



Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

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

REGULAR COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, August 26, 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 Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Hanieh Berg, Corporate Officer

ABSENT: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Tasha Henderson

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 August 26, 2024 Regular Council agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt the recommendations for Items 3.1 to 3.9 by general consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.1 Application for Extension of Liquor Service Hours: #200-55 Eighth Street, Hyack Sushi

1. **WHEREAS** New Westminster City Council consider a staff report regarding an application from Hyack Sushi located at #200-55 Eighth Street to change their food primary licence to allow extended liquor service hours;
2. **WHEREAS** the proposed extended hours are Sunday to Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00AM and Friday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.;
3. **WHEREAS** the establishment has operated at this location since June 2017 and the business has not generated noise complaints and the proposed licence change is not expected to result in noise or negative impacts to the community based on the establishment's compliance history, size, hours of operation and location;
4. **WHEREAS** the location is in the Downtown commercial district of the city;
5. **WHEREAS** the New Westminster Police Department does not oppose the application;
6. **WHEREAS** a sign was placed in front of the business for 25 days, two notices circulated in the City's e-newsletter (Citypage Online), to 1200+ subscribers, and invitations sent to the Downtown Residents' Association and the Downtown Business Improvement Association, providing details regarding the application and inviting the public to submit comments to the City; and
7. **WHEREAS** the City did not receive any correspondence.
8. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** New Westminster City Council recommends the approval of the application by Hyack Sushi located at #200-55 Eighth Street to change their food primary licence to allow extended liquor service hours.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.2 Application for Grant Funding to the 2024 UBCM Asset Management Planning Program

THAT Council approve the submission of a grant application for the '*Implementation and Resource Strategy for further CMMS Integration*' study to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) 2024 Asset Management Planning Program.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.3 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 32 Eighth Street (New Westminster SkyTrain Station) - TransLink

THAT Council grant an exemption from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992* to TransLink for the period of Tuesday, August 27, 2024 to Saturday, November 30, 2024 from 12:00 AM to 7:00 AM, weekdays and including some Sundays and excluding all statutory holidays, to demolish original maintenance walkways, install new maintenance walkways, and make operational equipment modifications to the New Westminster SkyTrain Station located at 32 Eighth Street.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: Metro Vancouver Queensborough Pump Station - 304 Wood Street, New Westminster

THAT Council grant an exemption from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992* to Metro Vancouver between the hours of 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM for any two consecutive nights between Monday September 16, 2024 and Monday October 7, 2024 excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays to permit work related to the maintenance, modification, installation and upgrade of sewer pipes and valve chamber at the Metro Vancouver Queensborough Pump Station.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.5 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 330 East Columbia Street (Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project)

THAT Council grant a noise exemption to EllisDon Design Build and sub-contractor Houle Electric from *Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992* from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM for one night between Wednesday, September 4, 2024 and Tuesday, September 17, 2024 excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays to enable the installation of conduit wires at the Royal Columbian Hospital at 330 East Columbia Street.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.6 Official Community Plan Amendment and Rezoning Application for 1084 Tanaka Court: Preliminary Report

1. **THAT** Council direct staff to review the application as outlined in the "Application Review Process" section of this report;
2. **THAT** Council direct staff give consideration to the requirements of Section 475 and 476 as well as other relevant sections of the *Local Government Act*;

3. **THAT** Council direct staff to advise, consult, and seek input by written comments with:
- a. the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure,
 - b. School District 40, and
 - c. the following First Nations:
 - i. Cowichan Tribes;
 - ii. Halalt First Nation;
 - iii. Katzie First Nation;
 - iv. Kwantlen First Nation;
 - v. Kwikwetlem First Nation;
 - vi. Lyackson First Nation;
 - vii. Lake Cowichan First Nation (Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation);
 - viii. Musqueam Nation;
 - ix. Penelakut Tribe;
 - x. Qayqayt First Nation;
 - xi. Seabird Island Band;
 - xii. Semiahmoo First Nation;
 - xiii. Shxw'ōwhámél First Nation;
 - xiv. Skawahlook First Nation;
 - xv. Soowahlie First Nation;
 - xvi. Squamish Nation;
 - xvii. Sto:lo Nation;
 - xviii. Sto:lo Tribal Council;
 - xix. Stz'uminus First Nation;
 - xx. Tsawwassen First Nation; and
 - xxi. Tsleil-Waututh Nation.
4. **THAT** Council direct staff to advise, consult, and seek input by written comments with:
- a. the Board of the regional district in which the area covered by a plan is located (Metro Vancouver);
 - b. any greater boards or improvement districts;
 - c. the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board; and

- d. the Councils of immediately adjacent municipalities;
as none are considered to be affected by this application.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.7 Provincial Housing Target Order for New Westminster

THAT Council receive this report for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.8 Proclamation: Literacy Month, September 2024

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3.9 Minutes for Adoption

- a. June 17, 2024 Council Workshop
- b. June 24, 2024 City Council meeting
- c. July 8, 2024 Council Workshop
- d. July 8, 2024 Public Hearing
- e. July 8, 2024 City Council meeting
- f. July 15, 2024 Council Workshop

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL

Please see Page 13 for action on this matter.

5. BYLAWS

5.1 Bylaws for Adoption

- a. **Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Council Procedure Bylaw No. 6910, 2004, Amendment Bylaw No. 8467, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. **Heritage Revitalization Agreement (203 Pembina Street) Bylaw No. 8425, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Heritage Revitalization Agreement (203 Pembina Street) Bylaw No. 8425, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Heritage Designation Bylaw (203 Pembina Street) No. 8435, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Parks and Recreation Fees Amendment Bylaw No. 8465, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Parks and Recreation Fees Amendment Bylaw No. 8465, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Riparian Areas Protection Bylaw Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8468, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Riparian Areas Protection Bylaw Miscellaneous Amendment Bylaw No. 8468, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8469, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8469, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8470, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8470, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

h. Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning Amendment Bylaw (1005 Ewen Avenue) No. 8452, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- i. **Zoning amendment Bylaw (1923 and 1927 Marine Way) No. 8466, 2024**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adopt Zoning amendment Bylaw (1923 and 1927 Marine Way) No. 8466, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

6.1 Motions for Discussion and Decision

a. Enhancing Commercial Areas and Corridors in New Westminster

Submitted by Councillor Campbell and Councillor Nakagawa

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **WHEREAS** The City's Retail Strategy identifies current and emerging trends in the retail ecosystem, namely Micro Retailing and Combination Stores, and the Retail Strategy further underscores that both retail concepts have direct positive implications on the evolution of commercial areas and corridors in New Westminster; and
2. **WHEREAS** Micro-Retailing includes multiple vendors 'co-locating' in a shared space, utilizing shared resources or may encompass individual retail units that are much smaller than the average, with the intention to provide entry-level 'gateway' for small businesses to establish a bricks-and mortar location, without the financial requirements and risks typically expected in a standard retail lease; and
3. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of New Westminster identify potential location(s), operating considerations, necessary resources and local partners to activate Combination Stores and Micro-Retailing commercial areas using shipping containers or similar concept to create a retail ecosystem that provides small businesses, artists, artisans, crafters and other vendors with affordable storefront locations and, at the same time, enhances commercial areas and corridors in New Westminster, with a report back to council on implementation feasibility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Determine Fee Structure of New Westminster Business Licences and Park and Recreation Programs Compared to Other Metro Vancouver Cities

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **WHEREAS** it is important for New West families and businesses to be charged fees for licenses, programs and services that are in line with other Metro Vancouver cities; and
2. **WHEREAS** there is no readily available and up-to-date analysis regarding how much our fees compare to other neighbouring municipalities; and
3. **WHEREAS** we strive to make New Westminster as affordable and competitive as possible;
4. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to conduct a review of business license fees to determine how we compare to other Metro Vancouver cities; and
5. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to conduct a review of the charges and fees imposed by the Parks and Recreation Department for similar programs and services that are also delivered in other Metro Vancouver cities. The review should encompass core services such as:
 - a. annual gym pass
 - b. swimming passes
 - c. exercise classes; and
6. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this information be incorporated and provided to the public as part of the 2025/26 budgeting process.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the need to remain competitive with surrounding municipalities and the City's annual practice to view fees and charges.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **DEFEATED** with Mayor Johnstone and Councillors Campbell and Nakagawa opposed.

c. **Provide Long-Term Funding to Support the Walking School Bus Program to Support the City's Stated Goal of Tackling Climate Change**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **WHEREAS** the Walking School Bus program reduces vehicle congestion around schools, greenhouse gas emissions as well as improves air quality in communities; and
2. **WHEREAS** the Walking School Bus program improves a student's physical and mental health; creates an opportunity to make new friends through shared experiences; provides an inherent sense of belonging in being a part of a group; and
3. **WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster has a long-standing commitment to tackle climate change; and
4. **WHEREAS** the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund has approximately \$42 million as of Dec. 31, 2023;
5. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff be directed to work with the New Westminster District Parent Advisory Council to seek out opportunities to expand the Walking School Bus program to other neighbourhoods throughout New Westminster; and
6. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** staff incorporate into the 2025 budget consultation process the opportunity for Council to consider significantly increasing our support of the Walking School Bus program including the possibility of establishing 3-year long-term funding; and
7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** to reduce the impact to residential taxpayers regarding the expansion of this program that the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund be first considered as a primary source of potential funding.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

1. **THAT** Part 5 of the motion be amended by adding:
 - a. **THAT** the word "continue " be inserted after the word "staff" and that the words "be directed" be deleted; and
 - b. **THAT** the following "the Society of Children and Youth of BC, TransLink , and School District No. 40" be inserted before the words "to seek;"
2. **THAT** Part 6 be deleted;

3. **THAT** Part 7 of the motion be amended by:
- a. deleting “be first considered as a primary source of potential funding;”
 - b. inserting the following “decision-making framework be applied, that the Society of Children and Youth of BC be directed towards the City Grant application process, and that potential partnership funds be sought from the School District, TransLink, and/or senior government(s) before the City commit to long-term funding” after the word “Fund.”

There was agreement to consider Parts 1 through 3 of the amendment motion separately.

The question on Part 1 of the amendment motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The question on Part 2 of the amendment motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

The question on Part 3 a. of the amendment motion was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Councillors Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

The question on Part 3 b. of the amendment motion was then called and it was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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

- “1. *WHEREAS the Walking School Bus program reduces vehicle congestion around schools, greenhouse gas emissions as well as improves air quality in communities; and*
2. *WHEREAS the Walking School Bus program improves a student’s physical and mental health; creates an opportunity to make new friends through shared experiences; provides an inherent sense of belonging in being a part of a group; and*
3. *WHEREAS the City of New Westminster has a long-standing commitment to tackle climate change; and*
4. *WHEREAS the City’s Climate Action Reserve Fund has approximately \$42 million as of Dec. 31, 2023;*
5. *BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff continue to work with the New Westminster District Parent Advisory Council, the Society of Children and Youth of BC, TransLink , and School District No. 40 to seek out opportunities to expand the Walking School Bus program to other neighbourhoods throughout New Westminster; and*

6. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT to reduce the impact to residential taxpayers regarding the expansion of this program that the City's Climate Action Reserve Fund decision-making framework be applied, that the Society of Children and Youth of BC be directed towards the City Grant application process, and that potential partnership funds be sought from the School District, TransLink, and/or senior government(s) before the City commit to long-term funding."*

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

6.2 Notices of Motion

a. Regulate the Unsolicited Distribution of Graphic Images Depicting a Fetus

Submitted by Councillor Campbell and Councillor Henderson

1. **WHEREAS** New Westminster residents have expressed concerns that unsolicited flyers showing graphic images of aborted fetuses are being delivered to homes and causing harm; and
2. **WHEREAS** a number of Canadian municipalities in Alberta and Ontario have established bylaws that; and
3. **WHEREAS** in accordance with British Columbia's Community Charter, Section 8 (3) (i) A council may, by bylaw, regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to public health; and
4. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** that staff provide council with proposed bylaw amendments to require all print collateral delivered to any premises or distributed to the public that shows, or appear to show, a graphic image of a fetus be delivered in a sealed opaque envelope with a graphic content warning, identify the name and address of the sender, and include measures to ensure individuals are not inadvertently exposed to graphic content on a leaflet, pamphlet, paper, booklet, postcard, or any other printed collateral.

b. Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Tracking and Reporting of Votes on Motions and Resolutions

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

1. **WHEREAS** Local Government Associations, the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities advocate for issues that impact their member municipalities; and
2. **WHEREAS** municipal Mayors and Councillors are financially supported to attend these conferences in order to advocate on behalf of their local constituents, yet there is no way for constituents to know how their elected representatives vote on motions and resolutions;

3. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of New Westminster submit the following resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association:

***THAT** the Lower Mainland Local Government Association begin tracking and reporting how attendees vote on motions and resolutions and that they submit a motion to the Union of BC Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities advocating for those organizations to do the same.*

c. Selecting an Inclusive and Accessible Site for the 2025 Canada Day Celebration and Festivities

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

1. **WHEREAS** Canada Day offers the City of New Westminster an opportunity to celebrate and bring residents together in celebration and reflection; and
2. **WHEREAS** the Pier Park location for Canada Day festivities currently offers little opportunity for shade on hot days which often occur in early July; and
3. **WHEREAS** Queen's Park has played host to previous Canada Day celebrations and offers more opportunities to keep participants cool on hot summer days
4. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** staff seek feedback from the public through our Be Heard system regarding their preference for the 2025 Canada Day festivities and celebrations; and
5. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** several locations across the City be offered to the public as a potential site for the 2025 Canada Day festivities including at least one site in Queensborough.

d. Increasing Openness and Transparency at City Hall by Registering Lobbyist Activities

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

1. **WHEREAS** lobbyist registries are intended to provide a public record that is accessible to residents of interactions between public servants, elected officials and lobbyists and to allow for rules regarding lobbyists to be enforced;
2. **WHEREAS** British Columbia does not currently allow municipalities to use the provincial lobbyist registry nor does it extend the legal authorities municipalities would need to enforce lobbyist rules with a local registry; and

3. **WHEREAS** it is important for a functional local democracy that any lobbying efforts by entities such as corporations, labour unions, foreign governments or other similar foreign-based organizations be recorded and publicly reported in a timely manner;
4. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City request the Province immediately take one of the following two actions:
 - a. The Province amend the *Lobbyist Registration Act* to cover the City of New Westminster and other similar mid-to-large-sized cities and administer the regulation of lobbying in the city; OR
 - b. The Province amend the *Community Charter* to allow the City to establish a lobbyist registry and give the City the legal authority to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, as well as the power to enforce those rules. In addition, the Province further empower the Provincial Registrar of Lobbyists to work with the City to share information so as to reduce duplication and costs for both orders of government.

The meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m. with all members of Council present, except Cllrs. Henderson and McEvoy.

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK TO COUNCIL

4.1 YMCA BC Presentation on the Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRR), Raegan Stewart, CCRR Program Manager and Tazeen Bharucha, CCRR Program Supervisor

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Raegan Stewart and Tazeen Bharucha presented on the YMCA's Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCRR) in New Westminster and the various services offered to families with children and employees working with children between the ages of 0 to 12.

R. Stewart and T. Bharucha highlighted an upcoming open house scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2024 between 4 and 7 p.m. at 10 – 620 Royal Avenue, whereby childcare providers can network and learn of the services offered.

4.2 Open Delegations

With the aid of a presentation [copy on file, Legislative Services], Lee Haber, representing Mountain Valley Express (MVX), presented on the MVX Nexus – a proposal for regional rail across the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley.

L. Haber referenced an open letter to the Province of BC and TransLink, whereby the MVX is seeking that regional rail be studied and invited the City of New Westminster to sign the letter.

With the aid of artist renderings [copy on file, Legislative Services], Juno Avila-Clark presented on the opportunity to provide beautification on boulevards and small spaces throughout the city. J. Avila-Clark remarked that these spaces are often neglected and the planting of native species among other drought resistant plants would improve the aesthetics and support the City's environmental efforts.

Kevin Lee and Brendan Easton, 258 Nelson Court, cited concern with the lack of bicycle storage and referenced their letter and plans of the development [copy on file, Legislative Services], noting efforts to address this matter with the developer have been unsuccessful.

In reply to queries from Council, Serena Trachta, Acting Director of Planning and Development, advised that the City's requirements are for bicycle parking and not bicycle storage. At the time of inspection, the developer had met the City's requirements.

Kathy Lynn was unable to speak regarding the Parkinson SuperWalk due to technical difficulties.

As such, Mayor Johnstone highlighted that the Parkinson SuperWalk 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2024 at Moody Park from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Nakagawa spoke to the Neighbourhood House at St. Barnabas Church located at 1010 Fifth Avenue, and highlighted that services are being run by community members for community members.

Councillor Fontaine invited residents to the New West Progressives' picnic, scheduled to take place on September 8, 2024 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Queen's Park Picnic Shelter No. 2.

Councillor Campbell highlighted that the City's public engagement for the 2025 Budget is underway and encouraged residents and businesses to participate.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council adjourn the August 26, 2024 Regular Council meeting (8:08 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 August 26, 2024.

Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

Hanieh Berg

CORPORATE OFFICER