward from November 6, 2023)**

Discussion ensued on:

- Electric scooters do not have legal status in British Columbia and therefore, because they are unregulated by the province, municipalities do not have any power of enforceability. Further, there are no tickets or outstanding citations which staff can refer to for insights;
- Currently the province is wrapping up a transportation pilot program using electric kick scooters and the province will evaluate results after its completion in April of 2024 to determine if electric kick scooters should be authorized for permanent use in B.C.; and
- Speed enforcement for these devices is an emerging practice and staff do not have the ability to regulate.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive this report for information.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.12 on consent.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5.1 2024 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw 8438, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council consider giving the attached Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023 three readings in the Bylaws section of this Agenda.

**Adopted on Consent**

**5.2 Acting Mayor Appointments for November 2023 through October 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Acting Mayors for November 2023 through October 2024 be appointed as set out in the Schedule of Acting Mayors attached to this report.

**Adopted on Consent**

**5.3 Approval of Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council consider giving the attached Approval of Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023 three readings in the Bylaws section of this Agenda.

**Adopted on Consent**

**5.4 Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023: New Energy Step Code and Zero Carbon Step Code requirements beginning Jan 1 of 2024, 2025 and 2027 - Bylaw for Three Readings**

Discussion ensued on:

- Current zero-carbon step code compliance mechanisms consider all energy-consuming pieces of equipment in homes but maintains

allowances for ornamental pieces and cooking appliances using natural gas. The province is reviewing what is and isn't being included within climate models and will potentially include considerations of natural gas appliances in an update to the BC Building Code;

- Consideration of financial data around the application of zero-carbon builds is difficult due to fluctuating professional costs and lack of stable data due to the pandemic; and
- The report's timeline was established as part of the Community Energy Emissions Plan in 2022 to achieve the highest step of the Energy Step Code by 2027.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council consider giving the attached Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023 three readings in the Bylaws section of this Agenda.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

#### **5.5 City of New Westminster Guidelines to Promote Sex Worker Safety**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council endorse the City of New Westminster Guidelines to Promote Sex Worker Safety.

**THAT** Council approve that \$5,000 be allocated from the Human Resources corporate learning and development budget for 2024 for staff training to promote sex worker safety.

**THAT** Council direct staff to work with Living in Community and PACE to explore possible next steps related to sex worker safety in New Westminster.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

*Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 7:55 p.m.*

*Mayor Johnstone brought the meeting back to order at 8:10 p.m.*

#### **5.6 Fair Wage Policy at the City of New Westminster**

Staff noted the difference between Fair Wage and Living Wage is that the Living Wage sets a baseline wage for employees in the Greater Vancouver area while the Fair Wage applies to building construction contracts entered into by the City;

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to proceed with the proposed workplan and funding request for phase one of a two-phased process to review the impact on the City by adopting a Fair Wage Policy and report back to Council in Q2 2024.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

### **5.7 Food Security Programs: Update and Proposed Next Steps**

Discussion ensued on:

- Food security programs are being challenged, and require ongoing advocacy and sustainable funding. Some suggestions that food programs join together or even with other non-profits in order to make their programs more viable;
- A study indicated a large number of residents used the foodbank in New Westminster; and
- Staff clarified, in response to a letter circulating in the community, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society indicated the size of the operation made it difficult to continue operating in the existing physical space.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to meet with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society and the Don't Go Hungry Food Program to better understand the issues facing them and to explore possible actions to minimize potential impacts on the clients of both programs, and to report back to Council based on an inter-departmental exploration of options.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

### **5.8 Pavement Restoration Policy**

Discussion ensued on:

- Staff noted this proposed policy will provide clear processes for cutting into pavement by the Engineering Department, in response to the Ministry of Transportation's guidelines which are open to interpretation. The policy is a process improvement in which the City can ensure the road is refurbished and is collecting appropriate degradation fees; and
- From a user perspective, residents will see an improvement in road quality.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council endorses the Pavement Restoration Policy and;

**THAT** Council direct staff to incorporate the proposed standards in future updates to the Subdivision & Development Control Bylaw.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5.9 Staff Recommendations Related to the Council Motion Regarding the Chinatown Community Stewards Program**

Discussion ensued on the grant ending December 31, 2023, with funds remaining due to a late start there are. It took some time to begin the program and are working with the funder to continue the program past the termination date, \$18,000 would fund the program until March 31, 2024.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff not to pursue a similar initiative to the Chinatown Community Stewards Program for New Westminster.

**THAT** Council direct staff to work with the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society to incorporate attributes of the Chinatown Community Stewards Program into the I's on the Street Program.

**THAT** Council direct staff to work with the New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society to identify and potentially realize funding to maintain current service levels for the I's on the Street Program.

**THAT** Council direct staff to add \$24,000 to the 2024 Crisis Response Team budget to provide bridge funding for the I's on the Street Program and seek reimbursement when grant or senior government funding is secured.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5.10 The Right Person, the Right Time, the Right Place: Council Motion Update**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council endorse the proposed next steps as contained in this report to Council.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5.11 Uptown Business Association and Downtown New Westminster BIA - 2024 Business Promotion Scheme Budget Approvals**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council approve the Uptown Business Association's 2024 Business Promotion Scheme Budget;

**THAT** Council approve the Downtown New Westminster BIA's 2024 Business Promotion Scheme Budgets for the Primary Area and Secondary Area.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**5.12 Minutes for Adoption**

- a. **September 11, 2023 City Council Meeting (12:30 p.m.)**
- b. **September 11, 2023 Council Workshop**
- c. **September 11, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**

**Adopted on Consent**

**6. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY - 8:00 PM**

**6.1 Break (15 minutes)**

**7. BYLAWS**

**7.1 Bylaws for readings**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023 first reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023 second reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Building Amendment Bylaw No. 8433, 2023 third reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

- b. **Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED



**THAT** Council give Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023 first reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023 second reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Parks Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8439, 2023 third reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**c. Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023 first reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023 second reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give bylaw Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8438, 2023 reading.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**7.2 Bylaws for adoption**

**a. Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023**

Discussion confirmed that the definition of the fund matches that of legislation

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Growing Communities Fund Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 8415, 2023.

**Carried**

All members voted in favour of the motion.

**b. Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023**

Discussion ensued that the ethics commissioner will not appointed unanimously by Mayor and Council.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**8. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**8.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision**

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

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

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.

**Procedural Note:** Discussion ensued on the proposed motion.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Due to various factors, costs have gone up for local governments' funding of new recruit training. The City could advocate for additional funding alongside the City of Surrey; and
- Advocacy should come from the New West Police Department (NWPD) Police Board, which is independent from Mayor and Council, and is the entity which directs the NWPD Chief Constable. This resolution potentially misdirects the Mayor to act on behalf of the NWPD Police Board or Chief.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the motion be severed into two parts.

**Carried**

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the first motion be amended to replace the New Westminster Police Department Chief Constable with NWPD Police Board and to request from the NWPD Police Board a memo regarding the current and anticipated future impacts of the Surrey Police Service transition on our NWPD staffing retention and recruitment strategies.

**Defeated.**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**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.

**Defeated.**

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**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.

**Procedural Note:** Discussion ensued on the proposed motion.

NWPD staff indicated it is not an issue for Mayor and Council to write a letter on behalf of the NWPD and Police Board if it advocates for funding from the Province.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the motion was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the motion asking the Mayor 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 be referred to the NWPD Police Board.

**Carried**

Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councillor Campbell announced the Wishing Tree light-up event, an initiative of the BC Parks Foundation, on December 1, 2023 at Moody Park.

Councillor Nakagawa noted thanks for the Economic Development team in running a successful Platinum Awards on November 23, 2023, at Massey Theatre.

Councillor Fontaine congratulated Phil Fitzpatrick from Arizona for his visit to New Westminster. The recently held Crime and Safety forum on November 8, 2023 was a success. Lastly noted it was nearly one year since the City of New Westminster had shut down due to a snowstorm.

**11. END OF THE MEETING**

*Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 9:47 p.m.*

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER