



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, December 2, 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

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

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 unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the December 2, 2024 Regular Council agenda, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Items 3.2 and 3.3 be removed from the consent agenda; and

2. **THAT** the recommendations for Items 3.1, 3.4 and 3.5 be adopted by general consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.1 2025 Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw 8480, 2024

THAT Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8480, 2024 be considered for first, second and third readings.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.2 Age-Friendly Community Strategy Update Work Plan

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the proposed work plan to update the City's Age-Friendly Community Strategy, as outlined in Table 1 of this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.3 Budget 2025: Engineering and Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaws Report

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Engineering User Fees and Rates Bylaw No. 7553, 2013, Amendment Bylaw No. 8496, 2024 be considered for first, second, and third readings; and
2. **THAT** Electrical Utility Bylaw No. 6502, 1998, Amendment Bylaw No. 8497, 2024 be considered for first, second, and third readings.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

3.4 Official Community Plan Amendment, Rezoning, and Development Variance Permit: 1135 Salter Street - Bylaws for First and Second Readings

1. **THAT** Council consider Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 8454, 2024 for First Reading.
2. **THAT** Council consider Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 8454, 2024 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, Liquid Waste Management Plan, and Drinking Water 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** Council consider Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 8454, 2024 for Second Reading, and forward the bylaw to a Public Hearing.
4. **THAT** Council consider Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw No. 8455, 2024 for First and Second Readings, and forward the

bylaw to a Public Hearing.

5. **THAT** Council provide notice that following adoption of Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 7925, 2017, Amendment Bylaw No. 8454, 2024 and Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Amendment Bylaw No. 8455, 2024, it will consider issuance of a Development Variance Permit (DVP00677) to:
 - a. vary the onsite driveway access provisions of the Zoning Bylaw to facilitate tandem parking spaces; and
 - b. vary certain building separation distances and the west side yard setback to accommodate electrical room access stair projections.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.5 Response to Council Motion Re: Improving the Public's Access to Trees During the City's Bi-Annual Tree Sale

1. **THAT** 150 trees continue to be available per bi-annual tree sale to meet the current target of planting 3,300 trees on private lands by 2030; and
2. **THAT** staff continue to monitor and evaluate options to improve the biannual tree sale, which may include incremental increase in the number of trees available per sale utilizing funds from the Climate Action Reserve Fund.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

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

4.1 Open Delegations

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

5. BYLAWS

5.1 Bylaws for Readings

- a. **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 first and second readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. **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 first and second readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. 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 given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

d. 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 given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

e. Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8480, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Amendment Bylaw No. 8480, 2024 be given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 Bylaws for Adoption

a. Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8493, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8493, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Vision Zero

Please see Page 9 for action on this matter.

b. Vape Shops

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

The Chair referenced a letter dated November 27, 2024 from the Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back regarding what options are within Council's jurisdiction to limit the overall number and locations of business licences issued for new vape shops.

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

THAT the following be added as Part 2 to the main motion:

2. THAT the following resolution be submitted to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association:
 - a. WHEREAS Health Canada has stated that they share the concerns of parents, educators, youth and public stakeholders regarding the increase of youth vaping in Canada; and
 - b. WHEREAS The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) oversees provincial liquor and cannabis regulations, including the licensing and monitoring of private cannabis retailers; and
 - c. WHEREAS individual municipalities and regional districts can decide to amend local zoning bylaws to exclude vape shops defined as retail stores used primarily for sale of electronic nicotine or e-cigarettes as permitted uses;
 - d. BE IT RESOLVED that the Province include retail stores used primarily for sale of electronic nicotine or e-cigarettes under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and thereby include restrictions that regulate where and how many of these retail stores are able to receive business licenses in a community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as in reply to a query from Council, the Corporate Officer advised that staff will report back to Council with a final resolution for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association to ensure that resolution criteria are met.

Councillor Fontaine referenced the letter dated November 27, 2024 from the Medical Health Officer, Fraser Health (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1) and read the following into the record:

"I am writing you today to share our Population and Public Health team's enthusiastic support regarding New Westminster's interest in exploring options to limit number and location of vape shops. We share your concern about

vaping impacts on the New Westminster community, particularly youth. According to the 2024 McCreary Adolescent Health Survey, one in five youth in the Fraser North region (New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows, Tri-cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody)) have used vapour products. Of the youth who have tried vaping, over half (54%) had vaped in the last 30 days. Vaping among youth and adolescents carries significant health risks related to the negative impacts on youth brain function and development and pulmonary and cardiovascular disease.”

Discussion further took place and staff was requested to consider policy alignments between vape shops and cannabis and liquor stores.

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

- “1. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back regarding what options are within Council’s jurisdiction to limit the overall number and locations of business licences issued for new vape shops.*
2. *THAT the following resolution be submitted to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association:*
 - a. *WHEREAS Health Canada has stated that they share the concerns of parents, educators, youth and public stakeholders regarding the increase of youth vaping in Canada; and*
 - b. *WHEREAS The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) oversees provincial liquor and cannabis regulations, including the licensing and monitoring of private cannabis retailers; and*
 - c. *WHEREAS individual municipalities and regional districts can decide to amend local zoning bylaws to exclude vape shops defined as retail stores used primarily for sale of electronic nicotine or e-cigarettes as permitted uses;*
 - d. *BE IT RESOLVED that the Province include retail stores used primarily for sale of electronic nicotine or e-cigarettes under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and thereby include restrictions that regulate where and how many of these retail stores are able to receive business licenses in a community.*

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

The meeting recessed at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m., with all members of Council present, except Councillor Nakagawa.

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

4.1 Open Delegations

Michelle Scarr, representing Vision Zero Vancouver, joined the meeting by Zoom videoconference and spoke in favour of Item 6.1 a., noting that Vision Zero is a fundamentally different approach to planning, design, operations and maintenance of roads and neighbourhoods with the goal to eliminate and minimize risks correlated with traffic accidents.

Michael Hall, representing Movement: Metro Vancouver Transit Riders, spoke in favour of Item 6.1 a. and advised that pedestrian safety is critical as most transit riders' journeys begin and end by walking. M. Hall was of the opinion that if other modes of transportation were more enticing than driving, it would facilitate a shift in human behaviour to rely less on vehicles.

Manav Sharma, representing Strong Towns Vancouver, was in favour of Item 6.1 a., and highlighted that the elimination of traffic fatalities is possible as has been achieved by the City of Hoboken, New Jersey.

Laura Kwong, School District 40 Parent's Advisory Council, spoke in favour of the proposed motion for Vision Zero and requested that youth be represented on the proposed task force. L. Kwong then referred to the City's maps that identify the best walking routes to school for each elementary and middle school throughout the city, noting that comprehensive plan would support Council's commitment to building a safe, accessible, and healthy community.

Discussion took place and staff advised that they will advise Council by email regarding the estimated number of vehicles throughout the city and the best walking routes to school maps and when they were last updated.

Adam and Lyndsay Cotterall referenced a video whereby parents, crossing guards and residents shared their experiences and concerns regarding the safety of the intersection at Sixth Avenue and Second Street. L. Cotterall stated that the intersection is the scene of many accidents and people who cross the intersection do not feel safe doing so.

Tony Gilligan echoed the previous speakers' concerns regarding the safety of the intersection at Sixth Avenue and Second Street, noting that there is ample data that substantiates the danger of this intersection. T. Gilligan then requested that the City implement safety measures at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Second Street to ensure the safe movement of pedestrians.

Heidi Hizsa and Andrew Fulton, representing HUB Cycling New West, spoke in favour of Item 6.1 a. and remarked that safety concerns is cited as the primary reason more people do not cycle. H. Hizsa also requested that should a Vision Zero task force be implemented, its membership include representation from the cycling community.

Alexandru Micsoniu spoke to the importance of long-term infrastructure planning in light of the City's growth and was of the opinion that the City's current plans, like its Official Community Plan, are outdated. A. Micsoniu requested that Council prioritize the community's needs for public amenities and infrastructure to ensure the City remains thriving.

Reena Meijer-Drees, representing the Walkers Caucus, spoke in favour of Item 6.1 a. and requested that should a Vision Zero task force be implemented, its membership include representation from the pedestrian and accessibility community.

Larry Church raised concerns regarding the safety of the intersection at Sixth Avenue and Second Street, and in particular regarding the duration of the pedestrian activated signal; L. Church noted that pedestrians are not afforded adequate time to safely cross the road and as a result, pedestrians are often stranded in the middle of the boulevard awaiting the next signal to complete their travel. L. Church then referenced recommendations made by the City's consultant for the Queen's Park Traffic Calming Plan, noting that proposed traffic calming devices and traffic operation changes have not been implemented along Second Street.

The meeting recessed at 8:07 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m., with all members of Council present, except Councillor Nakagawa.

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Vision Zero

Submitted by Mayor Johnstone

MOVED and SECONDED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council strike a Vision Zero Task Force including but not limited to representatives from engineering staff, NWFR, NWPD, ICBC, Fraser Health, TransLink, the Walkers Caucus and the disability community to make recommendations to Council to achieve Vision Zero.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the principles of Vision Zero and the need for representation from School District No. 40, HUB Cycling, youth, and the accessibility community. As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** "School District No. 40, HUB Cycling" be inserted after "TransLink;"
THAT "members of" be inserted after "Walkers Caucus;"
2. **THAT** "accessibility" replace the word "disability;" and

3. **THAT** “and youth” be inserted after “community.”

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the following be added as Part 2 to the main motion:

THAT Councillor Fontaine be appointed as Council liaison to the Vision Zero task force.

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Campbell

McEvoy

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

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as in reply to Council’s comments, staff advised that the development of a Vision Zero Task Force can be brought forward at a future Council Workshop to seek Council’s input on provisions of its terms of reference, including (i) the number of Council liaisons, (ii) the number of representatives from the various identified groups, particularly youth, and (iii) the establishment of what constitutes quorum given the size of its membership.

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

- “1. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council strike a Vision Zero Task Force including but not limited to representatives from engineering staff, NWFR, NWPD, ICBC, Fraser Health, TransLink, School District No. 40, HUB Cycling, the Walkers Caucus, members of the accessibility community, and youth to make recommendations to Council to achieve Vision Zero.*
2. *THAT Councillor Fontaine be appointed as Council liaison to the Vision Zero task force.*”

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

6.2 Notices of Motion

a. Tin Soldier Time Capsule Opening

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

1. **WHEREAS** on November 29, 2000 the Guinness Book of World Records World’s Largest Tin Soldier was placed outside the Royal Westminster Regiment then, on February 14, 2002, was relocated to its present location at the Quay, at which a time a dedication event was held and a time capsule, including items from children in the community, was placed in the Soldier’s heart and intended to be opened on February 14, 2025.

2. **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.

b. School Streets Pilot Program

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

1. WHEREAS one of Council's Strategic Priorities is the Safe Movement of People, outlining a commitment to prioritize the movement of people on foot, cycle, and transit on streets that are safer for all; and
2. WHEREAS Bold Step #2: Car Light Community in the City's 7 Bold Steps for Climate Action plan references school area improvements that support walking, transit, and cycling to school as potential capital projects; and
3. WHEREAS Bold Step #7: Quality People-Centred Public Realm states that a minimum of 10% of today's street space that currently only serve motor vehicles, excluding transit, will be reallocated for sustainable transportation or public gathering by 2030; and
4. WHEREAS the streets around local schools experience marked increases in motor vehicle traffic at drop-off and pick-up times when there is a high concentration of children on and near roadways; and
5. WHEREAS there are both provincial and national initiatives that fund the creation of car-free spaces on streets in front of schools at the start and/or end of the school day;
6. **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
7. **BE IT FURTHER 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
8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff report back on the capital and operating costs associated with the implementation of a School Streets Pilot Program.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Councillor Campbell encouraged the community to attend one of the many activities scheduled for Shine Bright New West.

Councillor Fontaine spoke to the lighting of Fire Hall No. 3 in Queensborough as part of Shine Bright New West and thanked those who contributed at the Herbert Spencer Christmas Craft Fair on November 23, 2024.

Councillor Henderson announced that, along with Councillor Campbell, they will be hosting a holiday pizza party at L'Onore Pizza on December 10, 2024.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the December 2, 2024, Regular Council meeting be adjourned (8:34 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 December 2, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER