



Corporation of the City of  
**NEW WESTMINSTER**

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

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, June 17, 2024, 1:00 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 1:25 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 adopt the June 17, 2024, Council Workshop agenda; and
2. **THAT** Council receive Attachment 1 to the staff report titled "Permanent Free-Standing Toilet (PFT)" (Item 3.1) on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3. **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **3.1 Permanent Free-Standing Toilet**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Tobi May, Senior Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, Karen Campbell, Project Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties provided background information and noted the following information:

- key objectives of the project include that (i) the provision of toilets is a basic human right, (ii) the proposed permanent free-standing toilet (PFT) is to serve the whole community, and (iii) the proposed PFT is to provide service that is clean, maintained, and available;
- Hyack Square was initially identified as a preferred location to install a PFT, however civil engineering studies determined the site to be not technically feasible;
- the PFT is now proposed to be installed on Begbie Street, on the sidewalk on the west side of the street, between Columbia Street and Front Street; this site is recommended as it is technically feasible, has good visibility from Columbia Street, is in proximity to Hyack Square, and has minimal impact on street activation to existing windows;
- the total project budget of \$650,000 was approved by Council and is a 'Class D' estimate; as the project advances, a 'Class B' estimate will provide more certainty with regard to actual costs; and
- should the project be approved by Council, the project is estimated to be completed within 12 months.

Discussion ensued and Council cited concern with the proposed operating hours, noting that the PFT was envisioned to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff advised that a 24/7 model was determined not to be feasible as it would require an attendant; as such, the operating hours are proposed to align with those of park washrooms, generally sunrise to sunset.

Discussion further took place and Council queried the location and number of public washrooms available after sunset and the target audience for the proposed PFT. It was also noted that additional way-finding signage is needed to guide people to public washrooms throughout the city.

Staff advised that the proposed PFT is to serve the whole community and the cost to staff the PFT is estimated to be approximately \$35,000 a month.

In response to queries from Council, staff advised that:

- following extensive research, a self-cleaning free-standing toilet model is not recommended due to their reliability, availability of parts, and automated features that would be challenging for some users;
- success metrics for the PFT can include its rate of use, vandalism, and maintenance in addition to other data like the primary hours it is utilized;

- consultation in the immediate neighbourhood can take place should the proposed location be approved;
- some users may not feel comfortable entering the Anvil Centre for use of its public washrooms;
- public washrooms are considered public infrastructure and therefore, senior levels of government do not contribute to such costs;
- the referral stemmed from the lack of accessible public washrooms during the pandemic when public buildings were closed and its intent was to add infrastructure in the downtown area; and
- in the event of an emergency, staff have extensive experience with protocols on drug use.

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council direct staff to proceed with the installation of a Permanent Free-Standing Toilet (PFT) as outlined in this report.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Councillor Minhas declared to be in a conflict of interest as he owns a business that has a patio and left the meeting and did not return (2:41 p.m.).

### **3.2 Extending Patio Hours**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Carolyn Armanini, Acting Manager, Economic Development, spoke to a proposed pilot program to extend patio hours to 11:00 p.m. for both food primary and liquor primary establishments.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to implement a temporary policy that permits liquor licence patios to operate until 11:00 pm, unless a later time has been previously indicated on their liquor licence, until November 1, 2024; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to endorse the applications of establishments applying to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch for increased hours, in alignment with the temporary policy.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **END OF THE MEETING**

MOVED and SECONDED

**THAT** Council adjourn the June 17, 2024 Council Workshop (2:56 p.m.).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Closed Council Workshop of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on June 17, 2024.

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER