



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

**Meeting held in Council Chamber and electronically
City Hall**

PRESENT: Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

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 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

THAT the Council adopt the December 16, 2024 Regular Council Agenda as circulated, with the order of the agenda being varied to consider the items on the Consent Agenda first.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Items 4.3, 4.4, and 4.6 be removed from the consent agenda; and

2. **THAT** the recommendations for Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, and 4.8 be adopted by general consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

3.1 Recommendations on Cultural Observances from the Community Advisory Assembly

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1), Ella Durning, Maria Nguyen and Juno Avila-Clark, members of the Community Advisory Assembly, presented on the Assembly's findings and recommendations for the City's approach of cultural observances and the following information was noted:

- cultural observances are practices or events based on the traditions, beliefs, and customs of a particular community; they can mark significant religious dates or celebrations, historical events, days of remembrance, seasonal changes and so forth;
- the City does not have an official list of holidays and observances that it recognizes and there are no official policies in place to guide decision-making around which observances to mark and at what level;
- the Assembly's input lead to the development of a potential model of three categories for levels of recognition: (i) Category A: City-led events that strengthen a collective identity, (ii) Category B: Community-led observances supported by the City, and (iii) Category C: Awareness raising activities;
- the Assembly then determined how resources should be allocated between the three categories;
- the majority of resources allocated toward cultural observances should be put toward observances that promote a shared community identity and bring people together across differences; and
- it is recommended that approved resources be allocated equally between Categories A and B only.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed categories and staff were requested to share the Assembly's report with the Arts, Culture and Economic Advisory Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** the recommendations on cultural observances from the Community Advisory Assembly, as included in Attachment 1, be received for information.

2. **THAT** staff respond to the Community Advisory Assembly's recommendations on cultural observances, included as Attachment 1 and identify resources required to further develop the Assembly's framework as outlined in the recommendations, and report back to the Assembly and Council in the first half of 2025.
3. **THAT** staff prioritize making progress on the Assembly's recommendations in their 2025 work plans.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 2024 Capital and Operating Quarterly Performance Report

THAT the \$0.5M 2024 quarterly capital budget adjustments and \$200.3M Proposed Revised Multi-Year Capital budget be approved.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.2 Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw and Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw Amendments (Business Licence) for First, Second and Third Readings

1. **THAT** Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8489, 2024 be considered for first, second and third readings; and
2. **THAT** Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8490, 2024 be considered for first, second and third readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.3 Cannabis Store Relocation Requests: North Root Cannabis Ltd. And the Queensborough Cannabis Company

The Chair referenced a letter provided on table from North Root Cannabis Ltd dated December 16, 2024 (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 2).

Discussion ensued and the following Council comments were noted:

- the applicants were both successful in the City's past process to rezone limited sites to permit retail cannabis sales;
- the two requests for relocation differ in that one is seeking to relocate to a new area while the other is seeking to relocate within the same area;
- a key consideration in the City's cannabis regulatory framework was to distribute stores across the city, with only one store permitted within each area; and

- in keeping with the spirit of the regulatory framework, it would be prudent to remove the existing permitted use of cannabis retail at the current locations should the proposed relocations proceed.

As a result of the discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** North Root Cannabis Ltd. be advised Council would further consider a rezoning application to relocate their operation to another location along East Columbia Street in the Sapperton Neighbourhood;
2. **THAT** Queensborough Cannabis Co. be advised Council would further consider a rezoning application to relocate their operation to a location within the Downtown area; and
3. **THAT** staff be directed to proceed with the planned review of the Cannabis Regulatory Framework.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the implication of the proposed relocation requests prior to the review of the Cannabis Regulatory Framework, which is proposed to advance in 2025. Discussion further took place on the removal of the permitted use at the current locations should the proposed relocation applications be successful.

As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Part 1 be amended by inserting “and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location” after “Neighbourhood.”

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as Part 2 to the amendment “THAT Part 2 be amended by inserting “and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location” after “Downtown area.”

CARRIED

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone

The question on the amendment, as amended, to read:

- “1. *THAT Part 1 be amended by inserting “and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location” after “Neighbourhood.”*
2. *THAT the following be added as Part 2 to the amendment “THAT Part 2 be amended by inserting “and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location” after “Downtown area.”*

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

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

- “1. *THAT North Root Cannabis Ltd. be advised Council would further consider a rezoning application to relocate their operation to another location along East Columbia Street in the Sapperton Neighbourhood and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location;*
2. *THAT Queensborough Cannabis Co. be advised Council would further consider a rezoning application to relocate their operation to a location within the Downtown area and that, subject to Council approval, the zoning be removed from the existing location;*
3. *THAT staff be directed to proceed with the planned review of the Cannabis Regulatory Framework.”*

was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillor Fontaine opposed.

4.4 Graphic Image Delivery Bylaw No. 8488, 2024 for First, Second and Third Reading

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Graphic Image Delivery Bylaw No. 8488, 2024 be considered for first, second and third readings; and
2. **THAT** the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8499, 2024 and the Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8500, 2024 be considered for first, second, and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.5 Official Community Plan Amendment and Rezoning: 1084 Tanaka Court – Bylaws for First and Second Readings

1. **THAT** Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024 be considered for First Reading.
2. **THAT** Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024 be considered in conjunction with the City’s Capital Expenditure Program as contained in the Five Year Financial Plan and the Region’s Solid Waste Management Plan and Liquid Waste Management Plan, and which is deemed to be consistent with said program and plans in accordance with Section 477(3)(a) of the Local Government Act.
3. **THAT** Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024 be considered for Second Reading, and forwarded to a Public Hearing.

4. **THAT** Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8484, 2024 be considered for First and Second Readings, and forwarded to a Public Hearing.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.6 Response to Council motion re: Selecting An Inclusive and Accessible Site for the 2025 Canada Day Celebration and Festivities

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff be directed to proceed with a fulsome public engagement process on Canada Day events in New Westminster for the planning of events for 2026 and beyond, including engagement on the cultural observances recommendations presented by the Community Advisory Assembly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.7 Update – Temporary Amendment to the Vehicle Procurement Process

THAT a two-year extension of the temporary amendment to the Vehicle Procurement Policy, which was approved by Council on December 11, 2023, to permit direct purchase of vehicles and operating equipment up to a value of \$100,000 until December 31, 2026, be approved.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.8 Minutes for Adoption

- a. **November 18, 2024 Council Workshop**
- b. **November 18, 2024 Regular Council Meeting**

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

The meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m.

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

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

5.1 Massey Theatre’s 75th Anniversary

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Peter Leblanc, Chair, Massey Theatre Society accompanied by Avery Halate, highlighted the achievements of the Massey Theatre over the past 75 years.

A. Halate then recounted her experiences performing at the Theatre and commented on the positive connections she has made as a result of her participation in the arts.

5.2 Open Delegations

Alex Misconsiu spoke on environmental impacts of high-rise developments, noting primary construction materials of such projects such as glass, concrete, and steel, contribute to CO2 emissions. A. Misconsiu remarked that the need for additional housing should be balanced with its environmental impacts.

Elliot Rossiter commented on Bill 16, which enables municipalities to develop tenant protection bylaws, noting that there is no requirement for the bylaws to undergo a financial feasibility analysis unlike inclusionary zoning regulations. E. Rossiter then offered policy considerations that support tenant protections.

Karen Crosby spoke in favour of Item 7.1 b. – School Streets Pilot Program, highlighting the numerous benefits of the program for pedestrian safety, health of children, and the environment.

Arley Drew, joined the meeting by videoconference, and remarked that the installation of new bike lanes in the city have limited impact on the cycling community as they do not connect to the remainder of the cycling network.

6. BYLAWS

6.1 Bylaws for Readings

a. Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1085 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024 be given first and second readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8484, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8484, 2024 be given first and second readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009 Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8489, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009 Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8489, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw 8077, 2019 Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8490, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019 Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8490, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Graphic Image Delivery Bylaw No. 8488, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Graphic Image Delivery Bylaw No. 8488, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8499, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8499, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8500, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8500, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 Bylaws for Adoption

a. Electrical Utility Bylaw No. 6502, 1998, Amendment Bylaw No. 8497, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Electrical Utility Bylaw No. 6502, 1998, Amendment Bylaw No. 8497, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

b. Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 7553, 2013, Amendment Bylaw No. 8496, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 7553, 2013, Amendment Bylaw No. 8496, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

c. Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8489, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8489, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed at 8:17 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m., with all members of Council present.

7. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

7.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Tin Soldier Time Capsule Opening

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back with a plan and budget to host a Tin Soldier Time Capsule Opening on Friday, February 14th (Valentine's Day) that it is open to the public, invites individuals and associations who helped design and construct the Tin Soldier, and works with community partners, including Tourism New Westminster, River Market and the Downtown Business Improvement Association in order to promote the Time Capsule Opening and includes opportunities for local restaurants and services to attract event attendees to their establishments before or after the Time Capsule Opening.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and staff were requested to be mindful when scheduling the time of the event given that it is scheduled on Valentine's Day. Also, discussion took place on the potential to invite former members of Council and other elected officials to be part of the event.

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

b. School Streets Pilot Program

Submitted by Councillor Henderson.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff report back to Council on the opportunity for the City of New Westminster to partner with the Society of Children and Youth BC as one of the communities participating in the National Active School Streets Initiative; and
2. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff work with School District 40 to identify which schools would be appropriate to launch a School Streets Pilot Program that would reflect the principles of the National and/or BC Active School Streets Initiative; and
3. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff report back on the capital and operating costs associated with the implementation of a School Streets Pilot Program.

The question on the motion was not called as it was noted that the deadline to join the National Active School Streets Initiative has passed. As a result, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Part 1 be amended by deleting “as one of the communities participating in the National Active School Streets Initiative” and by adding “to explore implementing a safe street initiative around selected schools” after “Youth BC”; and
2. **THAT** a Part 4 be added, which reads “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to work with SD40 and other partners to update New Westminster’s Active Travel Routes to School maps.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called discussion took place on (i) the Walking School Bus, (ii) impacts on traffic circulation as a result car-free spaces on streets in front of schools, (iii) the potential to include schools situated on arterial roads, and (iv) the analysis of traffic and transportation impacts of the proposed program.

The question on the motion, as amended to read:

- “1. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council on the opportunity for the City of New Westminster to partner with the Society of Children and Youth BC to explore implementing a safe street initiative around selected schools; and*
- 2. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff work with School District 40 to identify which schools would be appropriate to launch a School Streets Pilot Program that would reflect the principles of the National and/or BC Active School Streets Initiative; and*
- 3. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the capital and operating costs associated with the implementation of a School Streets Pilot Program.*
- 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to work with SD40 and other partners to update New Westminster’s Active Travel Routes to School maps.”*

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

7.2 Notices of Motion

a. Strong Cities Network

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa.

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has a focus on Community Belonging and Connecting as a core priority in the current strategic plan, and

WHEREAS division, extremism, and polarization are on the rise both locally and globally,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster join the Strong Cities Network.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Johnstone announced the following appointments to the City's advisory bodies:

- Gary Steeves, Hilary Benoit, Karen Morgan and Leonor Vlug were appointed to the Accessibility Advisory Committee for a two-year term ending January 31, 2027;
- Anna Cuyegkeng, Anne Peterson and Paolo Paragas were appointed to the Advisory Planning Commission for a three-year term to expire on January 31, 2028;
- Laura Grady, Angelene Prakash, Jessica Schneider, Gwendolyn Maddock, Gerardo Amador, Fikayo Ogundare, Amandeep Duhra and Janelle Lim were appointed to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2027;
- Erin Jeffery was appointed to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for a one-year term to expire on January 31, 2026;
- Harkeet Gill, Nicole Maine, Gary Steeves and Jennifer Crews were appointed to the Community Heritage Commission for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2027; and

- Nitasha Rajora, Johnnie Kuo, Cheryl Bouwmeester were appointed to the New Westminster Design Panel for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2027.

Mayor Johnstone expressed condolences to the family and friends of Captain David Phillips, New Westminster Fire and Rescue Services, who passed in the line of duty as a result of occupational cancer.

Councillor Campbell thanked Sarah Joyce and Gordon Duggan for their years of service at the New Media Art Gallery.

Councillor Fontaine wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the December 16, 2024 Regular Council meeting adjourn (8:50 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular (Closed) Council meeting of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on December 16, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER