



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2024, 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

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

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

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and 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. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive on table materials; and

THAT Council adopt the Regular Council Agenda of May 6, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

3.1 **2023 Financial Statements (Circulated Separately)**

Shehzad Somji, Director of Finance, accompanied by Gary So, Senior Manager of Financial Services, presented the financial statements for the City of New Westminster for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023.

Brandon Ma, Audit Partner, KPMG, spoke to the City's financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023 and highlighted a clean audit report.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 be accepted.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding (i) the role of Council and staff during the annual audit process, (ii) Council's role in approving the City's annual financial statements, and (iii) the availability of the City's annual financial statements and auditor's findings for Council and the public.

As a result of the discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT consideration of the City's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, be deferred to the next Regular Council meeting scheduled for May 27, 2024.

DEFEATED

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

The meeting was recessed at 6:53 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with all members of Council present, except for Councillor McEvoy.

The order of the Agenda was varied to consider Item 5 next.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL

5.1 Tourism New Westminster Presentation

Gerardo Corro, Executive Director and Travis Johnson, President of the Board, Tourism New Westminster, presented on various activities and initiatives underway by Tourism New West. T. Johnson highlighted a pilot program whereby 'ambassadors' greet transit users at various SkyTrain stations and offer way-finding help. Additionally, Tourism New West is focusing on marketing efforts to showcase all that New Westminster has to offer.

5.2 Open Delegations

Karim Shivji, shareholder of 123Dentist, spoke to the rejection of a rezoning application for a dentist's office at 408 East Columbia Street at the April 22, 2024 Regular Council meeting. K. Shivji remarked that there is a high need for dentists in the city and requested that Council reconsider the rezoning application.

Stacey Neves, Superintendent Solid Waste and Recycling, spoke to the 2024 Public Works Week Campaign, noting that the theme this year is "Advancing Quality of Life for All."

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed May 19 to 25, 2024 as Public Works Week.

Myron Calof provided background information regarding the rezoning application for a dentist's office at 408 East Columbia Street rejected at the April 22, 2024 Regular Council meeting and urged Council to reconsider the application given the changing landscape of retail operations.

In response to questions from Council, Demian Rueter, Manager of Development, spoke to the application, noting that the application cannot be brought before Council for reconsideration for six months in accordance with Development Approval Procedures Bylaw No. 5658.

Jill C. shared concerns regarding theft and personnel safety at a local grocery store and requested additional police presence in the vicinity.

Kathleen Barnard, Save Your Skin Foundation, joined the meeting by Zoom videoconference and spoke to Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed May 2024 as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

Alison Dantas, Chief Executive Officer, Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, presented on the history of the Society, and highlighted its advocacy efforts.

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed May 6 to 10, 2024 as Elizabeth Fry Week.

Vanessa Woznow and Deb Thomas, Trustees, New Westminster Public Library Board, highlighted the Bridges Festival taking place in the city.

Vi Perks spoke to the importance of education and awareness related to homophobia and transphobia, noting that LGBTQ2IA community members still face adversity in the city.

Discussion took place on removing barriers in City buildings and in particular, Council referenced a past resolution whereby existing signage for bathrooms at City Hall were to be replaced with inclusive signage.

Mayor Johnstone proclaimed May 17, 2024 as International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the order of the agenda be varied to consider Item 3.3 next.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.3 Recommendations for Council on Belonging and Connecting from the Community Advisory Assembly

Nyomi Ross, Erika Medina, and Juno Avila-Clark, members of the Community Advisory Assembly, presented the Assembly's first set of recommendations related to Council's strategic priority of Community Belonging and Connecting.

Discussion took place regarding the Assembly's mandate and it was noted that a list of dissolved advisory committees replaced by the Assembly would be valuable information for Council.

In reply to queries from Council, members of the Assembly remarked that the recommendations before Council were the result of hours of deliberation to reach consensus and therefore, all the recommendations are priorities for the Assembly.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council receive the recommendations from the Community Advisory Assembly for information.

2. **THAT** Council direct staff to respond to each recommendation – including providing information on any related plans or strategies, and conducting a high-level feasibility review – and report back to Council and the Assembly.

The question on the motion was not called as the following amendment motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Part 2 of the motion be amended to read “THAT Council direct staff to work with the Community Advisory Assembly to determine their top five recommendations in order that they can conduct a high-level feasibility review – and report back to Council and the Assembly.”

DEFEATED

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed

The question on the motion was not called as division was called.

The question on Part 1 of the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The question on Part 2 of the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

The meeting was recessed at 9:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:35 p.m. with all members of Council present, except for Councillor McEvoy.

3.2 Train Whistle Cessation – 2024 – Q1 Update (information report brought forward from April 22, 2024)

In reply to queries from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director, Engineering, advised that future train whistle cessation quarterly updates will be posted to the City’s website. Staff was requested to notify Council when such reports are available on the website.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receives this report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There was agreement to vary the order of the Agenda to consider Item 9.1 next.

9.1 ON TABLE Community Vancouver Canucks Viewing Feasibility

Jen Arbo, Lead Economic Development Coordinator, spoke to the feasibility of community viewing gatherings for the Vancouver Canucks playoff games and commented on challenges with outdoor gatherings including road closures, costs, and safety.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to work in collaboration with business associations to develop and/or fund and/or amplify marketing that promotes their business members that are offering Vancouver Canucks playoff viewing; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to collaborate with the Downtown BIA for a hybrid event model with viewing in Anvil Centre and associated complementary activities in Hyack Square.

The question on the motion was not called as the following amendment motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as Part 3 to the main motion:

“THAT Council direct staff to coordinate accessible no-purchase-required family-friendly viewing opportunities at civic facilities where scheduling and feasibility allow, such as Queensborough Community Centre, Youth Centre/ Century House, and/or City Hall.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as division was called.

The question on Part 1 of the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The question on Part 3 of the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The question on Part 2 of the motion was not called as the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the words “associated complementary activities” be deleted from Part 2 of the motion.

DEFEATED

Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa opposed

The question on Part 2 of the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillor Campbell opposed.

Given the scheduling nature of playoff games, Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, requested Council provide staff discretion to be flexible with regard to arrangements for Vancouver Canucks viewing gatherings in the event all concerns are mitigated.

There was agreement among Council members to allow staff to remain flexible with regard to opportunities for Vancouver Canucks viewing gatherings.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the May 6, 2024 Regular Council meeting continue to 11:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for Items 4.1 to 4.9 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.1 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 220 Salter Street (Metro Vancouver Sewer Inspection – Fraser River Crossing Project)

THAT Council grant an exemption from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063,1992* to Metro Vancouver contractor AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. for two weeknights from Tuesday, May 21, 2024 to Friday, May 31, 2024 from 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM excluding Saturdays,

Sundays, and Statutory holidays to perform overnight video and sonar inspections of the sewer lines at 220 Salter Street.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.2 Proclamation: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, May 17, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.3 Proclamation: Hyack International Parade and Festival, May 25, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.4 Proclamation: Emergency Preparedness Week, May 5-11, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.5 Proclamation: Elizabeth Fry Week, May 6-10, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.6 Proclamation: Public Works Week, May 19-25, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.7 Proclamation: Melanoma and Skin Cancer Awareness Month, May 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.8 Minutes for Adoption

- a. April 22, 2024 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)
- b. April 22, 2024 Council Workshop
- c. April 22, 2024 Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel
- d. April 22, 2024 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

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

5.1 Tourism New Westminster Presentation

Please see Page 3 for action on this matter.

5.2 Open Delegations

Please see Page 3 for action on this matter.

6. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

6.1 Break (15 minutes)

7. BYLAWS

7.1 Bylaws for adoption

a. Tax Rates Bylaw 8445, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Tax Rates Bylaw 8445, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Code of Conduct for Council Members Amendment Bylaw No. 8457, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Code of Conduct for Council Members Amendment Bylaw No. 8457, 2024.

DEFEATED

Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed

c. Riparian Areas Protection Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8413, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Riparian Areas Protection Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8413, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8421, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8421, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8422, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No 8422, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (812 Twentieth Street) No. 8443, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (812 Twentieth Street) No. 8443, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Official Community Plan Amendment (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8399, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Official Community Plan Amendment (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8399, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. Zoning Amendment (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8400, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning Amendment (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8400, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- i. **Road Closure, Dedication Removal, and Disposition (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8401, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Road Closure, Dedication Removal, and Disposition (909-915 Twelfth Street) Bylaw No. 8401, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

8.1 **Motions for Discussion and Decision**

- a. **Supporting increased openness and transparency at City Hall**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine and Councillor Minhas

Whereas openness and transparency are the cornerstones of any functioning democracy; and

Whereas Mayor and Council are required to conduct some of the City's business in-camera as per the Community Charter; and

Whereas once a decision made in-camera is no longer considered confidential it should be considered best practice to release the minutes of that discussion and/or decision to the public.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council commit to publicly releasing all in-camera minutes on the City's website as soon as practicable and once a decision or discussion is no longer required to be secured as confidential

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Item 8.1 a. be deferred to the May 27, 2024 Regular Council meeting.

DEFEATED

**Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa
opposed**

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council commit to publicly releasing all in-camera minutes on the City's website as soon as practicable and once a decision or discussion is no longer required to be secured as confidential

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the practices of other local governments with regard to releasing matters considered in a closed session of Council and it was noted that minutes are not released, but instead Council's resolutions.

As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the word "minutes" be replaced with the word "resolutions."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b. Appointment of new Chair of the Arts Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

Whereas it is important for the Chair of the Arts Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee (ACEDAC) to openly and regularly support the growth of for-profit enterprises in New Westminster; and

Whereas the Chair of ACEDAC should treat both for-profit and non-profit entities equitably when it comes to our development of new policies and strategies

Whereas it is important for inclusiveness and the proper functioning of Council business that appointments to our various committees be done on an equitable basis ensuring that all members of Council are provided with an equal opportunity to serve the community.

MOVED and SECONDED

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recommend to the Mayor that Councillor Daniel Fontaine be appointed as the new Chair for the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Committee.

DEFEATED

**Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell, Henderson and Nakagawa
opposed**

8.2 Notices of Motion

a. Encouraging the BC Government to terminate the failed decriminalization experiment

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas on almost every measure BC's drug decriminalization experiment has failed and the negative impacts are being felt across the province; and

Whereas it was critical that an adequate level of services such as drug treatment, rehabilitation, mental health and supportive housing should have been put in place prior to a decriminalization experiment being undertaken; and

Whereas this experiment is not easing the suffering nor reducing the deaths of people with addictions; and

Whereas the state of Oregon, which attempted a similar experiment, recently reversed course to reduce the impacts of a growing level of street disorder and illicit drug consumption in public spaces

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor write a letter to the Premier and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions requesting they immediately halt the failed decriminalization experiment pilot project in BC

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 ON TABLE Community Vancouver Canucks Viewing Feasibility

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Fontaine recognized MS Awareness Month and congratulated new recruits to Fire and Rescue Services.

Councillor Henderson congratulated Ron Henderson for walking and finishing the Vancouver Marathon.

Mayor Johnstone shared condolences on the passing of Kim Novak, President, UFCW 1518.

Councillor Nakagawa congratulated Mary Trentadue on the receipt of the Community Award from the BC Achievement Foundation.

11. END OF THE MEETING

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council terminate the Regular Council meeting of May 6, 2024 (10:49 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on May 6, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER