



Regular Council

Monday, January 27, 2025

6:50 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 6:50 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. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the January 27, 2025 Regular Council meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT PUBLIC HEARING

3.1 Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1135 Salter Street) No. 8454, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw (1135 Salter Street) No. 8454, 2024 be given third reading.

CARRIED

3.2 Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (1135 Salter Street) No. 8455, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (1135 Salter Street) No. 8455, 2024 be given third reading.

CARRIED

3.3 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 (1084 Tanaka Court) No. 8483, 2024 be given third reading.

CARRIED

3.4 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 third reading.

CARRIED

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Items No. 4.1 through No. 4.10 be adopted by general consent, with the removal of Items No. 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8.

CARRIED

4.1 Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on January 13, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.2 2024 Seven Bold Steps and Environment Progress Report

Please see Page 4 for action on this matter.

4.3 Budget 2025: 2025 – 2029 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw

Please see Page 4 for action on this matter.

4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 651 Carnarvon Street (Provincial Courthouse) – Signia Construction Ltd.

Please see Page 5 for action on this matter.

4.5 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 2126 Seventh Avenue (22nd Street SkyTrain Station)

THAT an exemption be granted from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 to TransLink from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM six days per week, not including Thursdays and Statutory Holidays from Friday, January 31, 2025 to Wednesday, April 30, 2025 to complete recoat painting and make operational equipment modifications to the 22nd Street SkyTrain Station located at 2126 Seventh Avenue.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.6 Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2024

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

4.7 Revised Council Travel and Expense Policy

Please see Page 7 for action on this matter.

4.8 Rezoning: 88 Tenth Street (Columbia Square) – Affordable Housing Legal Agreement

Please see Page 7 for action on this matter.

4.9 Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Non-Profit Housing Development) No. 8502, 2025

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (Non-Profit Housing Development) No. 8502, 2025 be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.10 Zoning Bylaw Text Amendment: 805 Boyd Street – Bylaw for First, Second, and Third Readings

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw (805 Boyd Street) No. 8411, 2025 be introduced and given first, second, and third readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.2 2024 Seven Bold Steps and Environment Progress Report

Four pieces of correspondence were provided on table (attached to and forming part of the Minutes as Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, and Schedule 4).

In response to queries from Council, Erika Mashig, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation, joined the meeting by Zoom videoconference and spoke of landscaping works at Second Street and Fifth Street boulevards, noting that native plants and pollinator shrubs are being planted as part of the Urban Forest Management Strategy and staff will provide Council with costs of these efforts.

E. Mashig further advised that moving forward, staff will notify residents by way of letter regarding works on boulevards adjacent to their homes.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the 2024 Seven Bold Steps and Environment Progress Report, dated January 27, 2025 from the Chief Administrative Officer be received for information.*
2. *THAT staff continue to advance the Seven Bold Steps and Environment Progress Report project towards delivery of a public facing online dashboard to share progress on the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action.*

CARRIED

4.3 Budget 2025: 2025 – 2029 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw

Staff distributed a memorandum titled “Budget 2025 and Five-Year Financial Plan Public Comments” dated January 27, 2025, from the Director, Finance and correspondence from M. Hall on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 5 and Schedule 6).

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Schedule A of Five-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029) Bylaw No. 8501, 2025 be revised by striking \$44,415,399 listed under “Expenses, General Services, Police Services” and replacing it with \$44,408,399; and*
2. *THAT Five-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029) Bylaw No. 8501, 2025 be introduced and given first, second, and third readings, as revised.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued and it was noted that the proposed new budget allocation for Police Services is approximately \$7,000 lower than what was initially proposed; the proposed reduction in budget corresponds with the amount listed as an honorarium for the Chair of the New Westminster Police Board.

Discussion further took place and it was noted that the City has no oversight with regard to the New Westminster Police Department’s operational budget allocation.

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 Five-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029) Bylaw No. 8501, 2025 be introduced and given first, second, and third readings.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT a Part 2 be added, which reads “THAT staff re-assign an amount of up to \$45,000 to fund the current Walking School Bus routes for the 2025-2026 school year, and work with the Society of Children and Youth BC to add an additional route from Victoria Hill to Qayqayt Elementary School.”

CARRIED

There was agreement to consider Parts 1 and 2 of the main motion, as amended, separately.

The question on Part 1 of the main motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

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

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Councillor Nakagawa declared a potential conflict of interest with respect to Item No. 4.4 as she resides in proximity to the subject property and left the meeting (7:34 p.m.).

4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 651 Carnarvon Street (Provincial Courthouse) – Signia Construction Ltd.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT an exemption be granted to Signia Construction Ltd from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM Monday through Friday and alternate Sundays from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM from Saturday, February 1, 2025 to Saturday, January 31, 2026 at the Provincial Courthouse located at 651 Carnarvon Street for the purposes of re-roofing, adding insulation and cladding, upgrading mechanical and electrical systems, glazing, and landscaping.

The question on the motion was not called as staff was requested to examine updated signage regarding the construction activities, as well as the potential to have such information published on the Province’s courthouse website.

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

Councillor Nakagawa returned to the meeting (7:39 p.m.).

4.6 Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the KPMG, LLP Audit Planning Report, included as Attachment 1 to the report titled “Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2024,” be approved.

CARRIED

4.7 Revised Council Travel and Expense Policy

An updated Council Travel and Expense Policy was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 7).

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the updated Council Travel and Expense Policy, as provided on table, be approved.

CARRIED

4.8 Rezoning: 88 Tenth Street (Columbia Square) – Affordable Housing Legal Agreement

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Section 219 Covenant between the City and Edgar Properties to secure provision of affordable housing through redevelopment of the site at 88 Tenth St (Columbia Square) on behalf of the City.

In response to queries from Council, Demian Rueter, Acting Deputy Director, Planning and Development, reviewed the project’s density bonus provisions.

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

The meeting recessed at 7:53 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m. with all members of Council present.

6. MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6.1 New Westminster Hospice

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

A piece of correspondence was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 8).

MOVED and SECONDED

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.

The question on the motion was not called as in response to a query from Council, Lisa Leblanc, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, advised that, in keeping with the City's practice on resolutions that arise from Notices of Motion, staff will report back on the matter, including information on how the work would integrate with existing advocacy efforts.

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

6.2 Re-establishing Vancouver Canucks Outdoor Community Gatherings in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *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*
2. *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.*

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

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT "begin preparations to host, in potential partnership with the" be deleted, and replaced with "consult with the;"*
2. *THAT "Area" be replaced with "Association;" and*
3. *THAT "Tourism New Westminster, and the New Westminster Police Department before considering hosting" be added after "New West Chamber of Commerce."*

CARRIED

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as discussion further took place on the merits of large viewing gatherings for residents and businesses.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as Part 3 to the main motion: "THAT the Notice of Motion, as revised, be referred to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for its consideration and report back to Council."

Discussion took place on the need to refer to the matter to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee and it was noted that the motion captures many of the Committee's organizational membership.

As a result, the following amendment to the amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT "Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee," be added after "consult with the" in Part 1 of the main motion, as amended.

CARRIED

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

- "1. THAT staff be directed to consult with the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee, Downtown Business Improvement Association, the New West Chamber of Commerce, Tourism New Westminster, and the New Westminster Police Department before considering hosting a series of outdoor Canucks viewing events if they make it into the playoffs in 2025.*
- 2. 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."*

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

7. NOTICE OF MOTION

7.1 Installation of Two Remembrance Day Themed Pedestrian Crosswalks in 2025

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

WHEREAS it is important for the City of New Westminster to recognize and celebrate the contributions our heroes in the military who fought to protect our freedoms.

WHEREAS other cities have chosen to reflect their appreciation of our veterans by designating select 'remembrance themed' pedestrian crosswalks.

WHEREAS New Westminster has several pedestrian crosswalks that have links directly to our veterans and the Canadian military.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to provide Council with a budget, potential sources of funding and operating impacts pertaining to the installation of two 'Remembrance Day' themed crosswalks with the goal of having them installed in time for the November 11, 2025 Remembrance Day commemoration ceremonies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the two Remembrance Day themed crosswalk locations be chosen in consultation with the local Legion and representatives from the Canadian Military.

7.2 Commemorating Royal Canadian Legion 100 Year Anniversary in 2026

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

WHEREAS the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League (later renamed to Royal Canadian Legion) was incorporated in 1926 and originally formed after the first World War to address challenges Canadian veterans faced such as unemployment, inadequate pensions, and limited support for physical and mental health issues.

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion #2, established in 1926, is one of the oldest branches and today members continue to advocate for veterans' rights and contribute to broader community initiatives including, scholarships, youth programs, food insecurity programs and seniors care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff liaise with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #2 to explore and recommend meaningful opportunities to commemorate the centennial milestone in 2026 to honour the Legion's tradition of helping veterans, supporting seniors, empowering youth and contributing to the broader community.

7.3 Conducting Market Value Assessment of New West Electrical Utility Assets

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has not recently conducted an independent assessment related to the market value of the New Westminster Electrical Utility (NWEU).

WHEREAS City taxpayers and ratepayers will be required to undertake significant capital expenses and debt over the next 5 years and beyond to upgrade and maintain the equipment operated by the New Westminster Electrical Utility.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request the New West Electrical Utility conduct an independent assessment of its current market value prior to January 2026 and the results be shared with Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the New West Electrical Utility Commission be requested to concurrently seek public feedback regarding potential alternate governance and operating models that can provide better value for ratepayers.

8. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnstone congratulated Janet Kvammen as the City's newly appointed Poet Laureate for a three-year term ending December 31, 2027.

Mayor Johnstone announced that at the January 13, 2025 Regular (Closed) Council meeting, Council resolved to publicly release the Ethics Commissioner's Summary Report dated December 2024, attached to and forming part of the Minutes as Schedule 9.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the meeting adjourn (8:37 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Council of the City of New Westminster held on January 27, 2025.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER

Legislative Services

Subject: FW: Message to Mayor and Council

From: Agnes Black **S22(1)**
Sent: January 25, 2025 7:34 AM
To: External-Legislative Services <CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Message to Mayor and Council

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor Johnstone and members of Council,

I'm writing you regarding the upcoming presentation of progress towards the Seven Bold Steps and Environment Key Performance Indicators, which I understand will be discussed at the Jan 27 City Council meeting. I applaud the progress made so far and urge you to continue to work towards a public-facing online dashboard to share progress on the Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action. We need look no further than the fires raging in Los Angeles to see how urgent climate action is, and the costs of inaction.

In the Business section of the *Globe and Mail* this week, author John Rapley notes that we cannot ignore the economic costs of climate change, and that failure to take courageous action to address climate change will have severe economic impacts: "...the risks and effects of climate change are expected to rise sharply. It's now clear that the planet is warming faster than anticipated. And with that, we can expect the incidence and ferocity of climate events, and their attendant costs, to keep rising with equal speed. Over time, climate change will thus erode growth until, ultimately, it could potentially stop it altogether."

Thanks for your leadership on this issue.

Best regards,

Aggie

Agnes Black, RN MPH

Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing, UBC
Research Associate, Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes
BC Representative, Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

Legislative Services

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] 7 Bold Steps Update, January 27 2025 Council Meeting

From: Hugh Brown S22(1)

Sent: January 26, 2025 9:23 PM

To: External-Legislative Services <CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] 7 Bold Steps Update, January 27 2025 Council Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Mayor and Council:

My name is Hugh Brown. I'm a software developer and a father of two, and have lived in New Westminster since 2006. I'm extremely concerned about climate change, and what my city is doing to address it.

I've read the 2024 Progress Report on the 7 Bold Steps on climate change that the city is taken. I'm glad to see the action that has been taken, and I urge to you to adopt the recommendations in this report. In particular, I am very much in favour of the digital public dashboard that is proposed, and would like to see support from this from city council.

I am also concerned to see what appears to be a rise in CO2-equivalent emissions from buildings and homes over the baseline; if I'm reading this correctly, this would be a disheartening trend. I urge you to address this, since these are our largest source of carbon emissions.

Thank you for the work you are doing to address climate change.

Sincerely,

Hugh Brown
S22(1) 18 Jack Mahony Place
New Westminster, BC
V3L 5V8

--

Hugh Brown

S22(1)

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Support for 7 Bold Steps & Climate Action Progress Reporting

From: Kristen Andrews **S22(1)**
Sent: January 27, 2025 10:10 AM
To: Mayor and Councillors <mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for 7 Bold Steps & Climate Action Progress Reporting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor and Council Members,

I was delighted to see the progress reports on the Seven Bold Steps and Environment Key Performance Indicators attached to today's council agenda and I strongly support ongoing reporting for the public.

In October I had asked climate team staff if such reporting existed and was informed that it was in progress. I made my own chart by gleaning information from recent City annual reports but it was very much lacking in detail and insufficient to really know where progress has or hasn't been made.

As a member of the New Westminster Climate Action Hub and a facilitator teaching climate solutions with RegenerateBC, it's important for me and other New Westminster citizens to be able to know about the progress our city is making on climate action. It helps us know how to support and champion the City's efforts and to identify gaps where community advocacy can help make progress together.

Transparent reporting to the public on climate action progress helps the community to understand the issues and see how to take action themselves. Providing information can reduce climate anxiety and it demonstrates commitment from our local government on this most important issue of our time.

Please do continue to work towards a public facing dashboard or other method of regular and detailed reporting on climate action steps and progress in New Westminster.

With appreciation,
Kristen Andrews

Legislative Services

From: Legislative Services
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Time sensitive: to Mayor and Council re 7 bold steps update reports at today's city council meeting

From: Karen Crosby **S22(1)**
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 1:39 PM
To: External-Legislative Services <CorporateOfficer@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Time sensitive: to Mayor and Council re 7 bold steps update reports at today's city council meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Johnstone and city councillors:

Thank you all for asking for a progress report on the implementation of our city's 7 bold steps on climate action. I continue to look to you all for leadership on reducing and removing greenhouse gas emissions in our city.

I was heartened to read about the progress you have made on bold step 2: Car Light Community. "Between 2011 and 2017 sustainable trips increased from 27.9% to 35.5%" and I am hoping this trend will continue due in large part to implementation of your 5-year active transportation plan. I know when I teach at the high school, I see upwards of 50-60 bikes and micromobility devices parked in the bike cages whereas I saw nearly none as little as 5 years ago. Thank you for continuing with this work, especially in the face of criticisms I have read in the local newspaper and the many other forms of push back you receive.

Here's one aspect of the report that I found puzzling regarding Bold Step 3: Carbon Free Homes and Buildings. My interpretation of the data is that emissions from buildings in our city remain pretty much "status quo" [(Buildings and Homes Carbon Emissions per Capita⁶, 7 tCO₂e/person/year² 1.8 (2016) 1.79 (2023)]. The report calls this a "decrease", but is it a significant enough decrease to be pointed out? On page 6 of the KPI report, this is the quote, "Building carbon emissions per capita are reducing, demonstrating that energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction practices, and the transition to cleaner energy sources are having a positive impact." I think this is overstated given that the reduction is only 0.01 tCO₂/person.

Reducing emissions from buildings is an area that I urge you to do more on climate policy and programs. While I agree that "Policy efforts, such as the implementation of upper tiers of the Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes will show their impact in the data over time", these policy efforts only pertain to new construction. As you know, the bulk of our city's building stock already exists and transitioning these existing buildings to non-emitting fuel sources (usually electricity) is critical to reducing our city's emissions. Last time I checked, our buildings account for over 40% of our city's emissions. I urge you to consider programs like PACE (property assessed clean energy loans) as a possible way to incentivize homeowners (including landlords of multi-residential buildings) to "get off the gas" and fully electrify their buildings. Due to the alarming rate that our world is overheating, with last year being the hottest on record, is it wise to wait until our provincial government makes it mandatory for 100% adoption of electric fuel appliances (usually heat pumps) when a building's gas heating breaks down? I believe our children cannot afford for us to wait if they want a positive future.

Once again, thank you for making these reports available to the public. As a member of the New Westminster Climate Action Hub and a facilitator for RegenerateBC, please know that I am constantly helping our residents understand the benefits of our city's climate policies and programs and, of course, encouraging them to ask you all to do more, more quickly.

Sincerely,

Karen Crosby
New Westminster resident and voter

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council Date: January 27, 2025

From: Shehzad Somji File:
CFO/Director of Finance

Subject: Budget 2025 and Five-Year Financial Plan Public Comments

PURPOSE

To provide Council the public comments received on the 2025 – 2029 Five-Year Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Draft 2025 – 2029 Five Year Financial Plan was presented to Council at the January 13, 2025 Council meeting with a recommendation to instruct staff to convert the five-year financial plan in a Bylaw and bring forward for three readings and adoption. Prior to presenting the Bylaw for three readings, the five-year financial plan is made available for the community to provide comment. The comment period was open from January 14 – 27, 2025 on the City's Budget 2025 webpage.

DISCUSSION

The City received 3 submission of comments/questions from 2 community members, which are included below along with staff responses.

Attachment 1: PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM Jan 14 – 27, 2025

1. Received from Leslie Campbell via email on Sunday, January 19, 2025

I understand you are planning to pass on to tax payers significant increases to taxes and utilities - far beyond inflation.

However you've interpreted community feedback, know that no one supports ongoing increases at this level.

You need to tighten the belt, removing entire projects from the list to keep taxes and utilities flat. See email below.

If you don't, your ultimate feedback will come when you lose your positions in the next election.

Sunday, November 24, 2024

I understand that increased rates for 2025 water, garbage and sewer are being discussed. You'll no doubt be having talks about 2025 taxes soon, also.

As a homeowner in New West, I expect you to keep both taxes and water, garbage and sewer rates flat for homeowners in 2025. Rates have gone up every year, beyond inflation. This year, no homeowner should be charged more than the 2024 rates.

How?

1. Set priorities such that items lower on the list get axed when more important items go over budget. Sewers are more important than bike routes.

2. Trim the operating budget. I spent 25 years in a Crown Corp. There's money that can be cut.

3. Stop large capital projects. The new community center is built. The Anvil Center before that. Stop.

4. Focus on maintenance and keeping taxes flat.

I won't vote for a mayor or council who keep spending money like it grows on the trees in Queens Park. Most of my neighbours feel the same.

Leslie
1113 5th Ave

Staff Response

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your email. Your correspondence will be forwarded to the Mayor and each Councillor. In addition, it will be shared with the Finance Department.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact New Westminster City Council.

2. Received from Michael Hall via email on Friday, January 24, 2025

Hello,



NEW WESTMINSTER

I would like to provide very targeted comments on the 2025 budget.

I think the city should dedicate a lot more of its budget to the Bus Speed and Reliability program. Currently it is quite low (\$250k or \$300k/yr) in my opinion given the use that buses play in transportation within the city and the immense bus delay seen in certain places. I fully understand the dynamic between city and TransLink and the BSR cost share program that New Westminster and every other city take advantage of when implementing bus priority improvement projects. This is a great program by TransLink – it benefits them (buses run more efficiently) and every user on those buses. But I think it is very flawed how most cities contribute little or no money to the issue from their own budgets. They're entirely dependent on this funding from TransLink. I think cities should commit some of their own money to the issue. This would increase the amount of work done, and it also helps address the issue of how slow the BSR cost share program intake and application is, and the fact that it only happens once per year leading to potentially unnecessarily long waits for money.

I would like the city Engineering Department and Transportation teams request more budget for bus speed and reliability works in 2025 and future years. I believe this is well supported by policy made at the council level given their endorsement of the Bus Speed & Reliability Plan. I do not want to see the budget for the active transportation network cut, but it hurts me to see its quite large budget (\$5M/yr??) when the bus reliability budget is 20x smaller than that, yet buses currently face immense delay around the city. I think the large budget for the Active Transportation plan implementation is precedent for more bus reliability budget.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for all the work you do.

Michael Hall
615 Belmont St
New Westminster, BC

Staff Response

The City of New Westminster is still at an early stage in our BSR “journey,” and we are comfortable with the 2025 funding level (noting it is about 5x what it used to be) as we complete additional preparatory work for implementation. We don’t think we could implement it any faster without additional staff resources. Although TransLink cost-sharing can be used for capacity building, we need another year to further study and design some of the key BSR measures. This includes working with MoTT on work around the Queensborough Bridge, which will take more study than we might otherwise do. We will need time to bring MoTT along because it is their infrastructure and will ultimately need to be endorsed and probably delivered by them. If we determine through our work this year that we could accomplish more with more funding, we will know better for the 2026 and 2027 capital budget processes and plan accordingly.



NEW WESTMINSTER

It may also be reasonable to note that the local consulting industry we rely on seems to be reaching a limit in capacity for work, which also affects our ability to deliver many projects.

Legislative Services

From: Legislative Services
Subject: FW: 2025 budget input

From: Michael Hall **S22(1)**
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 12:43 PM
To: External-NWFinance <nwfinance@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2025 budget input

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Hello,

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I think the city should dedicate a lot more of its budget to the Bus Speed and Reliability program. Currently it is quite low (\$250k or \$300k/yr) in my opinion given the use that buses play in transportation within the city and the immense bus delay seen in certain places. I fully understand the dynamic between city and TransLink and the BSR cost share program that New Westminster and every other city take advantage of when implementing bus priority improvement projects. This is a great program by TransLink – it benefits them (buses run more efficiently) and every user on those buses. But I think it is very flawed how most cities contribute little or no money to the issue from their own budgets. They're entirely dependent on this funding from TransLink. I think cities should commit some of their own money to the issue. This would increase the amount of work done, and it also helps address the issue of how slow the BSR cost share program intake and application is, and the fact that it only happens once per year leading to potentially unnecessarily long waits for money.

I would like the city Engineering Department and Transportation teams request more budget for bus speed and reliability works in 2025 and future years. I believe this is well supported by policy made at the council level given their endorsement of the Bus Speed & Reliability Plan. I do not want to see the budget for the active transportation network cut, but it hurts me to see its quite large budget (\$5M/yr??) when the bus reliability budget is 20x smaller than that, yet buses currently face immense delay around the city. I think the large budget for the Active Transportation plan implementation is precedent for more bus reliability budget.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for all the work you do.

Michael Hall
615 Belmont St
New Westminster, BC



POLICY

Policy Title:	COUNCIL TRAVEL AND EXPENSE POLICY
Issue Date:	2007 September (Finance)
Revised Date:	2011 January (Human Resources) 2016 February 2025
Prepared by:	Office of the Chief Administrative Officer and Human Resources
Document #:	1559845

1. Purpose

The Council Travel and Expense Policy provides for payment of expenditures made or expenses incurred by a City of New Westminster Council member when the Council member is representing the City, attending Educational Opportunities or engaging in City business, subject to the availability of approved budgets.

2. Scope

Council expenses include all costs incurred by Council members representing the City, engaging in City business and attending Educational Opportunities. Council members should seek guidance on deductibility of these costs from their personal tax advisors. Council members are to confirm budget availability with the Finance Department prior to booking the travel and associated expenditures.

3. Definitions

- Conference is defined as a periodic general meeting or equivalent event of an association or similar group where the primary purpose is for the conduct of the business of the association in combination with the general presentation and discussion of issues of common interest to the participants.
- Training is defined as a seminar, course, workshop or similar event for a duration of more than two days. The sole purpose of the event relates to the dissemination of new information, new techniques, and new methods of operation or other educational purposes.

- Educational Opportunities are defined as educational courses, workshops, seminars, training programs and exercises; conferences, conventions and community events.
- City business is defined as corporate governance, along with negotiations, committee work and business meetings; intergovernmental business, community events, hearings, best practices, research visits, or other such designated functions on behalf of the City.
- Sponsored conference, event or meeting is defined as one for which a Council member is provided with funding or financial support by a particular individual, corporation, society, organization or body and with the exception of attendance at FCM, UBCM and LMLGA, requires Council approval to attend.
- Travel Expenses are defined in section 4.6 a. and the Travel Expenses Report in Schedule A of this Policy.

4. Policy

- 4.1 Travel for City business, conferences and training must adhere to budgets. Conferences and training must be authorized as follows: costs paid by the City or reimbursed to Council members must be accompanied by receipts, travel expense forms or completed registration forms. Council members are to use the approved City Travel Expenses Report setting out all expenses necessarily incurred.
- 4.2 Travel Expenses Report forms and all expenses submitted for payment by Council members must be submitted to the Finance Department within 10 business days of the last scheduled day of the event they are seeking reimbursement for, for approval.
- 4.3 Mayor and Councillors agree to pay the City for expenses incurred that are either not eligible or beyond the scope of this Policy.
- 4.4 Mayor and Council Annual Budget Allowance:

Mayor and Council annual budget is for City business, Educational Opportunities and attendance at community events for the following:
 - a. travel (outside the Lower Mainland),
 - b. conference and seminar attendance,
 - c. local event attendances, and
 - d. associated expenses.

4.5 If the amount of Travel Expenses for the Mayor and or each Councillor exceeds the Mayor and Council Annual Budget Allowance, the expense is subject to Council approval.

4.6 Eligible Expenses are defined as follows:

a. Travel Expenses

- i. Transportation expenses include economy airfare, mileage outside of the Lower Mainland, taxis, tolls and ferry fares, including reservation fees. For Council members who elect to travel by a form(s) of transportation other than aircraft or automobile to their destination point, the expense reimbursed shall not exceed the cost of travel by air.
- ii. Corporate per diem¹ allowance for meals and incidentals, for events of one day or more.
- iii. Accommodation booked through Legislative Services at a discounted rate provided by the host conference provider or comparable rate including registration and parking.
- iv. Travel Cancellation Insurance.
- v. Travel outside of the Lower Mainland in a personal vehicle: Mileage will be reimbursed at the prescribed mileage rate established and updated from time to time by the Canada Revenue Agency and included in the City's mileage claim form.
- vi. Car Rentals: When travelling by air and a vehicle is required at the destination, the City will pay for the rental of a subcompact vehicle, insurance and gas. Charges incurred on personal credit cards for car rental transactions will be reimbursed upon the submission of original invoices and receipts.

b. Office Supplies and Business Technology

- i. Office supplies for the purposes of conducting City business are supplied to Council members by the City.
- ii. A laptop computer and cellular smart phone are provided to Council members during their term in office.

c. Conferences, Courses, Workshops, Seminars and Community Events

¹ Please refer to Schedule A- Travel Expense Report.

- i) The Mayor and each Councillor may select the conferences and events they wish to attend subject to the provisions of this Policy. The selection of a conference or seminar should be based on its relevance to the role and professional development of the Council member. The Mayor and each Councillor is authorized each calendar year to attend the annual events of the following organizations: the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) annual general meeting.
- ii) There is a limit of one conference outside of British Columbia but within Canada in one calendar year unless approved by Council.
- iii) Any participation by the Mayor and each Councillor at conferences, events and meetings, aside from FCM, UBCM and LMLGA, which requires overnight accommodations outside of the province of BC but otherwise fall within allowable Council expense limits require a written summary to Council by the attendee(s) in an open meeting within three months of the completion of travel which includes: a summary of actual Travel Expenses incurred; and a description of participation, learnings and value from participation at the event.
- iv) International travel by members of Council to attend conferences, events and meetings on behalf of the City are subject to Council-approval and requires a summary of the request in an open Council meeting including: Travel Expenses related to attendance to be paid for by the City, names of the attendee(s) and relevance to Council or Committee roles; and a statement of expected value to be derived from as a result of attending the function by the attendee(s). If two or more members of Council are seeking international travel for the same conference, event, or meeting, the summary of the request may be combined for the purposes of this Policy.
- v) Attendance by members of Council at sponsored conferences, events and meetings, aside from FCM, UBCM and LMLGA, are subject to Council-approval, which includes a summary of the request in an open Council meeting including the name of the sponsor, the value of the travel and other expenses related to attendance to be paid by the sponsor, names and roles of attendee(s) in their official capacity, relevance to Council or Committee roles, and a statement of the expected value of attending the function by the attendee(s) and any Travel Expenses to be paid for by the City
- vi) Invoices and the Travel Expenses Report are required to be submitted to the Finance Department for approval in accordance with Section 4.2 of this

Policy to support the cost for payment by the City or reimbursement to the Council member.

- vii) A member of Council who wishes to be appointed as Directors on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors must request the support of Council annually. When seeking Council's support for appointment to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors, the member of Council must provide an estimated budget amount related to the incremental costs of serving of the Board.

d. City-organized and sponsored events, and City supported community events

These events do not require payment by members of Council. Event costs are paid for by the City:

- i. City-Organized and Sponsored Events:
These are events organized and sponsored by the City of New Westminster, including official banquets, ceremonies and receptions.
- ii. City-Supported Community Events:
Events supported by the City, and in some cases partially sponsored, but organized and sponsored by community or other agencies.
- iii. Complimentary tickets-Council may receive complimentary tickets for some of the events listed above. If so, Council members are not entitled to an additional ticket paid for by the City.

Note: For functions where the City purchases a table, the Mayor, Councillors and staff, where appropriate and determined by the Chief Administrative Officer, will be given first priority. Spouses/partners of members of Council may attend if space permits in-kind.

e. Child Care

If the Mayor or Councillors incurs the expense of child care (actual cost of child-minding expense) to attend an Event or Official Function, the Mayor or Councillors may expense to a maximum of \$40.00/day. Events include the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) and any other local government related convention, conference, course or seminar approved by Council in advance. Official Functions include any function where municipal business is carried

out, or is of a nature where municipal representation is required; and includes representation on an outside Committee, Board or similar entity.

e. Combining Business Travel with Personal Travel

Council members wishing to combine a business trip with personal travel may do so at their own expense. The traveler will be required to pay any additional living and accommodation expenses that are not associated with the business travel. The City's portion of the airfare shall be the lesser of:

- i. The actual combined fare; or
- ii. The cost of a direct, return flight to/from the business destination based on the lowest fare available on the date of booking.

4.6 Ineligible Expenses:

- a. Overnight accommodation costs within the Metro Vancouver, unless the Council member is involved as a key member of an organizing committee,
- b. House-minding, or security costs,
- c. Substitute employee or worker costs,
- d. Lost wages, income or opportunity costs,
- e. Costs reimbursed by another organization or source,
- f. Spousal or partner attendance or travel costs,
- g. City Staff ticket events, and
- h. Travel Souvenirs.

4.7 Settlement of Over Expenditures

Within 30 calendar days of each year end, each member of Council must pay back any monies owing to the City. Failing this, the amount owing will be deducted from the Council member's remuneration. In a general local election year, the money must be repaid before the end of the Council member's term.

5. Reporting

5.1 Expense Report:

Expense report summaries that also include all Eligible Expenses will be provided by the Finance Department to members of Council twice yearly in June and October to ensure that members of Council are aware of their actual expenses in relation to the budget.

The expense report summary will be posted to the City's Open Data Portal.

5.2 Annual Statement of Financial Information

In compliance with the *Community Charter*, the City must prepare a Statement of Financial Information separately listing the following by June 30th of each year:

- a. The total amount of remuneration paid to each member of Council for discharge of the duties of office, including any amount specified as an expense allowance.
- b. The total amount of expense payments made to each member of Council as reimbursement for expenses incurred by the Council member or as an allowance that is not reported.
- c. The total amount of any benefits, including insurance policies and policies for medical or dental services, provided to the Council member or the members' dependents.
- d. When members of Council share expenses between or among attendees, the expense attributable to each Councillor must be reported separately under Provincial legislation. The Travel Expenses Report must itemize shared expenses for each Councillor.
- e. Where more than one individual benefits from an expense covered by this policy, the expense is shared equally by all those who benefit. For example:
 - i. If there is a single registration fee to register three people then each is accountable for 1/3 of the single registration fee.
 - ii. If a free registration is available by registering two people then the registration costs paid for the two will be equally apportioned to the attendees; if three each is accountable for 1/3 of the total registration paid.

6. Public Inspection

The Statement of Financial Information is available for public inspection at City Hall, during regular office hours and on the City's Open Data Portal until June 30th of the following year.

7. Amendment

This policy is subject to a review and full public process when amended.



January 27, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of New West Hospice Society, I am writing in support of Councillor Ruby Campbell's motion 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".

During several Community Conversations with citizens in New Westminster, three goals were identified in terms of end of life care: to reach in and support people at end of life wherever they chose to end their days; to normalize the conversation about death, dying grief and loss; and the highest priority was to establish a Hospice facility in New Westminster.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the city to achieve this most important goal on behalf of the people in New Westminster.

Sincerely,

Wendy Johnson,

Co-President,

New West Hospice Society

SUMMARY REPORT TO
CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER COUNCIL
AND COMPLAINANT

IN THE MATTER OF
AN ETHICS COMMISSIONER INVESTIGATION
UNDER THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER
BYLAW NO. 8408, 2023

Submitted by Jennifer Devins
Ethics Commissioner
City of New Westminster

December 2024

OVERVIEW

1. In August 2024, a member of the public (the “Complainant”) filed a complaint (the “Complaint”) against Mayor Patrick Johnstone and Councillor Nadine Nakagawa (the “Respondents”) under the City of New Westminster’s (the “City”) Bylaw No. 8408, 2023: The Code of Conduct for Council Members (the “Code of Conduct”).
2. The Complaint alleged that at the City Council (“Council”) meeting of June 10, 2024, the Respondents breached section 3 [Foundational Principles], sections 25, 26(a), 27(b), (c) and (d) [Conflict of Interest] of the Code of Conduct and, by inference, sections 100 and 101 of the *Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 26 (the “*Community Charter*”) by participating and voting on a particular council motion.
3. I received written submissions from the Complainant and both Respondents. I have duly considered those submissions and have determined that the Respondents did not breach the Code of Conduct or the *Community Charter*.

FACTS

4. The Complainant alleged that on June 10, 2024, the Respondents improperly participated in a discussion and voted on a motion (the “Motion”) in an open council meeting when in a conflict of interest. The Motion was a request that Metro Vancouver conduct an independent review of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant cost overruns.
5. Mayor Johnstone was appointed by Council to represent the City on the Metro Vancouver Regional District’s (“MVRD”) Board of Directors.
6. Mayor Johnstone was also appointed by the Chair of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District to the Metro Vancouver North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Program Task Force, an MVRD standing committee.
7. Councillor Nakagawa was appointed by Council to serve as the Mayor’s Alternate Director to the Board of the MVRD.
8. Councillor Nakagawa was also appointed by the Chair of the MVRD to the MVRD’s Liquid Waste Committee, an MVRD standing committee.
9. Members of Council are regularly appointed to serve on MVRD boards and committees, and they receive nominal compensation for those appointments.
10. The Complainant alleges that the Respondents’ appointment to MVRD boards and committees places them in a conflict of interest with respect to Council votes concerning the MVRD.
11. The Respondents deny that they were in a conflict of interest.

FINDINGS

12. Section 6 of the Code of Conduct states that the foundational principles in section 3 of the Code of Conduct are to inform the interpretation of the substantive provisions of the Code of Conduct and are not stand-alone bases for complaints.

13. As a result, I dismiss the complaint that the Respondents breached section 3 [Foundational Principles] of the Code of Conduct on the basis of section 49(f), that there are no possible grounds on which to conclude that a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred.
14. With respect to the Complainant's allegation that the Respondents were in a conflict of interest because of their dual role as members of Council and representatives of the MVRD, I also dismiss that complaint.
15. Although the Respondents, as would any members of Council appointed to an MVRD board or committee, had a loyalty to both Council and the MVRD, I find that their pecuniary interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to have influenced them (*Community Charter*, section 104(1)(d)). It is therefore deemed by the legislation not to be a conflict of interest.
16. There is no evidence that either of the Respondents' objectivity or impartiality was compromised. There is no evidence on which to conclude that either the issue of divided loyalties or the amount of compensation the Respondents receive for being on the MVRD board and standing committees could reasonably be regarded as likely to have influenced their decisions to vote against the Motion.
17. In the result, I find no breach of the *Community Charter* prohibitions on conflict of interest and no breach of the Code of Conduct, and the Complaint is dismissed in its entirety.



Jennifer Devins
Ethics Commissioner
City of New Westminster

December 2024