



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

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

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL FOR WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

**Monday, October 28, 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 Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminister 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 October 28, 2024 Council Workshop agenda as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed at 1:21 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:31 p.m., with all members of Council present.

3. PRESENTATION

3.1 2025 Budget Public Survey Responses

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Catherine Knaus, Director, Ipsos, presented on the 2025 Budget Public Survey, which sought feedback and input from residents and business owners/operators to better understand financial priorities, challenges, and preferences.

C. Knaus advised the 2025 Budget Survey was divided into three primary areas: (1) Random Resident Survey, (2) Open Invitation Resident Survey, and (3) Business Survey.

The Random Resident Survey captured the following:

- 88% of residents rate their quality of life as good or very good;
- 40% of residents indicated quality of life has worsened due to social crises including homelessness and crime;
- social and transportation issues are at the forefront of community concerns;
- 77% of respondents indicated they were satisfied with the provision of City services versus 20% not satisfied; and
- generally, residents prefer a tax increase as opposed to a reduction in the City's services.

The Business Survey captured the following:

- key survey measures (quality of life, services and value for money) are positive;
- quality of life for businesses has worsened over the past three years;
- the perception of the City's delivery of strategic priorities are mixed;
- rankings for road maintenance, active transportation, traffic management and calming efforts as well as support for vulnerable residents were not favourable for the City; and
- generally, residents prefer a tax increase as oppose to a reduction in the City's services.

In response to queries from Council, staff provided the following information:

- engagement with the business community may be increased by conducting follow up activities as well as increasing the time for completion of the survey;
- Council may receive direct feedback from the community by way written submissions by email or in hardcopy;

- the survey sample is not as large as desired and does not distinguish results between property owners and renter; and
- there is a 3.6% margin of error based on the sample size of 721 in the Random Resident Survey.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the 2025 Budget Survey responses from Residents and Businesses, as presented in Appendix A and B to the staff report titled “2025 Budget Public Survey Responses” dated October 28, 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer, be received for information.

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CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. END OF THE MEETING

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Special Council meeting be adjourned (2:01 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting for Workshop of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on October 28, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER