



# Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

## CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

### MINUTES

**Monday, December 4, 2023**

**Meeting held electronically and in Council Chamber  
City Hall**

#### PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone\*  
Councillor Ruby Campbell  
Councillor Daniel Fontaine  
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy\*  
Councillor Paul Minhas  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa\*

#### ABSENT:

Councillor Tasha Henderson

#### STAFF PRESENT:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Ms. Lisa Spitale      | Chief Administrative Officer                           |
| Mr. Peter DeJong      | Corporate Officer                                      |
| Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu | Senior Manager, Engineering Services                   |
| Mr. Todd Ayotte       | Manager, Community Arts & Theatre                      |
| Ms. Leya Behra        | Manager, Climate Action                                |
| Ms. Susan Buss        | Acting Chief Librarian, New Westminster Public Library |
| Mr. Rod Carle         | General Manager, Electrical Utility                    |
| Ms. Renee Chadwick    | Manager of Special Projects, Parks and Recreation      |
| Ms. Christine Cho     | Business Partner, Human Resources                      |
| 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. 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. Indeep Johal      | Manager, Financial Services                            |

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|-----------------------|---|
| Ms. Jacque Killawee   | Acting Records and Information Administrator                    |
| Ms. Lisa Leblanc      | Director of Engineering Services                                |
| Mr. Craig MacFarlane  | Manager of Legal Services                                       |
| Ms. Erika Mashig      | Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction |
| Ms. Tobi May          | Manager, Civic Buildings  |
| Mr. Rob McCullough    | Manager, Museums & Heritage Services                            |
| Ms. Lynn Roxburgh     | Manager, Housing  |
| Mr. Demian Rueter     | Manager, Development Planning                                   |
| Mr. Gary So           | Senior Manager, Financial Services                              |
| Mr. Shehzad Somji     | Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer                 |
| Mr. John Stark        | Manager of Community Planning                                   |
| Mr. Alex Tam          | Senior Financial Analyst  |
| Ms. Denise Tambellini | Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager               |
| Ms. Serena Trachta    | Acting Director of 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**

*Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 1:00 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. **MOTION TO DESIGNATE ACTING MAYOR AS CHAIR**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Acting Mayor Campbell be appointed chair of the meeting.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

## 3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive all on table items.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council add to the agenda National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women under New Business.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

#### **4. REPORTS**

##### **4.1 Budget 2024: Engineering and Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw Report (Circulated Separately)**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give three readings to the attached Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 in the Bylaws section of the agenda; and

**THAT** Council give three readings to the attached Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 in the Bylaws section of the agenda.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

##### **4.2 Budget 2024: Additional Information Stemming from Council's Questions at the November 20th Budget Workshop (Circulated Separately)**

Discussion ensued on:

- The City is responding to residents' desire for additional services, resulting in the proposed budget enhancement requests;
- Mayor's Office will include intergovernmental relations, and will come forward separated at the December 11 budget report;
- Council to receive expenditures for year-end Q3 at the Council meeting of December 11, 2023, however, individually itemized expenditures undertaken for the past year not available; and
- Staff advised the calculation of hiring each full time (FTE) position includes the budgeted salary but also benefits and other costs such as provisioning of office equipment. Staff approximated non-salary benefits is 26% on top of the posted FTE salary and 12% for auxiliary staff.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive the analyses from the accompanying memos as part of the 2024 Budget deliberation process.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **5. BYLAWS**

### **5.1 Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 (Circulated Separately)**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 first reading.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 second reading.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw No. 8440, 2023 third reading.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

### **5.2 Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 (Circulated Separately)**

**Procedural Note:** An amendment to the bylaw was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be amended to remove mention of a climate action levy of 3.5%.

**Procedural Note:** Discussed ensued regarding the proposed amendment.

Discussion ensued on:

- The Climate Action Levy, introduced in 2020 as part of a rate rider, results in \$2 million in funding, in addition to \$3.5 million funding received via carbon credits, which could be put toward the electrical utility's infrastructure;
- Local governments need to have tools such as the levy, a small level of ongoing funds to promote and move forward the work of various green energy, and climate change initiatives; and
- Staff indicated a future report detailing the potential case for a multi-tiered approach to utility metering in the City.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the proposed amendment was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be amended to remove mention of a Climate Action Levy of 3.5%.

**Defeated**

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

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 first reading.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment to the bylaw was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be amended to remove mention of a Climate Action Levy of 3.5%.

**Procedural Note:** Discussed ensued regarding the proposed amendment.

Discussion ensued on:

- Council noted that historically cities did not do such environmental work, but residents generally support the climate levy and climate action in general; and
- The City has not yet spent the funds that have been accumulating from the levy and carbon credit sales.

**Procedural Note:** The question on the proposed amendment was called.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be amended to remove mention of a Climate Action Levy of 3.5%.

**Defeated**

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

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 second reading.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

**Procedural Note:** An amendment to the bylaw was proposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 be amended to remove references to a Climate Action Levy of 3.5% in the billed amounts to apply.

**Defeated**

Opposed by Mayor Johnstone, Acting Mayor Campbell and Councillors

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

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8441, 2023 third reading.

**Carried**

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive for information, the announcement acknowledging National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women to be Wednesday, December 6, 2023, in remembrance of the anniversary 1989 École Polytechnique massacre.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

## **6. MOTION TO MOVE THE MEETING INTO THE CLOSED MEETING**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items relate to matters listed under Section 90 and where required, Council does consider that the matters could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public:

90(1)(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality.

**Carried**

All members present voted in favour of the motion.

*Council moved into the Closed Meeting at 2:15 p.m.*

**7. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED MEETING**

*Council reconvened from the Closed Meeting at 2:38 p.m.*

**8. END OF THE MEETING**

*Acting Mayor Campbell terminated the meeting at 2:39 p.m.*

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER