



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Monday, November 20, 2023

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

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy*
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

ABSENT:

Councillor Daniel Fontaine

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. Peter DeJong	Corporate Officer
Mr. Kwaku Agyare-Manu	Senior Manager, Engineering Services
Mr. Ronald Au	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Ms. Karen Basran	Human Resources Business Partner
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. Jacqueline Dairon	Acting Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. James Doan	Manager, Parks and Recreation
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
Mr. Jeff Gill	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. Tristan Johnson	Senior Planning Analyst
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. Jennifer Miller	Manager of Public Engagement
Mr. John Stark	Manager of Community Planning
Ms. Denise Tambellini	Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager
Mr. Paul Taylor	Senior Manager, Information Technology
Ms. Jackie Teed	Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Serena Trachta	Manager, Inspections
Mr. Erin Williams	Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Ms. Eva Yip	Senior Manager, Human Resources
Mr. Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

GUESTS:

Reece Harding Young Anderson

* Denotes electronic attendance.

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

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.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.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the agenda and on-table items.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

2. **WORKSHOP**

2.1 Budget 2024: Service Enhancements, Strategic Plan Implementation, and Revenue and Funding Projections

Staff presented on the current state of 2024 budget and its alignment with Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities Plan. Various noteworthy items include the opening of the new təməsew'txw Aquatic and Community Centre (TACC), the new forthcoming Housing Division which intends to expedite housing permits and units, staff budget for community services which focus on addressing the three crises of homelessness, mental health and substance use, and amendments to the *BC Emergency Program Act* requiring updates to New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services to advance reconciliation and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism.

Discussion ensued on:

- Because changes to provincial legislation have been large and ongoing, staff intend bring a report summarizing all changes plus anticipated updates in the climate and utility divisions, as well as increases in mandated density around SkyTrain stations and the expected requirement of additional planning staff across the entire province;
- Staffing will be a province-wide concern as every municipality will be tasked with the same requirements which touches on all aspects of the CAPD portfolio, there are not enough professionals in the province to do the required work as mandated by the province;
- Staff advised TACC requires a minimum level of operation due to the volume of operations and size of the building and, further, that recreation works on a cost-recovery basis and is not appropriate to be viewed as a self-sustaining business;
- Crises response team staff will not be able to serve residents in a way that exhaustively meets all needs until the team receives full funding. Advocacy of senior governments for additional resourcing is part of the workplan;
- Climate Action and Electric Utility departments have identified many potential efficiencies to be gained by aligning leadership, staff and work plans;
- The Emergency Management Office is legislatively required to be appropriately resourced; and
- Human Resources and Information Technology departments are currently working to resolve the high attrition rate of City staff. The

intent of funding is to improve service delivery internally and improve the turnaround time of job postings and hiring.

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council receives the information and analyses from the accompanying nine memos as part of the 2024 Budget deliberation process.

THAT the funding requests made in the Financial Implications sections of the memos form components of the 2024 Utilities Rates Council Workshop on November 27th (Part Three) and the 2024 Operating Budget Council Workshop on December 11th (Part Four).

THAT Council direct SMT and the Finance Department to evaluate the funding requests and provide property tax rate options and alternate funding stream options for Council's consideration at the December 11th Operating Budget Workshop.

Carried

All members voted in favour of the motion.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnstone declared a recess at 10:32 a.m.

4. WORKSHOP (continued) - 2:45 PM

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 2:45 p.m.

Councillor McEvoy left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

4.1 Appointment of Chief Election Officer for SD40 Trustee By-election

Staff provided context to the proposed appointment of the Chief Election Officer (CEO) for the SD40 by-election and key dates which would be established if the appointments can be approved immediately.

Discussion ensued on the lack of potential to amend the December 19 to 31 Nomination Period as the dates are set by the Local Government Act with little flexibility.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT pursuant to Section 58(1) of the *Local Government Act*, Council appoint Mark Brown, as Chief Election Officer, and Kelly Wharton, as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2024 School Board By-Election.

Carried.

All members voted in favour of the motion.

Councillor McEvoy re-joined the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

4.2 Code of Conduct Review

Guest presented a summary of amendments after first reading of Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023, with the various changes noted as per Council's requests.

Discussion ensued on:

- The need for a definition of a City or City-sponsored event, which allows Councillors to use City resources to either host or attend such events. Staff noted this will be a forthcoming policy to establish the definitions and clarify this section of the Code; and
- Section 80 indicates there is a difference in relationship between staff and this code, and Council and this code, as a result staff recommended to change the wording in the bylaw to 'In the case of staff, disciplinary actions as applicable'.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider giving Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023, as amended, second reading and third reading.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Staff be directed to bring Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023, as amended, to the next regular Council meeting for consideration of adoption; and

THAT Council approve the Ethics Commissioner Job Description attached to this Code of Conduct Bylaw report dated November 20, 2023.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

5. BYLAWS

5.1 Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023, as amended, second reading.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Code of Conduct Bylaw No. 8408, 2023, as amended, third reading.

Carried.

Councillor Minhas opposed.

6. END OF THE MEETING

Mayor Johnstone terminated the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Peter DeJong

CORPORATE OFFICER