



**Regular Council**

**Monday, May 26, 2025  
7:15 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 7:15 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**2. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS**

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the Agenda for the May 26, 2025 Regular Council meeting be approved.*

**CARRIED**

**3. BYLAWS CONSIDERED AT PUBLIC HEARING**

**3.1 Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (318 Sixth Avenue) No. 8509, 2025**

Discussion took place on the merits of the proposed application as it relates to (i) affordable and rental housing, (ii) density, (iii) neighbourhood feedback, including that of the Queen's Park Residents Association, and (iv) alignment with the spirit of the Heritage Conservation Area.

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Heritage Revitalization Agreement Bylaw (318 Sixth Avenue) No. 8509, 2025 be given third reading.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

**3.2 Heritage Designation Bylaw (318 Sixth Avenue) No. 8510, 2025**

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Heritage Designation Bylaw (318 Sixth Avenue) No. 8510, 2025 be given third reading.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Items No. 4.1 through No. 4.9 be adopted by general consent, with the removal of Items No. 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, and 4.8.*

**CARRIED**

**4.1 Minutes – May 5, 2025**

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on May 5, 2025 be adopted as circulated.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**4.2 Minutes – May 12, 2025**

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on May 12, 2025 be adopted as circulated.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**4.3 Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees**

Please see Page 3 for action on this matter.

**4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 330 Columbia Street – Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project**

Please see Page 5 for action on this matter.

**4.5 Response to Council Motion: School Streets Pilot Program**

Please see Page 5 for action on this matter.

**4.6 Response to Council Motion: School Zone Time Limits**

*THAT the school zone enforcement hours for New Westminster schools be aligned with Burnaby's schedule, operating between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM on school days, as outlined in the report titled "Response to Council Motion: School Zone Time Limits" dated May 26, 2025.*

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**4.7 Temporary Use Permit: 40 Begbie Street – Health Contact Centre**

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

**4.8 Proclamation: Menstrual Health Day, May 28, 2025**

Please see Page 8 for action on this matter.

**4.9 Proclamation: Deafblind Awareness Month, June 2025**

**ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.3 Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Council direct staff to establish a distinct heritage events funding category within the Community Grants Program to recognize and support long-standing, culturally significant events—such as the Hyack Festival Parade and May Day celebrations—that have contributed to New Westminster's historical and civic identity for over 50 years;*
2. *THAT this category acknowledge that organizations such as the Hyack Festival Association and May Day organizers have experienced significant funding reductions over the past two decades, and that they should not be assessed solely under general non-profit grant processes, but instead through a framework that reflects their legacy and enduring connection to the community;*
3. *THAT staff report back with proposed criteria and funding mechanisms to support this special category; and*
4. *THAT the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be received for information;*

5. *THAT the City's Grants Policy as specified in Attachment A of the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be approved; and*
6. *THAT the City's three Grant Committees Terms of Reference be updated as specified in Attachments C, D, and E of the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be approved.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the need to formally recognize and support longstanding events unique to the City, such as the Hyack Festival Parade and May Day event, by way of a new category in the City's Community Grants Program. It was noted that such a category would support organizations in continuing to put on events that have become part of the culture of the community.

Also, it was noted that the Community Grants Program has a limited amount of funds and no one organization or event should be identified for grant funding allocation. Also, there were queries regarding whether the proposed motion was seeking to increase the overall amount for the City's annual grants or if the existing budget would be re-distributed amongst the various categories, including the proposed new one.

Discussion further ensued and it was noted that there was a deliberate shift to the current grant funding allocation model, whereby funding allocation is approved by the Grant Committees based on various criteria, to be more equitable.

As a result, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the main motion be deleted.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

The question on the main motion, as amended, was not called as discussion further ensued and staff was directed to email Council with a summary of the annual grant funding amount allocated to the Hyack Festival Parade and May Day event for the past 10 years. Staff was also requested to clarify that staff recommend individuals for appointment by Council to the Grant Advisory Committees.

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

- "1. THAT the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be received for information;*

2. *THAT the City's Grants Policy as specified in Attachment A of the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be approved; and*
3. *THAT the City's three Grant Committees Terms of Reference be updated as specified in Attachments C, D, and E of the report titled "Community Grants Program Update and Updated Terms of Reference for Grants Advisory Committees," dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Community Services be approved."*

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

#### **4.4 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 330 Columbia Street – Royal Columbian Hospital Redevelopment Project**

In reply to queries and concerns from Council, Gordon Fan, Superintendent, EllisDon, joined the meeting by videoconference, and advised that the condition of the building beneath the old cladding is unknown, and as such, there may be a need to address any issues. G. Fan remarked that the exemption would allow the crew to complete tasks over the weekend and support the completion of the project.

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Council grant a noise exemption to EllisDon Design Build from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM on Saturdays starting Saturday June 7, 2025 through to Saturday September 27, 2025 (excluding Saturdays that occur during statutory long weekends) to complete exterior cladding work at Royal Columbian Hospital site at 330 East Columbia Street, New Westminster.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

#### **4.5 Response to Council Motion: School Streets Pilot Program**

Discussion took place and it was noted that since the time of the motion, there have been a number of changes with regard to the School Streets Pilot Program, such as an opportunity for grant funding. As such, it was suggested that the matter be referred back to staff.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the report titled "Response to Council Motion: "School Streets Pilot Program" dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Engineering, be referred back to staff to consider new information.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion ensued regarding the value of receiving a status update on other projects related to pedestrian safety improvements near schools, including information on the Best Walking Routes to School maps as well as information on departmental work plans.

Discussion further took place and it was noted that staff have recommended that the School Streets Pilot Program not be pursued due to its costs and other priority work. As a result, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the motion be amended to read as follows: “THAT the report titled “Response to Council Motion: “School Streets Pilot Program” dated May 26, 2025 from the Director, Engineering, be received for information.”*

**DEFEATED**

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone  
Cllrs. Campbell  
Henderson  
McEvoy  
Nakagawa

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

#### **4.7 Temporary Use Permit: 40 Begbie Street – Health Contact Centre**

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT notice be provided that Council will consider the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP00038) for overdose prevention services at the Health Contact Centre at 40 Begbie Street for a maximum of 18 months, or until an interim mobile overdose prevention service is operational, whichever is less time.*
2. *THAT the application fee be waived for the Temporary Use Permit in the amount of \$1,153.00, which would be reflected in a comparable decrease in projected 2025 planning permit revenues.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place and it was noted that another motion on the matter was intended to be put on the floor. As a result, the motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT notice be provided that Council will consider the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP00038) for overdose prevention services at the Health Contact Centre at 40 Begbie Street for a maximum of 6 months;*
2. *THAT the issuance of the permit be subject to the signing of a Good Neighbour Agreement between the City of New Westminster and the operators, which includes provisions for on-site security during their regular operating hours; and*
3. *THAT the operators commit to making every effort to ensure that the issues of public disorder and illegal consumption of illicit drugs directly adjacent to their establishment are regularly monitored and reduced to a minimum to reduce the impact to neighbouring businesses and residents.*

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place on the duration of the Temporary Use Permit. As a result, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Part 1 of the motion be amended by deleting “6 months” and replacing it with “18 months or when an alternate is opened.”*
2. *THAT Part 3 of the motion be amended by inserting “and funders” after the word “operators.”*

The question on the amendment was not called as discussion ensued and it was noted that the Temporary Use Permit has lapsed and the operator is not in compliance with the Zoning bylaw; also, over the course of the initial Temporary Use Permit, the operator has failed to identify an alternate site for the Health Contact Centre and has not brought forward a rezoning application.

Discussion then took place on the intent and duration of temporary use permits as well as the interim mobile overdose prevention service.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Part 1 of the amendment motion be amended by deleting “18” and replacing it with “7.”*
2. *THAT Part 2 of the amendment motion be deleted.*

**DEFEATED**

Opposed: Mayor Johnstone  
Cllrs. Campbell  
Henderson  
McEvoy  
Nakagawa

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

In reply to queries from Council, staff advised that public notification of the proposed temporary use permit would be carried out in accordance with Public Notice Bylaw No. 8417 and a Good Neighbour Agreement can be presented to Council at the time of its consideration of issuance of the proposed permit.

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

- “1. *THAT notice be provided that Council will consider the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit (TUP00038) for overdose prevention services at the Health Contact Centre at 40 Begbie Street for a maximum of 18 months or when an alternate is opened;*
2. *THAT the issuance of the permit be subject to the signing of a Good Neighbour Agreement between the City of New Westminster and the operators, which includes provisions for on-site security during their regular operating hours; and*

3. *THAT the operators and funders commit to making every effort to ensure that the issues of public disorder and illegal consumption of illicit drugs directly adjacent to their establishment are regularly monitored and reduced to a minimum to reduce the impact to neighbouring businesses and residents.”*

was then called and it was **CARRIED** with Cllrs. Fontaine and Minhas opposed.

#### **4.8 Proclamation: Menstrual Health Day, May 28, 2025**

Discussion took place and it was highlighted that New Westminster has led the way with providing free menstrual products in schools and City facilities.

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT May 28, 2025 be proclaimed as Menstrual Health Day.*

**CARRIED**

### **6. MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

#### **6.1 Remove US Flag from Queen's Park Arena and Replace it with City of New Westminster Flag**

One piece of correspondence was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT staff be directed to permanently remove and replace the American flag with the City of New Westminster flag at Queen's Park Arena; and*
2. *THAT staff be authorized to temporarily reinstall the American flag if it is required to be displayed for official protocol purposes in relation to an event held at this facility.*

**CARRIED**

### **7. NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **7.1 Encouraging the Province of BC to Urgently Provide Additional Mental Health Care Supports**

Submitted by Councillor Fontaine

*WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has expressed a commitment to supporting individuals suffering from acute drug addiction and serious mental illness; and*

*WHEREAS mental health and addiction services in British Columbia remain chronically underfunded, despite growing public need; and*

*WHEREAS a lack of timely and appropriate access to mental health and addiction treatment can result in significant harm to individuals, families, and the broader community;*



*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recognize the urgent need to address the challenges faced by individuals experiencing acute drug addiction and serious mental illness, and formally advocate for the Province of British Columbia to implement comprehensive, evidence-based, and adequately funded systems of care that support safety, well-being, and long-term recovery;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council call on the Province to define and prioritize the implementation of secure care measures — including, where clinically appropriate and legally justified, involuntary treatment — for individuals whose condition poses a significant risk to themselves or others, with clear safeguards to uphold individual rights, medical oversight, and accountability;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council express concern that ongoing underinvestment by successive provincial governments has contributed directly to the widespread lack of access to critical mental health and addiction services across British Columbia;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council urge the Province to take emergency-level action to address the provincial mental health and addiction crisis, including consideration of declaring a public health emergency or enacting an equivalent coordinated response to mobilize resources, improve system integration, and protect public safety;*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Premier of British Columbia and relevant Ministers to communicate Council's position and recommendations.*

## **7.2 Sikh Heritage Month**

Submitted by Councillor Minhas

*WHEREAS Sikh Heritage Month, celebrated each April, recognizes the long-standing contributions of Sikh Canadians, who have enriched Canada's social, cultural, and economic life since their arrival in 1906; and*

*WHEREAS the values central to Sikhism—service, equality, and compassion—continue to inspire community involvement, leadership, and charitable efforts across New Westminster; and*

*WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is committed to celebrating and supporting the diverse cultural and faith communities that shape its civic identity and strengthen its inclusive, welcoming spirit;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to add Sikh Heritage Month in April to the City of New Westminster's official observances calendar;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the City of New Westminster acknowledge Sikh Heritage Month with an annual proclamation in line with other official City observances.*

### 7.3 Preserving and Enhancing Vibrant Streetscapes with Local Businesses

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

*WHEREAS the current economic instability is applying financial pressure on small businesses across our communities; and*

*WHEREAS local governments have an opportunity to identify zoning, development, and other policies that may support affordability for businesses; and*

*WHEREAS the City will be updating the Economic Development Plan in 2025; and*

*WHEREAS the Province has greater jurisdictional power to decrease the economic pressures on small businesses through a variety of policy changes;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff explore the impacts of restricting extended health services as a permitted use at ground level through retail zoning updates; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back on opportunities to remove barriers for property owners interested in subdividing commercial units through zoning bylaws and building regulations; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff explore creating a commercial tenant relocation policy for small businesses (in BC, defined as businesses that have fewer than 50 employees) that could include principles like relocation support and/or first right of refusal at a comparable lease rate or with a reasonable increase; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City send a letter to the Minister of Finance and CC the Minister of Municipal Governments and Rural Communities, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation advocating that a Property Assessment Review be expedited; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City send a letter to the Minister of Finance and CC the Minister of Municipal Governments and Rural Communities, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation advocating for WorkBC programs offered to support the development of new businesses be extended to offer continued operational support to small businesses; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that given the economic instability small businesses are facing, that the City send a letter to the Minister of Finance and CC the Minister of Municipal Governments and Rural Communities, the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, and the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation asking that the Province pilot a program to temporarily regulate commercial rent increases through a rent cap to ensure sustainability over this period of extreme instability and potential recession.*

**8. BYLAWS FOR ADOPTION**

**8.1 Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Storage Amendments Bylaw No. 8518, 2025**

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Storage Amendments Bylaw No. 8518, 2025 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine  
Minhas

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**10. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and SECONDED

*THAT the meeting adjourn (9:31 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  
May 26, 2025.

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Patrick Johnstone  
MAYOR

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Hanieh Berg  
CORPORATE OFFICER

Schedule 1 to the  
Minutes of the Regular  
Council meeting held  
on May 26, 2025

**ON TABLE**  
Regular Council Meeting  
May 26, 2025  
Re: Item 6.1

**From:** [Neil Salmond](#)  
**To:** [Mayor and Councillors](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re US flag removal  
**Date:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 11:12:53 AM

**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.

Given the typically petty and ill-founded priorities of the proposer, maybe this motion will be quickly dismissed.

But if taxpayer time (aka money) is given over to it, my strong hope and suggestion would be that there are clear and objective criteria for the removal of this or any flag, and (crucially) for its return.

Why are certain flags flown? What criteria must the US meet to return its spangly banner to our public building?