



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, November 4, 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 Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

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

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Veterans Recognition be added to the Agenda under “New Business.”

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the urgency of the proposed matter; it was noted that any recognition efforts, including paintings of crosswalks, would not be able to be completed prior to Remembrance Day on November 11, 2024.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **DEFEATED** with Mayor Johnstone and Cllrs. Campbell, Henderson, McEvoy and Nakagawa opposed.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the November 4, 2024 Regular Council agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllr. Fontaine

3. OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD

3.1 Inter-Municipal Business Licence Agreement Bylaw No. 8487, 2024 and Inter-Municipal Business Licence Scheme Bylaw No. 8475, 2024

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor for a second time. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor for a third time. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone reviewed manners in which speakers may delegate virtually regarding Item 3.1.

The meeting recessed at 6:12 p.m. to provide an opportunity for virtual speakers to join the meeting by electronic means.

The meeting reconvened at 6:15 p.m., with all members of Council present.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers a final time. No speakers came forward.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Inter-Municipal Business Licence Agreement Bylaw No. 8487, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Inter-Municipal Business Licence Scheme Bylaw No. 8475, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Councillor Minhas declared a potential conflict of interest for Item 3.2 as he owns a business and Item 4.1 as he resides in proximity to the subject site and left the meeting (6:18 p.m.).

3.2 Business Licence Bylaw No. 8473, 2024

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor for a second time. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers from the floor for a third time. No speakers came forward.

Mayor Johnstone reviewed manners in which speakers may delegate virtually regarding Item 3.2.

The meeting recessed at 6:18 p.m. to provide an opportunity for virtual speakers to join the meeting by electronic means.

The meeting reconvened at 6:21 p.m., with all members of Council present except Cllr. Minhas.

Mayor Johnstone called for speakers a final time. No speakers came forward.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Business Licence Bylaw No. 8473, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ISSUANCE OF PERMIT

4.1 Temporary Use Permit No. TUP00033 for 28, 32, 34 Sixth Street and 606 Clarkson Street (the Cliff Block Residence)

The Corporate Officer advised that a total 41 pieces of correspondence had been received, 31 provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve issuance of TUP00033 for a period of one year from the date of issuance.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the merits of the proposed application and the following was noted:

- the proposed shelter will enable the unhoused to seek refuge during the day;
- a change to the duration of the proposed temporary use permit may affect the applicant's grant funding opportunities; and
- the proposed shelter is in proximity to another shelter that is anticipated to be brought forward for Council-consideration by way of temporary use permit.

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

Councillor Minhas returned to the meeting (6:38 p.m.).

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.1 Appointment of Municipal Director to Metro Vancouver

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Councillor Nadine Nakagawa be appointed as Director to Metro Vancouver; and
2. **THAT** Councillor Jaimie McEvoy be appointed as alternate director to Metro Vancouver.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

6. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Item 6.2 be removed from the consent agenda; and
2. **THAT** the recommendations for Items 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 be adopted by general consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.1 Amendments – Massey Theatre Working Group Terms of Reference

THAT the Massey Theatre Working Group Terms of Reference be amended as detailed in Attachment 1 of the staff report titled “Amendments – Massey Theatre Working Group Terms of Reference” from the Acting Director, Community Services, dated November 4, 2024.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6.2 Crises Response Team Pilot Project: Grant Funding Application under the new Emergency Treatment Fund

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Council authorize the submission of a funding application under Health Canada’s Emergency Treatment Fund 2024 for the Crises Response Pilot Project. The funding submission is for \$885,000 per year for two years.
2. **THAT** Council endorse the advocacy plan for immediate implementation.
3. **THAT** Council approve the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance/CFA to enter into an agreement with the Government of Canada should the application be successful.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 New Provincial Housing Legislation: Official Community Plan Amendments – 2025 Work Plan

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to proceed with the work plan outlined in this report in order to update the Official Community Plan to comply with the new Provincial housing legislation and related regulations.
 - a. Give consideration to the requirements of Section 475 and 476 as well as other relevant sections of the Local Government Act; and as such,
 - b. Direct staff to advise and consult with the following:
 - a. the Board of Education of New Westminister Schools;
 - b. the Board of the regional district in which the area covered by the plan is located (Metro Vancouver);
 - c. the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board;
 - d. the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;
 - e. the following First Nations:
 - i. Cowichan Tribes;
 - ii. Halalt First Nation;

- iii. Katzie First Nation;
- iv. Kwantlen First Nation;
- v. Kwikwetlem First Nation;
- vi. Lyackson First Nation;
- vii. Lake Cowichan First Nation (Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation);
- viii. Musqueam Nation;
- ix. Penelakut Tribe;
- x. Qayqayt First Nation;
- xi. Seabird Island Band;
- xii. Semiahmoo First Nation;
- xiii. Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation;
- xiv. Skawahlook First Nation;
- xv. Soowahlie First Nation;
- xvi. Squamish Nation;
- xvii. Sto:lo Nation;
- xviii. Sto:lo Tribal Council;
- xix. Stz'uminus First Nation;
- xx. Tsawwassen First Nation; and
- xxi. Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6.4 Temporary Use Permit: 502 Columbia Street (Former Army and Navy Department Store) – For Emergency Shelter Use

One piece of correspondence was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 2).

1. **THAT** Council provide notice that it will consider the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP00032) for an emergency shelter use at 502 Columbia Street as outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** Council waive the application fee for the Temporary Use Permit in the amount of \$1,120.30 which would be reflected in a comparable decrease in projected 2024 planning permit revenues.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6.5 Uptown Business Association and Downtown New Westminster BIA – 2025 Business Promotion Scheme Budget Approvals

1. **THAT** Council approve the Uptown Business Association’s 2025 Business Promotion Scheme Budget; and
2. **THAT** Council approve the Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association’s 2025 Business Promotion Scheme Budgets for the Primary Area and Secondary Area.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6.6 Zoning Amendment Bylaw: Electric Vehicle Ready Requirements for New, Non-Residential Buildings – Bylaw for First, Second, and Third Readings

One piece of correspondence was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 3).

THAT Council consider Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Electric Vehicle Ready Requirements for New, Non-Residential Buildings) No. 8494, 2024 for First, Second and Third Readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

6.7 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **October 7, 2024 Council Workshop**
- b. **October 7, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

The order of the agenda was varied to consider Item 8 prior to *Opportunity for the Public to Speak to Council*, scheduled for 7 p.m.

8. BYLAWS

8.1 Public Hearing Not Held

- a. **Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Family Friendly Housing Policy) No. 8486, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Family Friendly Housing Policy) No. 8486, 2024 be given first, second and third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. **Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Electric Vehicle Ready Requirements for New, Non-Residential Buildings) No. 8494, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Electric Vehicle Ready Requirements for New, Non-Residential Buildings) No. 8494, 2024 be given first, second and third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed at 6:59 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m., with all members of Council present.

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

Patrick Parkes spoke to various concerns throughout the city, including traffic, social behaviour, pedestrian safety, dangerous driving, and the overall erosion of community connectedness. P. Parkes expressed that an increase in police presence is needed and commented on several areas that are in need of repair and/or traffic calming measures.

Jack York, New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society, highlighted the success of the Homelessness Action Week that took place October 12 to 18, 2024. He spoke to severe weather conditions, noting that the unhoused face the elements, often with no place to seek refuge.

9. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Guide Dog Access Awareness

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The City of New Westminster place Guide Dog Welcome decals the entrance of all any municipal buildings to raise awareness that guide dogs are legally allowed anywhere the public has access and provide City Staff with Guide Dog Etiquette information from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City promote placement of Guide Dog Welcome decals at the entrance to New Westminster businesses/organizations and, in the promotion, provide information from Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) on where to obtain decals.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Providing Equity in the Delivery of Energy Saving Programs for New West Electrical Customers

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to report back as to how the City could systematically provide better alignment regarding program offerings between BC Hydro and New Westminster Electrical Utility; and
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to report back on the cost and feasibility of establishing our own hydro solar panel and battery storage program and/or partner with BC Hydro to offer their program to New Westminster Electrical Utility customers.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and it was noted that there is no alignment between the City's electric utility programs and those of BC Hydro; moreover, BC Hydro has its own energy savings programs and also facilitates programs on behalf of the Province.

Discussion further ensued and it was noted that the City's Utility Commission has instructed staff to examine ways to clarify and distinguish the energy savings programs offered by electric utility providers like the City and those offered by the Province. As a result of the discussion, the following referral motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion titled "Providing Equity in the Delivery of Energy Saving Programs for New West Electrical Customers" be referred to the New Westminster Utility Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Johnstone announced the following appointments:

- Darius Maze to the Library Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026;
- Diana Whellams to the Library Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026;
- Mark Ritchie to the Library Board for a two-year term ending December 31, 2026;
- Stephanie Lau to the Library Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2025; and
- Councillor Nadine Nakagawa to the Library Board for a one-year term ending December 31, 2025.

Councillor Campbell announced that Indigenous Veterans Day is on November 8, 2024 and honours Indigenous people serving in Canada's military.

Councillor Henderson highlighted the success of the trick-or-treating event at Quayside boardwalk and congratulated recipients of the New Westminster Police Department's long service awards.

Councillor Fontaine announced an upcoming Councillor Café event hosted at Century House and encouraged Council to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at City Hall on November 11, 2024.

Councillor McEvoy highlighted the success of the Pumpkin Drop fundraiser hosted by New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the November 4, 2024, Regular Council meeting be adjourned (7:45 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 November 4, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER