



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, May 27, 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

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**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

1. **THAT** Council receive all On Table material as presented; and
2. **THAT** Council adopt the May 27, 2024 Regular Council agenda.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for Items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.10, 3.11 and 3.13 on consent.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.1 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 330 East Columbia Street (Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project)**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council grant a noise exemption to EllisDon Design Build from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Saturdays starting June 1, 2024 through to May 31, 2025 excluding statutory holidays and Saturday December 28, 2024 to enable work on exterior cladding at Royal Columbian Hospital site at 330 East Columbia Street, New Westminster.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**3.2 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 612 Seventh Avenue – Marcon Construction Ltd.**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council grant a noise exemption to Marcon Construction Ltd. from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 on Saturday June 15, 2024 or Saturday June 22, 2024 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM to enable a large concrete pour at 612 Seventh Avenue, New Westminster.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**3.3 Development Cost Charge Bylaw – Inflationary Amendment Resubmission**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council instruct staff to bring forward the Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8456, 2024 for three readings as presented in Attachment #1 of this report.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

### 3.4 Queensborough Transportation Plan

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the staff report titled “Queensborough Transportation Plan” be referred to the June 3, 2024 Council Workshop.

**DEFEATED ON A TIED VOTE**

**Opposed by Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Henderson**

In reply to queries from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director of Engineering Services and Mike Anderson, Manager of Transportation, provided the following information:

- the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a review of the Highway 91 Interchange; the technical analysis and community input collected as part of the Queensborough Transportation Plan process was shared with the Ministry’s project team;
- staff may request the installation of bus shelters and benches to ensure transit users are protected from the elements;
- sidewalks will be prioritized in areas identified as gaps in the pedestrian network; opportunities to improve the pedestrian network in Queensborough is challenging due to the open ditches;
- the Gurdwara Sahib Sukh Sagar can be identified as a community destination in the Plan;
- staff continue to pursue opportunities to implement the Perimeter trail; and
- access to the Q to Q Ferry is embedded in the proposed Queensborough Transportation Plan.

Discussion ensued and Council inquired about (i) the potential to add a sidewalk on streets where no sidewalk is present prior to twinning a sidewalk on any given street, (ii) the importance of continuing to engage with the Province on improvements to the Highway 91A interchange and Howes Street, including bus infrastructure, and (iii) how pedestrian infrastructure, namely sidewalks, in Queensborough compare to that of the remainder of the city.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council endorse the Queensborough Transportation Plan.
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to undertake and report back on a procurement process for the next five-year operating period for the Q to Q Ferry to enable Council to make an informed decision on future operating funding for the service.

3. **THAT** Council direct staff to bring back a range of options for Council's consideration to accelerate sidewalk installations in residential areas of Queensborough that are currently underserved and impacted by open ditches.

**CARRIED**

**Opposed by Councillors Fontaine and Minhas**

### **3.5 Report Back on Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program**

Discussion took place and Council inquired about the changes in legislation and in particular how these new provisions would be enforced.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to begin preparations for the City to join the Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program.
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to amend the Street and Traffic Bylaw (Bylaw No. 7664, 2015) to address the operation of electric kick scooters in the City.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding the potential to refer the matter to a subsequent meeting in order for Council to obtain additional information regarding the pilot program as it relates to the enforcement of their use in the city. As a result of the discussion, the following referral motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the staff report titled "Report Back on Provincial Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Program" be referred to the June 3, 2024 Regular Council meeting for Workshop scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting recessed at 6:59 p.m.

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The meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m. with all members of Council present, except Councillor McEvoy and the order of the agenda was varied to consider Item 4 next.

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

Anne Ladouceur and Bill Harper, representing Century House Association, spoke to BC Seniors' Week and highlighted the longstanding partnership between the City and the Association, and spoke to the various services and programs the Association offers.

Christopher Bell spoke to Transit Oriented Development regulations as it relates to the allowable densities and heights in the various tiers, and inquired how applications within these areas would be processed.

Corey Ranger, joined the meeting by Zoom videoconference, representing the Harm Reduction Nurses Association, commented on the dangers of criminalization of drug use. C. Ranger then read a letter from a fellow Association member Michelle Danda.

Brian Cruickshank commented on construction activities at or near Royal Columbia Hospital and cited concern regarding the anticipated removal of mature trees to accommodate various pedestrian and cycling improvements.

The order of the agenda resumed.

**3.6 Response to Council Motion: Ensuring that ground level retail spaces in new developments prioritize community-supporting businesses and organizations**

Discussion ensued on ground level retail space units and in particular the potential for the City's consultant to examine policies related to their size, stratification, and types of ownership in an effort to activate at-grade commercial space. There was agreement to include the aforementioned policy work as part of the consultant's scope of work.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council receive this report and confirm that the April 8, 2024 motion is being addressed to its satisfaction.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.7 Response to Council Motion Regarding “Supporting Child Care Development Across the City”**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to explore opportunities to amend the City’s single detached residential zones to increase the permitted number of child care spaces as part of the implementation of the Province’s housing legislation.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.8 Rezoning: 88 Tenth Street (Columbia Square) – Introductory Report**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to work with the applicant to create an appropriate Zoning Amendment Bylaw for Council’s consideration within 2024, as outlined in this report.

**CARRIED**

**Opposed by Councillors Henderson and Nakagawa**

**3.9 Train Whistle Cessation Resolution at the Furness Street Rail Crossing**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council, in accordance with section 3 of the *Railway Safety Adopted Provisions Regulation* B.C. Reg 210/2004 and section 23.1 of the *Railway Safety Act* (Canada), pass the following resolution:

**THAT** New Westminster City Council directs that train whistles not occur in the area of the Furness Street at-grade crossing near Duncan Street at SRY Queensborough Spur Mile 0.80 in New Westminster.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3.10 Zoning Amendment Bylaw for 310 Blackley Street: Bylaw for First, Second, and Third Readings**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council consider Zoning Amendment Bylaw (310 Blackley Street) No. 8450, 2024 for First, Second, and Third Readings.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**3.11 Zoning Amendment Bylaw for 1005 Ewen Avenue: Bylaw for First, Second and Third Readings**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council abandon Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8103, 2019.
2. **THAT** Council consider Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024 for First, Second, and Third Readings.

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**3.12 Proclamation for BC Seniors' Week, June 2–8, 2024**

**3.13 Minutes for Adoption**

- a. **May 6, 2024 City Council Meeting (1:00 p.m.)**
- b. **May 6, 2024 Council Workshop**
- c. **May 6, 2024 City Council Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

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

Please see Page 5 for this matter.

**5. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY**

**5.1 Break (15 minutes)**

**6. BYLAWS**

**6.1 Public Hearing Prohibited**

- a. **Zoning Amendment Bylaw (310 Blackley Street) No. 8450, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (310 Blackley Street) No. 8450, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (310 Blackley Street) No. 8450, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (310 Blackley Street) No. 8450, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**b. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.2 Bylaws for Readings**

**a. Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8456, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8456, 2024 First reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8456, 2024 Second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council give Development Cost Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 8456, 2024 Third reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3 Bylaws for Adoption**

- a. **Zoning Amendment Bylaw (114-118 Spruce Street) No. 8387, 2023**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (114-118 Spruce Street) No. 8387, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**7.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision**

- 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;

MOVED and SECONDED

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.

**DEFEATED**

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

## **7.2 Notices of Motion**

### **a. Tenant Protection**

Submitted by Councillor Campbell and Councillor Nakagawa

Whereas new provincial legislation is creating a path for increased development density around transit areas which will impact many more affordable New Westminster neighbourhoods due to our abundant transit services; and

Whereas Bill 16 (*Housing Statutes Amendment Act*) allows municipalities to enact tenant protection bylaws related to redevelopment, including within transit-oriented areas; and

Whereas tenants—especially those in older and more affordable rental housing—may be disproportionately impacted due to this new development; and

Whereas New Westminster has previously shown leadership in protecting vulnerable renters with strong actions to curtail demoviction and renoviction; and

Whereas the regional housing market is reaching new levels of crisis, increasing the risk that existing tenants will lose access to adequate housing through displacement related to redevelopment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster update our tenant protection and relocation policies, using Burnaby's as a model to provide support for tenants who may be displaced from their homes, including by redevelopment.

**b. Making the Annual State of the City Address More Inclusive to Our Youth**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas a recent series of State of the City addresses by the current and past Mayor have taken place at a private venue that restricts entry only to those 19 years and older; and

Whereas the most recent State of the City address held on May 7th, 2024 was a ticketed event which also required people show government issued identification to enter the premises; and

Whereas the City of New Westminster is committed to supporting our youth and embracing inclusivity; and

Whereas other Mayors within our region ensure their State of the City address is held in an open, no-cost, low-barrier venue such as at City Hall;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council prohibit the Mayor from hosting future State of the City events that are not fully accessible to all members of the public free of charge.

**c. Undertaking a Review of the City's Outdoor Events Policies, Procedures and Permit Fees**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

Whereas the process, procedures and policies linked to the establishment of outdoor events in New Westminster has been described as complex, costly and a challenge to overcome; and

Whereas there is a desire on the part of the City to encourage more outdoor events on a regular basis throughout the year; and

Whereas it is good practice to regularly seek feedback from the community regarding whether there are opportunities to streamline our processes in order to reduce red tape;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council establish a citizen-based taskforce to review our policies, procedures and permit fees regarding how they may be impeding the development of new and/or putting into jeopardy existing outdoor events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the taskforce make recommendations to Council regarding how we can streamline our processes and reduce red tape to help facilitate more outdoor events on a regular basis.

**d. Requesting that Metro Vancouver Conduct an Independent Review of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Cost Overruns**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

Whereas Metro Vancouver's North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant project is now estimated to cost nearly \$4 billion dollars, a massive cost overrun compared to the original \$500 million dollar budget; and

Whereas the specific circumstances that led to one of the largest cost overruns of any public infrastructure project (on a percentage basis) are still mainly unknown; and

Whereby given Metro Vancouver is about to undertake several other mega projects that will cost Metro Vancouver taxpayers billions of dollars;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Patrick Johnstone, as our representative on Metro Vancouver, be asked to submit a motion to that governing body calling for a full, independent public inquiry into the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant cost overruns.

**e. Supporting Families, People with Mobility Challenges and/or a Disability to Access New Westminster's Waterfront**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

Whereas access to our City's waterfront should be something accessible to all residents, regardless if they have mobility challenges or not; and

Whereas there are several City owned-operated elevators that connect our downtown to the waterfront which have been out of service for periods of several months at a time; and

Whereas a lack of elevator access can prove challenging for people with mobility difficulties to access our waterfront;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding the status of our City owned-operated elevators (connecting our downtown to the waterfront) over the past year including how many days they have been out of service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back with an action plan to ensure that at least one City owned elevator always remains operable to ensure a minimum level of access to our waterfront.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 ON TABLE Funding Agreement Authorization for Active Communities Grant (BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society)**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Parks and Recreation be authorized to enter into the funding agreement with BC Alliance for Healthy Living Society as per Attachment 1 to support staff training and the City's purchase of privacy screening for the creation new safe and inclusive swimming opportunities at the təməsewtx<sup>w</sup> Aquatic and Community Centre.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councillor Nakagawa spoke to the upcoming end of Asian Heritage Month.

Councillor Campbell highlighted the təməsewtx<sup>w</sup> Aquatic and Community Centre's Grand Opening, noting it will take place on June 1, 2024 between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Minhas congratulated the New Westminster Hyack Festival Association and May Day Community Association on the success of their annual events.

Councillor Fontaine spoke of the 2024 Heritage Homes Tour and congratulated the New Westminster Hyack Festival Association and May Day Community Association on the success of their annual events.

Mayor Johnstone commented on the arrival of the Community Elements Chest by canoe at Sapperton Landing Park on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**10. END OF THE MEETING**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adjourn the May 27, 2024, Regular Council meeting (8:22 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 27, 2024.

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Patrick Johnstone  
MAYOR

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Hanieh Berg  
CORPORATE OFFICER