



Regular Council

**Monday, January 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Second Floor
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue**

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

Corporate Officer – Hanieh Berg

1. CALL TO ORDER & 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. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the January 13, 2025 Regular Council meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

Adrian Fehr spoke regarding the increased number of electric mobility devices on streets and their effects on traffic flow. A. Fehr remarked that bike lanes are seldom utilized between the months of November and April and therefore suggested that these lanes be repurposed during those months for parking.

Minutes – Regular Council – January 13, 2025

Eric Rosand, representing the Strong Cities Network, joined the meeting by videoconference and spoke in favour of the City of New Westminster joining the Strong Cities Network. He advised that the Network is an independent, apolitical network of cities across the world dedicated to addressing all forms and manifestations of hate, extremism, misinformation and polarization.

Tariq Tyab, representing Foundation for a Path Forward, joined the meeting by videoconference and spoke in favour of the City of New Westminster joining the Strong Cities Network. T. Tyab spoke to past events aimed at improving relations amongst various groups and noted that the Strong Cities Network can support community social cohesion.

Shaugn Schwartz advised that January 27, 2025 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and recounted his family's experience with the Holocaust. S. Schwartz requested that International Holocaust Remembrance Day be proclaimed in perpetuity in New Westminster and that City Hall be lit in yellow in recognition of the solemn day.

Mayor Johnstone then proclaimed January 27, 2025 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Items No. 4.1 to 4.6 be adopted by general consent, with the removal of Items No. 4.3, 4.5 and 4.6.

CARRIED

4.1 Minutes - December 2, 2024

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 2, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.2 Minutes - December 16, 2024

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 16, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.3 Budget 2025: Proposed Consolidated 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Financial Plan

Please see Page 3 for action on this matter.

4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 1031 Quebec Street, New Westminster – Metro Vancouver Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing (the “Project”)

THAT an exemption be granted to Metro Vancouver contractor Traylor Aecon General Partnership (TAGP) from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992, from Friday January 31, 2025 to Saturday May 10, 2025 on week days from 8:00 PM to 3:00 AM and Saturdays from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM, excluding Sundays and Statutory Holidays, to construct the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel, Fraser River Crossing (the “Project”).

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.5 Follow-up Report on Council Motion: Strategy and Resources to Require Cooling in Existing Rental Buildings

Please see Page 4 for action on this matter.

4.6 Response to Council Motion: “Cycling Sundays on Front Street” 2025 Pilot

Please see Page 4 for action on this matter.

4.7 Proclamation: International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, 2025

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.3 Budget 2025: Proposed Consolidated 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Financial Plan

In response to questions from Council, Shehzad Somji, Director, Finance, advised that additional information on the capital expenses for the electrical distribution system would be provided and noted that the increase may be a result of anticipated new electrical distribution sites. Further, S. Somji remarked that the long term debt can be attributed to an increase in capital projects for the Electrical Utility.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT staff report back with a bylaw reflective of the proposed 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Financial Plan as outlined in Attachment 1 to the staff report titled “Budget 2025: Proposed Consolidated 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Financial Plan.”*
2. *THAT \$243.6M for the 2025 Multi-Year Capital Budget be approved.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding the proposed Five-Year Financial Plan for 2025-2029, and the 2025 property tax rate as it relates to non-discretionary operating increases as well as utility increases.

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

4.5 Follow-up Report on Council Motion: Strategy and Resources to Require Cooling in Existing Rental Buildings

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff proceed with the work to bring forward the necessary bylaws and/or policies to require cooling in existing rental buildings, for consideration by Council by end of May 2025, as outlined in the Next Steps section of the January 13, 2025 report titled “Follow-up Report on Council Motion: Strategy and Resources to Require Cooling in Existing Rental Buildings.”

CARRIED

4.6 Response to Council Motion: “Cycling Sundays on Front Street” 2025 Pilot

Discussion took place on the notion of Cycling Sundays on Front Street and Council remarked that, despite the desire to see this project implemented, it is cost prohibitive.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the “Cycling Sundays on Front Street” 2025 Pilot project not be pursued due to significant unbudgeted costs and impacts on high-priority work plans, as outlined in the report titled “Response to Council Motion: “Cycling Sundays on Front Street” 2025 Pilot” dated January 13, 2025.

CARRIED

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Strong Cities Network

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City of New Westminster join the Strong Cities Network.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place regarding the need for additional information regarding the Strong Cities Network prior to Council’s consideration to join.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the motion be amended to read as follows: “THAT staff report back to Council regarding the financial, operational and other related impacts and opportunities pertaining to the City of New Westminster joining the Strong Cities Network.”

The question on the amendment was not called as discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the Network and resources that would be made available to elected officials if the City joined.

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

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

6.2 Notices of Motion

a. New Westminster Hospice

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is driven by the vision to be a vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive;

WHEREAS the New West Hospice Society is dedicated to building a grassroots hospice initiative from the community level up, based on the Compassionate City model with a major underlying purpose to acknowledge and affirm that dying, death and grief are natural parts of the life-cycle;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster work with the New West Hospice Society and external partners to explore potential locations for Hospice services, and to advocate to the Provincial Government for the supports required to bring adequate and compassionate end-of-life care beds to New Westminster.

b. Re-establishing Vancouver Canucks Outdoor Community Gatherings in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS after over 50 seasons, there remains eternal hope that our cherished Vancouver Canucks will one day bring home the cherished Stanley Cup;

WHEREAS New Westminster Canucks fans would like to have the opportunity to demonstrate their support for the team right at home rather than having to travel to Vancouver;

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has approved funding for the purchase of large outdoor TV screens and is preparing to host public activities in conjunction with the FIFA World Cup in 2026;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to begin preparations to host, in potential partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement Area and the New West Chamber of Commerce, a series of outdoor Canucks viewing events if they make it into the playoffs in 2025; and

1. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council prior to March 31, 2025 with the operational and financial impacts as well as revenue generating opportunities associated with hosting outdoor/indoor Canucks playoff events.*

7. BYLAWS FOR ADOPTION

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following bylaws be adopted:

- 7.1 *Official Community Plan Amendment (102/104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street Bylaw No. 8374, 2023*
- 7.2 *Zoning Amendment Bylaw (102/104 Eighth Avenue and 728 First Street) Bylaw No. 8375, 2023*
- 7.3 *Graphic Image Delivery Bylaw No. 8488, 2024*
- 7.4 *Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8489, 2024*
- 7.5 *Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Business Licence) No. 8490, 2024*
- 7.6 *Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 7318, 2009, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8499, 2024*
- 7.7 *Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 8077, 2019, Amendment Bylaw (Graphic Image Delivery) No. 8500, 2024*

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council congratulated Paul Hyland on his appointment as the new Chief Constable for the New Westminster Police Department.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn (7:35 p.m.).

CARRIED

Minutes – Regular Council – January 13, 2025

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Council of the City of New Westminster held on January 13, 2025.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER