



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

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

PRESENT:

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

ABSENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

STAFF PRESENT:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary Corporate Officer
Ms. Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Mr. Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Utility
Mr. Brad Davie	Deputy Chief, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services
Mr. James Doan	Manager, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director of Parks and Recreation
Mr. Indeeep Johal	Manager, Financial Services
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Lynn Roxburgh	Manager, Housing, Climate Action, Planning and Development
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. 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, Legislative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and 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. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for items 3.2 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Minhas recused themselves from the meeting at 6:05 p.m. due to the proximity of their residence to the proposed bylaw.

3.1 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 660 Quayside Drive (Bosa Development)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council grant an exemption to Bosa Development from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 2, 2024 and from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 9, 2024 for construction activity related to crane removal at 660 Quayside Drive.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Minhas re-joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

3.2 Development Cost Charges Expenditure Bylaw No. 8437, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Development Cost Charge Reserve (DCC) Funds Expenditure Bylaw No. 8437, 2024 (Attachment 1) to authorize a total expenditure of \$3.20M from the DCC Reserves be given three readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.3 Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Heritage Designation: 203 Pembina Street – Bylaws for First and Second Readings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8425, 2024 and Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024 for First and Second Readings, and forward the Bylaws to a Public Hearing.

THAT Council add the heritage tree located at 203 Pembina Street to the City's Heritage Register following adoption of the Heritage Designation Bylaw No. 8435, 2024.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.4 Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8436 (Miscellaneous Zoning Bylaw Amendments) for Consideration

THAT the Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8436, 2024 (Miscellaneous Zoning Bylaw Amendments) be considered and no Public Hearing held, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

THAT notification be circulated in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.5 Budget 2024: Draft 2024 - 2028 Five Year Financial Plan (Circulated Separately)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council instruct staff to convert the Draft 2024 – 2028 Five-Year Financial Plan into a Bylaw and bring forward for three readings; and

THAT Council approve the \$180.4M 2024 Multi-Year Capital Budget.

CARRIED

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed

3.6 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Metro Vancouver Valve Replacements (660 East Columbia Street) (Circulated Separately)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council grant an exemption to Metro Vancouver from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from:

- 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Saturday February 24, 2024;
- 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Sunday February 25, 2024;
- 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Saturday March 2, 2024; and
- 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM Sunday March 3, 2024

to enable construction activity at the entrance of Lower Hume Park at 660 East Columbia Street.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.7 Proclamation: Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia, January 29, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.8 Proclamation: Heritage Week February 19-25, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.9 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **October 30, 2023 Special Council Workshop**
- b. **October 30, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)**
- c. **October 30, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**
- d. **November 6, 2023 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)**
- e. **November 6, 2023 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

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

Jeff Scheffel and members of the New Westminster Minor Ball Hockey Association spoke regarding this brand new, local non-profit youth association and the programming to be offered in the upcoming season. The programming includes U7, U9, U11, U13, U15 and U17 leagues and has 180+ members already. The association was formed in response to Metro Vancouver's decision to not commission ball hockey in the City of New Westminster and the requirement to travel long distances in Metro Vancouver for ball hockey games. Argued that ball hockey is an accessible sport for families and new comers in contrast to ice hockey.

Saeed Naguib spoke to Council responding to comments made at the Regular Council meeting of January 8, 2024, in regards to the Gaza Ceasefire motion put forward by Council and sought to address several alleged misrepresentations in the comments made on that day. Due to the nature of the comments, the delegate was given warnings and requested by the Mayor several times to proceed with caution in making their delegation.

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

Mayor Patrick Johnstone called the meeting back to order at 8:28 p.m.

Procedural Note: Due to a disruption in Council Chamber caused by the delegate continuing to hold the floor and microphone after their time had expired, and after requesting that they leave the floor to allow other delegates to speak, the delegate continued to refuse and Mayor and Council moved to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

5.1 Break (15 minutes)

6. BYLAWS

6.1 Bylaws for readings

**a. Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (203 Pembina Street)
No. 8425, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8425, 2024 first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8425, 2024 second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024

THAT Council give Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024 first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Council give Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024 first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No 8437, 2024

THAT Council give Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No 8437, 2024 first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Council give Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No 8437, 2024 second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THAT Council give Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds Expenditure Bylaw No 8437, 2024 third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

7.1 **Motions for Discussion and Decision**

a. **Establishing delegation to visit Port Coquitlam to review best practices for limiting tax increases while increasing services**

Submitted by Councillor Paul Minhas

Whereas the City of Port Coquitlam with a population of approximately 60,000 people has consistently registered some of lowest year-over-year property tax increases in Metro Vancouver over the last decade and beyond; and

Whereas the City of Port Coquitlam has proudly continued to expand core services for their residents and businesses including the recent addition of 57 free parking spaces in their downtown core; and

Whereas the City of New Westminster experienced a record high level of property tax in 2023;

BE IT RESOLVED **THAT** the Mayor request a meeting with elected officials and senior city staff from Port Coquitlam to explore if any of their best practices could be implemented locally with a goal of limiting future property taxes while enhancing service standards.

Procedural Note: Discussion ensued regarding the proposed motion.

Discussion ensued on:

- At a glance, New Westminster could learn from Port Coquitlam which is smaller than the City of New Westminster. Potential to start discussion with Mayor West;
- Port Coquitlam utilizes surplus in order to lower property taxes but this may prove detrimental to resolving infrastructure issues in the City of Port Coquitlam;
- Noted that comparisons are not apples to apples, that City of New Westminster works tirelessly to bring in the Asset Management Plan, bring up reserves; and
- Reviewed taxes per capita, the average person in the City argue that their kids cannot get into any programs, while Port Coquitlam has built new recreation investments.

Procedural Note: The question on the proposed motion was asked.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED **THAT** the Mayor request a meeting with elected officials and senior city staff from Port Coquitlam to explore if any of their best practices could be implemented locally with a goal of limiting future property taxes while enhancing service standards.

DEFEATED

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed

b. Increasing support in Budget 2024 to enhance the work done by our local resident associations (RAs)

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas our resident associations have a long history of engaging with City Hall and actively encouraging community participation and engagement; and

Whereas resident associations only receive \$200 each to support the funding of their operations; and

Whereas the grants provided to resident associations have not been adjusted in recent memory and they are not tied to the rate of inflation; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to increase the annual resident association budget by up to an additional \$200 in the 2024 operational budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this additional increase in base grant funding be available upon written request of the resident association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT resident associations with a bona fide and active membership base over 150 individuals on December 31st of the previous calendar year are further eligible to request an additional \$200 in funding to support their operations.

Procedural Note: Question was divided into three parts.

Discussion ensued on:

- The potential for funding for RAs been discussed at the most recent RA Forum with respect to rising costs and increased requirements of having an online presence. Council acknowledged there are many costs to running a community group and its members are required to have the space, technical skills, etc. But the proposed resolution this does not speak to the needs which RAs have identified needs associated with monetary costs;
- Consideration was given as to what do RAs actually need, based on what Councillors hear from residents and representatives. Should this be limited to finances;
- At the RA forum it was indicated they want more meetings, but they do have money in reserves; and
- Some additional funding was added during the pandemic. Direction at the time was given to Legislative Services to work out a new model for funding, recognizing that there has been turnover in staff, and coming back with a policy, potentially at the next RA Forum, that can address the needs of RAs.

Procedural Note: The question on the proposed motion was asked.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED **THAT** staff be directed to increase the annual resident association budget by up to an additional \$200 in the 2024 operational budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Johnstone opposed

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED **THAT** this additional increase in base grant funding be available upon written request of the resident association.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Procedural Note: A motion was made to refer.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be referred to staff and further it be brought to the Residents Association Forum.

DEFEATED

Opposed by Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED **THAT** resident associations with a bona fide and active membership base over 150 individuals on December 31st of the previous calendar year are further eligible to request an additional \$200 in funding to support their operations.

DEFEATED

Opposed by Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Nakagawa

7.2 Notices of Motion

a. An information report on a Crime and Safety Townhall Forum hosted by Councillors Daniel Fontaine and Paul Minhas

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Whereas the issue of crime and public safety is of concern to the citizens and business owners of New Westminster; and

Whereas Councillors Daniel Fontaine and Paul Minhas hosted a community forum attended by over 120 individuals in November 2023; and

Whereas Councillors Fontaine and Minhas committed to drafting a summary report and submitting it to Council and the Police Board via the Chair;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information a summary report from Councillors Paul Minhas and Daniel Fontaine regarding a crime and safety forum they co-hosted in November 2023.

b. Allowing local governments to apply commercial rent controls

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

To be forwarded, if passed, to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration at the 2024 LMLGA Conference and AGM

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia regulates annual allowable residential rent increases through the Residential Tenancy Regulation, B.C. Reg. 477/2003, to protect lower income renters from housing insecurity; and

WHEREAS there is currently no similar Provincial policy to protect small businesses or community-serving commercial tenants from unsustainable, unpredictable, and increasingly significant rent increases;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities.

c. Additional funding for overdose prevention sites across municipalities

Submitted by Councillor Henderson and Councillor Nakagawa

To be forwarded, if passed, to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration at the 2024 LMLGA Conference and AGM

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia declared a drug toxicity public emergency in 2016, acknowledging the rapid increase in overdose deaths and the need to deploy the necessary harm reduction strategies with urgency to prevent additional deaths; and

WHEREAS over 13,000 people have died of toxic drugs since 2016 in communities across British Columbia, including at least 2,500 people in 2023, about two-thirds of which were from inhalation, yet only about 40% of supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites in British Columbia offer inhalation services;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia increase funding for Health Authorities to augment existing and to open new

supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites, including related inhalation services, across British Columbia and including municipalities which do not currently offer this service to residents.

d. Eliminating Barriers to Public Home Care Services and Social Supports for Aging in Place and Public Long-Term Care

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

To be forwarded, if passed, to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration at the 2024 LMLGA Conference and AGM

Whereas seniors, families and seniors organizations have been advocating to improve access to public home care services and supports to assist seniors to live at home, in their communities, longer and to delay or prevent premature admissions to public long-term care facilities; and

Whereas finances can become an impediment to access the required home care services such as housekeeping, more frequent bathing and meal preparation necessary to age in place, and community programs that have been designed to try and meet seniors' needs are unable to fulfil the increasing demand;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province eliminate financial and accessibility barriers by investing in more public home care services and social supports required to age in place, and by further investing in public long-term care to ensure seniors are well supported in the continuum of care.

e. Creating a Ministry of Hospitality

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

To be forwarded, if passed, to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration at the 2024 LMLGA Conference and AGM

Whereas British Columbia is home to over 15,000 restaurants and foodservice vendors that employ over 185,000 workers across the province, generate \$18 billion in annual sales and play a key role in supporting BC workers, families, and vital industries such as agriculture, transportation, and tourism and are at the heart of every community in this province; and

Whereas the costs of food, supplies and transportation have substantially increased, commercial property owners are passing commercial property taxes on to restaurant and food service tenants, many of whom continue to experience long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic;

Therefore be it resolved the Province create a Ministry of Hospitality to support and engage restaurants, food service vendors and the hospitality sector generally by acting as advocates within government for policy development and reform.

f. E-Comm Governance Review

Submitted by Mayor Johnstone

Per resolution from NWPD that New Westminster Council forward the following resolution to the Lower Mainland LGA for consideration at the 2024 Conference

Whereas E-Comm has struggled to provide service levels that meet established standards or the expectations of the communities they serve, while the cost of E-Comm is increasing at an unsustainable rate, creating budget uncertainty for local Police and Fire services, and

Whereas the imminent introduction of next-Gen 911 will represent the single largest change in emergency communications delivery since the introduction of 911, with uncertain cost and operational impacts,

Therefore be it resolved the Provincial Government engage local governments in a comprehensive review of the governance structure and delivery model of 911 emergency call taking, related non-emergency call taking, and emergency dispatch services across BC with a goal to assure reliable, affordable, and sustainable services for all communities.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

There was none.

10. END OF THE MEETING

Procedural Note: In accordance with item 4, the meeting was terminated by resolution at 8:30 p.m.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Dennis Back
CORPORATE OFFICER