



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, September 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

**Queensborough Community Centre – Multipurpose Room 1
920 Ewen Avenue**

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

1. **CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION & 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 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. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the September 9, 2024 Regular Council agenda as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council remove Items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.5 from the consent agenda; and
2. **THAT** Council adopt the recommendations for Items 3.4 and 3.6 to 3.8 by general consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.1 2025 Permissive Property Tax: Exempt Properties - Review of Application Result

In response to queries from Council, Gary So, Senior Manager, Financial Services, advised that two applications were received for exemptions in accordance with provisions of the *Community Charter* for buildings for public worship; four applications were received from not-for-profit organizations and in keeping with the City's practice, staff do not recommend a permissive tax exemption as other avenues are available for these groups to seek financial support including through the City's Community Grant Program.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council give 2025 Permissive Property Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8474, 2024 (Attachment A) first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.2 Budget 2025: Fees and Rates Review

In response to queries from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Director, Engineering, advised that staff will provide Council a memorandum that details parking rates throughout the city including information on the application currently utilized for payment.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council approve in principle the proposed changes in fees and rates; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to prepare and report back with the necessary amendment bylaws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Councillor Minhas declared a potential conflict of interest as his business holds a Liquor Primary Licence and left the meeting (6:21 p.m.).

3.3 Business Licence Bylaw Modernization Update

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council endorse the next steps as outlined in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Minhas returned to the meeting (6:25 p.m.).

3.4 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's contractor AquaCoustic Remote Technologies Inc. for two weeknights between Tuesday, September 24, 2024 and Thursday, October 24, 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

3.5 Response to Council Motion Regarding “Tenant Protections”

In reply to a query from Council regarding the proposed update to the Tenant Relocation Policy taking priority over the Homeless Needs Assessment, John Stark, Manager, Community Planning, advised that staff continually liaise with faith-based and non-for-profit organizations on potential grant opportunities, as their success in obtaining grant funding supports the City's goals.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to update the City's Tenant Relocation Policy using Burnaby's Tenant Assistance Policy as a model to provide greater support for tenants who may be displaced from their homes, including through redevelopment; and
2. **THAT** Council direct staff to pause work related to the Homelessness Needs Assessment in order to prioritize work on updating the City's Tenant Relocation Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.6 Proclamation: United Way BC Day, September 12, 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.7 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **August 26, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.8 2024-2034 UBCM Canada Community Works Fund Agreement

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the 2024-2034 Community Works Fund Agreement included as Attachment 1.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

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

See Page 5 for action on this matter.

5. BYLAWS

5.1 Bylaw for Readings

- a. **2025 Permissive Property Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8474, 2024**

THAT Council give 2025 Permissive Property Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 8474, 2024 first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There was agreement to vary the order of the agenda to consider Item 6.1 c. prior to Item 4.

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

- c. **Selecting an Inclusive and Accessible Site for the 2025 Canada Day Celebration and Festivities**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff seek feedback from the public through our Be Heard system regarding their preference for the 2025 Canada Day festivities and celebrations; and
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** several locations across the City be offered to the public as a potential site for the 2025 Canada Day festivities including at least one site in Queensborough.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the City's current activities for Canada Day, including partnerships with community partners, the potential for a fireworks display, and avenues for public engagement. As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Part 1 of the main motion be amended to read "BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the resources required for a fulsome public

engagement process for the 2025 Canada Day festivities and celebrations.”

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

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** the amendment to Part 1 of the main motion be amended to read “BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff seek feedback from the public through our Be Heard system regarding their preference for the 2025 Canada Day festivities and celebrations.”
2. **THAT** the following be added as Part 3 to the main motion: “BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the resources required for a fulsome public engagement process for the 2025 Canada Day festivities and celebrations.”

DEFEATED ON A TIED VOTE

Opposed: Cllrs. Campbell
Henderson
Nakagawa

The question on the amendment to the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

There was agreement to consider the main motion, as amended, separately.

The question on Part 1 of the main motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllr. Nakagawa opposed.

The question on Part 2 of the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m. with all members of Council present, except Cllr. McEvoy.

The regular order of the agenda resumed.

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

Christi Arellano spoke in favour of the proposed motion to regulate the unsolicited distribution of graphic images depicting a fetus. C. Arellano urged Council to vote in favour of the proposed motion and introduce a bylaw that would regulate the distribution of such images as the images are harmful, unwanted and unnecessary exposure to graphic images.

Christopher Bell inquired about reGENERATE – a vision for the 22nd Street Neighbourhood as it relates to the legislative process for anticipated land use changes. C. Bell cited concern with the loss of green space and wildlife habitat

once the transformation is underway as well as support for existing residents.

Aggie Black, joined the meeting by electronic means, and spoke in favour of the proposed motion to request that the Lower Mainland Local Government Association begin tracking and reporting how attendees vote on motions and resolutions. A. Black remarked that a voting record would improve transparency by allowing constituents to be informed on how elected officials represent their interests and in particular how each attendee votes on the Union of BC Municipalities' resolution: NR97 – Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM.

Maureen Curran echoed A. Black's comments regarding a voting record for resolutions at annual local government conferences and the urged the City to further lead moves against climate change and pollution.

Bereket Kebede spoke to the Queensborough Transportation Plan and required improvements to the Highway 91A / Howes Street Interchange as it relates to pedestrian safety to access public transit.

Kal Bains expressed concern on information exchanged related to a property in the City.

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Regulate the Unsolicited Distribution of Graphic Images Depicting a Fetus

Submitted by Councillor Campbell and Councillor Henderson

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that staff provide Council with proposed bylaw amendments to require all print collateral delivered to any premises or distributed to the public that shows, or appear to show, a graphic image of a fetus be delivered in a sealed opaque envelope with a graphic content warning, identify the name and address of the sender, and include measures to ensure individuals are not inadvertently exposed to graphic content on a leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, postcard, or any other printed collateral.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as subsequent parts to the main motion:

1. **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff report back to Council regarding the success rate from other Canadian cities who have imposed a similar bylaw; and
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff report back on the fines and other enforcement measures imposed by other Canadian jurisdictions;

and

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the anticipated enforcement resources required by city staff to effectively implement and enforce this by-law; and
4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff provide a legal opinion to Council regarding the constitutionality of this proposed bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the main motion, as amended, to read:

1. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that staff provide council with proposed bylaw amendments to require all print collateral delivered to any premises or distributed to the public that shows, or appear to show, a graphic image of a fetus be delivered in a sealed opaque envelope with a graphic content warning, identify the name and address of the sender, and include measures to ensure individuals are not inadvertently exposed to graphic content on a leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, postcard, or any other printed collateral.*
2. *AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding the success rate from other Canadian cities who have imposed a similar bylaw; and*
3. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the fines and other enforcement measures imposed by other Canadian jurisdictions; and*
4. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the anticipated enforcement resources required city staff to effectively implement and enforce this by-law; and*
5. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff provide a legal opinion to Council regarding the constitutionality of this proposed bylaw.*

was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b. Lower Mainland Local Government Association Tracking and Reporting of Votes on Motions and Resolutions

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster submit the following resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association: "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lower Mainland Local Government Association begins tracking and reporting how attendees vote on motions and resolutions and that they submit a motion to UBCM and FCM advocating for those organizations to do the same."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Selecting an Inclusive and Accessible Site for the 2025 Canada Day Celebration and Festivities

See Page 4 for action on this matter.

d. Increasing Openness and Transparency at City Hall by Registering Lobbyist Activities

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City request the Province immediately take one of the following two actions:

- a. The Province amend the *Lobbyist Registration Act* to cover the City of New Westminster and other similar mid-to-large-sized cities and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; OR,
- b. The Province amend the *Community Charter* to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both orders of government.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Therefore Be It Resolved clause be revised to read "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff prepare a resolution for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association requesting one of the following two actions:"

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

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** the Therefore Be It Resolved clause be revised to read "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City request the Province immediately take one of the following two actions."
2. **THAT** the following be added to the main motion as Part C:
 - "c. THAT staff prepare a resolution for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association requesting that the Province:
 - i. amend the *Lobbyist Registration Act* to cover the City of New Westminster and other similar mid-to-large-sized cities and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; or

- ii. amend the *Community Charter* to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both orders of government."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

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

- d. THAT ALSO BE IT RESOLVED the City's Ethics Commissioner report back on potential proactive disclosure procedures on lobbying for members of City Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the main motion, as amended to read,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City request the Province immediately take one of the following two actions:

- a. *The Province amend the Lobbyist Registration Act to cover the City of New Westminster and other similar mid-to-large-sized cities and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; OR,*
- b. *The Province amend the Community Charter to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both orders of government.*

- c. *THAT staff prepare a resolution for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association requesting that the Province:*
- i. *amend the Lobbyist Registration Act to cover the City of New Westminster and other similar mid-to-large-sized cities and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; or*
 - ii. *amend the Community Charter to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both orders of government.*
- d. *THAT ALSO BE IT RESOLVED the City's Ethics Commissioner report back on potential proactive disclosure procedures on lobbying for members of City Council.*

was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Campbell announced the 2025 Grant Application Period will begin on October 1, 2024 and encouraged community partners to apply for funding.

Councillor Fontaine wished School Trustee Kathleen Carlsen a full and speedy recovery .

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adjourn the September 9, 2024 Regular Council meeting (8:40 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
September 9, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER