

## **REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL**

March 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.  
With immediate adjournment to Closed Meeting  
**Regular Council reconvenes at 6:00 p.m.**  
Council Chamber  
City Hall

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Jonathan Côté  
Councillor Chinu Das  
Councillor Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa  
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr  
Councillor Mary Trentadue

#### **GUESTS:**

Karen Baker-MacGrotty - Mayday Royal Suite Coordinator  
Lili De Capite - President, Hyack Festival Association

#### **STAFF:**

Ms. Lisa Spitale - Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Jacque Killawee - City Clerk  
Ms. Emilie Adin - Director of Development Services  
Mr. Don Driedger - Manager of Major Projects  
Mr. Dean Gibson - Director of Parks and Recreation  
Ms. Lisa Leblanc - Manager of Transportation  
Mr. Jim Lowrie - Director of Engineering Services  
Ms. Erika Mashig - Manager of Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space  
Planning  
Ms. Colleen Ponzini - Acting Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Mike Watson - Planner  
Mr. Jay Young - Manager of Recreation Facilities  
Ms. Heather Corbett - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

## REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

### 1. **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT items 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 be removed from the Consent Agenda.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

### 2. **MOTION:**

*THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Closed Meeting of Council immediately following the Regular Meeting of Council on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items to be considered relate to matters listed under Sections 90(1)(a), 90(1)(e), 90(1)(g), 90(1)(i), 90(1)(k) and 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter:*

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality;*
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;*
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality;*
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;*
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public;*

*90(2)*

- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party;*

Purpose of the meeting:

Personal, property, litigation and negotiations matters

## ADJOURNMENT

**3. MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Regular Council meeting in Open Session be adjourned and proceed to Closed Session.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## RECONVENE TO REGULAR COUNCIL

**4. MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Regular Council meeting be reconvened in Council Chamber.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

**5. Items 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 were previously removed from the Consent Agenda.**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the recommendations for items remaining on the Consent Agenda be approved.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

### Urgent/time sensitive matters only

**6. Additions to the Agenda.**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the following items to added to the agenda:*

27. *Queen's Park Sportsplex – Conceptual Design*

28. *Sixth Street Pedestrian Overpass – Update on Construction*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT all On Table materials be received by Council.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

## PRESENTATION

### 7. May Day Draw

Mayor Cote gave a history of New Westminster and May Day, which is celebrating its 149<sup>th</sup> year.

Karen Baker-MacGrotty, Royal Suite Coordinator, introduced the 2019 Mayday theme of “Shining Bright in the Royal City”.

Lili De Capite, President of the Hyack Festival Association, conducted the May Day draw, with the following results:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>School</b>
May Queen & Royal Consort	Amaris Han Michael Ront-Gibson	Connaught Heights Elementary
1 <sup>st</sup> Maid of Honour & Royal Knight	Ava Lane Emilio Locatelli	Richard McBride Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> Maid of Honour & Royal Knight	Emma Mastrodonato Christian Oljaca	Qayqayt Elementary
Medal Bearer & Royal Knight	Charlotte Lord Mathias Fruhm	Herbert Spencer Elementary
Register Bearer & Royal Knight	Clea Bergeron Finnegan Bergeron	Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary
1 <sup>st</sup> Flower Girl & Royal Knight	Kieu-Vy Nguyen Nadir Rishard	Queensborough Middle School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Flower Girl & Royal Knight	Daria Fatyanova Zhourri Adtoon	Lord Kelvin Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> Flower Girl & Royal Knight	Anni Nichiporik Keldan Zschoch	F.W. Howay Elementary

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

8. **Draft 2019 - 2023 Financial Plan**, Acting Chief Financial Officer
- Staff Presentation**
  - Staff Report**
  - Opportunity for Public Comment**

Colleen Ponzini, Acting Chief Financial Officer, provided a Powerpoint presentation on the City’s draft financial plan for 2019-2023.

In response to questions from Council, Ms. Ponzini and Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the following information:

- The funds to be allocated to the Sportsplex are as follows:
  - \$4.3 million from Arenex insurance proceeds;
  - Provincial Government Community Achievement Grant of \$1.1 million; and,
  - \$200,000 from City reserves; and,
- The \$7 million in expenditure allocated for the Aquatic and Community Centre replacement in this financial plan would be used for the procurement of design services and the development of the facility.

Mayor Cote asked for any comments from members of the public.

**Bill Zander**, resident, discussed the City's rate of growth and acknowledged that it requires public infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and livability, which all come at a cost to its residents. Mr. Zander asked why Council has elected to increase the density of the City without more input from higher governments, noting that municipalities only receive 8% of its residents' taxes, with the remainder going to the Provincial and Federal governments.

**Christopher Bell**, resident, discussed several letters that he had sent to Council with questions about the financial plan and noted his hope that Council would consider the community input received and incorporate it into their decisions, as per the requirements for public consultation stipulated in the Community Charter. Mr. Bell suggested that the timeline has been short for the public to make comments on the financial plan and requested a month's delay. He also requested information on the profit and loss for Anvil Centre and questioned the need for a capital levy when there had been underspending on the capital plan.

In response to the comment, Ms. Ponzini provided the following information:

- City staff have a set schedule to adhere to in order to achieve the Ministry deadline for the financial plan; and,
- The capital levy is part of a five-year plan, which incorporates the need to build up reserves and to move ahead with planning of capital spending.

**Phil Walkinshaw**, resident, expressed concern about expenditure on the replacement of City vehicles and fleet, and enquired whether they could be driven for a few more years while the City awaits technology to develop for the use of electric vehicles going forward. Mr. Walkinshaw discussed a re-prioritization of the proposed budget line for more pedestrian friendly initiatives, such as crossing timings.

In response to the comment, Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services, and Lisa Leblanc, Manager of Transportation, provided the following information:

- The City does have a green fleet policy, and supports the use of fuel cell vehicles;
- The vehicles being replaced have been assessed individually and are candidates for replacement, as they have been extended past the manufacturer's recommendation;
- The pedestrian crossing improvement program has been allocated \$1.5 million in the financial plan, and the City is adopting a slower speed than suggested by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) for its crosswalks;
- The City is looking to lengthen the traffic light signals in locations that have high pedestrian usage, and in areas that would most benefit from adjustment; and,
- Many signals are coordinated in multiple directions, therefore it may take time to adjust multiple signals throughout the corridor.

**John Lamouraux**, resident, expressed concerns about homelessness and housing in the City, noting that the tax rate increases are not affordable for fixed income families. He inquired whether there would be any consideration of housing subsidies.

In response to the comment, Mayor Cote noted that Council considers all factors in developing the financial plan and many of the increases this year are due to the Employer Health Tax burden. Mayor Cote also pointed out that there are subsidies available from other levels of government for housing.

**Daniel Fontaine**, resident and President of New Westminster Progressives, expressed several concerns about the tax rate increase, including that seniors do not like to defer taxes, landlords would pass the increase on to tenants making living and operating a business in the City more expensive. He further advocated that the City should express their concerns about the Employer Health Tax (EHT) to higher levels of government.

**Paul McNamara**, resident and member of the New Westminster Progressives, expressed concerns about the tax rate increase, noting that property value increases do not put money in taxpayers' pockets and wages are not increasing, therefore this tax increase will be felt by taxpayers in many ways; small business attraction will be difficult in this environment, and the City could explore reducing costs instead of hiring new staff and raising taxes.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Ponzini provided the following comments:

- Public consultation into the financial process goes on throughout the year through asking the public how funds could be applied and asking for their priorities;

- The financial plan is a summary of all decisions made by the City's departments throughout the year, and although it appears that there are only a few opportunities for feedback, it is a very complex system which is re-assessed frequently;
- There may be an opportunity to direct the public engagement department to engage in more workshops and communication with the public about the financial plan, and the associated challenges; and,
- The Finance department would be interested in further comments and opportunities for more feedback.

Discussion ensued, with Council noting the following:

- Financial decisions are quite often complex and affect all aspects of the City, and Council considers many requests from the public and staff, while still remaining prudent, ensuring all demands are balanced, and making compromises for the best outcome for the community's priorities;
- The degree of openness and transparency into the City's finances that the City is required to disclose is a key principle of local government and ensures accountability;
- The enhancements that have been approved and included in the budget are modest and have been designed to align with City and community objectives, such as the Q2Q ferry and the urban forest strategy;
- The Employer Health Tax has made a significant impact on the City's budget this year, and while the City may have preferred an alternative, the elimination of the MSP may be looked at as a positive step in the budgets of individual households;
- A key area of the financial plan is the Canada Games Pool replacement, for which many groups advocated, despite a potential tax increase;
- Council recognizes the impacts of the tax increase on people with fixed incomes, and the City is trying to initiate programs that would mitigate this burden; and,
- There may be an opportunity to improve public engagement around the financial plan, by making it easier to understand and ensuring that residents feel confident that they can participate in the process and respond to it.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council receives this report for information; and*

*THAT Council provides staff with direction to prepare the consolidated 2019 to 2023 Financial Plan Bylaw; and*

*THAT Council provides staff with direction to prepare the corresponding 2019 Tax Rates Bylaw.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Items 10 and 27 were addressed after Item 8.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **9. No Items**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **11. Urban Indigenous Engagement around the development of the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council receive the March 11, 2019 staff report for information.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

### **12. Recruitment 2019: Committee Appointments (SAC, NTAC, RJC, and ACTBiPed)**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council rescind the appointment of Sylvester Helmink as the Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative to the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC); and,*

*THAT Council appoint Donna MacLean as the Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative to the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) for the term ending January 31, 2020; and,*

*THAT Council rescind the appointment of Danielle Karlsson as the McBride/Sapperton Residents' Association Representative to the Neighbourhood Transportation Advisory Committee (NTAC); and,*

*THAT Council appoint Danielle Karlsson as the Massey Victory Heights Residents' Association Representative to the Neighbourhood Transportation Advisory Committee (NTAC) for the term ending January 31, 2020; and,*

*THAT Council appoint Wilf Brodrick as the McBride/Sapperton Residents' Association Representative to the Neighbourhood Transportation Advisory Committee (NTAC) for the term ending January 31, 2020; and,*

*THAT Council appoint Terry Hewitt as the New Westminster Victims Assistance Association Representative to the Restorative Justice Committee (RJC) for the term ending January 31, 2020; and,*

*THAT Council rescind the appointment of Elizabeth Vranjkovic to the ACTBiPed; and,*



*THAT Council appoint Mike Smith-Cairns as a Community Member to the ACTBiPed with the term ending January 31, 2020.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**13. Minutes for Adoption**

- a. January 21, 2019 Special Regular meeting**
- b. Amended January 28, 2019 Public Hearing**
- c. February 20, 2019 Special Regular meeting**
- d. February 25, 2019 Open Workshop**
- e. February 25, 2019 Public Hearing**
- f. February 25, 2019 Regular meeting**

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**16. 310 Salter Street (Port Royal Phase 6B): Development Permit and Development Variance Permit for Mid Rise Multi Unit Residential Development – Consideration of Notice of Opportunity to be Heard**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council forward Development Permit DP000760 for 310 Salter Street (Port Royal Phase 6B) to the Regular Meeting of Council on April 8, 2019 subject to the following conditions:*

- *Submission of a landscape security in a form acceptable to the Director of Development Services, in an amount equivalent to 125% of the value of a detailed cost estimate for hard and soft landscaping prepared by a Registered Professional Landscape Architect.*
- *Modification/adjustment of the existing statutory r/w agreement (EPP46198) for public access to the proposed public walkway and pedestrian seating area (as required) and finalization of the pedestrian seating area design to the satisfaction of the Director of Parks and Recreation.*
- *Prior to Building Permit issuance, the finalization of a works and services agreement for all off-site works to the satisfaction of the Director of Engineering Services.*
- *Prior to Building Permit issuance, finalization Registration of a Section 219 Restrictive Covenant for off-street parking; and,*

*THAT Council issue notice that it will consider a resolution to issue Development Variance Permit DVP00653 to vary height and setback requirements at 310 Salter Street following an Opportunity to be Heard on April 8, 2019.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**19. Connaught Heights Park Playground Redevelopment - Preferred Option**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council endorse Option 'C' (Slide Tower in the Trees) as the preferred option for the Connaught Heights Park Playground and direct staff to undertake the next steps as outlined in the March 11, 2019 staff report.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**22. Vimy Heritage Oak Trees Proposal**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT planting of the Vimy Heritage Oak Trees, as proposed in March 11, 2019 staff report be supported.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**23. 2019 Environmental Grant Recipient – Project Scope Change**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the scope change to the Brunette River documentary project requested by the New Westminster Environmental Partners be approved by Council and that the grantee be requested to continue to seek local collaboration on the project.*

**ADOPTED BY CONSENT.**

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Procedural Note:** Item 10 was addressed after Item 8 and prior to Item 27.

**10. Parkinson's Awareness Month, April 2019**

Heidi Clarkson discussed Parkinson's Disease and the work of the Parkinson Centre, which is offering a variety of programs, exercise classes, and events for people in the City, and across Metro Vancouver. Ms. Clarkson invited Council to visit the Centre and participate in a boxing session to fight back against Parkinson's.

Mayor Cote read out the proclamation declaring April 2019 as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

**Procedural Note:** Items 14, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21 were addressed after Item 26 and prior to Item 25.

**14. Cannabis: New Retail Store Application Evaluation**

In response to questions from Council, Mike Watson, Planner, provided the following information:

- The cannabis retail stores that are approved in this March 11 staff report would progress to Public Hearing at a future date; and,
- Initially, the plan was to evaluate the process and resulting retail outlets over one year before accepting a new batch of applications.

Council noted the following comments in discussion:

- It is evident that all applications received had a high degree of quality, and conducting the independent evaluation process was undoubtedly a challenging process for staff;
- While there would be value in approving a mix of public and private retail outlets, it would be important to respect the evaluation process as set out by Council in order to satisfy the public process;
- While an initial aim was for a combination of public and private cannabis stores to open in the City, the BC Cannabis Store application has scored lower compared to the other location proposed in Queensborough and the value of a public store may not be a strong enough proposition to outscore an independent store;
- Council should support the private licenses, however not in exchange for the Government cannabis store, which would provide a reliable degree of business legitimacy and confidence;
- There may be value in speeding up the timeline for more outlets to apply; and,
- In future, it may be beneficial for public stores to be evaluated within a separate application stream.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council direct staff to prepare a Zoning Amendment Bylaw to permit the retail sale of cannabis at the following locations, 71 Sixth Street, 532 Sixth Street, 451 E Columbia Street, and 710 Twelfth Street as identified in the Recommended Applications Section of the March 11, 2019 staff report; and,*

*THAT Council direct staff to include in the Zoning Amendment Bylaw that permits the retail sale of cannabis, the address of 540 Ewen Avenue, instead of Unit L110 805 Boyd Street; and,*

*THAT Council authorize the return of 25% of the Business License and Rezoning fees for applications which have not been selected to move forward.*

**CARRIED.**

Councillors Das, McEvoy and Puchmayr voted in opposition.

Council directed staff to ensure that all applicants are provided with an opportunity to meet with staff and given guidance about next steps for future applications.

**15. Naming of Two New Streets in Queensborough**

In discussion, Council noted that the naming criteria could benefit from the addition of an indigenous component, which would be more reflective of Council's priorities.

Emilie Adin, Director of Development Services, noted that Council had previously given direction for staff to review the street naming policy, incorporating a focus on indigenous communities and reconciliation, and that this work is in Development Services' workplan.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council endorse "Kamachi" and "Ota" as the name for the new streets in Queensborough as identified in the March 11, 2019 staff report and direct staff to bring forward the necessary bylaw.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**17. 330 East Columbia Street (Royal Columbia Hospital Project): Update on Rezoning to Allow for the Renovation, Redevelopment and Modernization of Hospital Facilities**

In response to a question from Council, Rupinder Basi, Senior Development Planner, advised that emergency access to the hospital is proposed for Sherbrooke Street.

Council noted the following comments in discussion:

- It may be reasonable to expect that the proposed emergency access on Sherbrooke Street will generate feedback from the public; and,
- It may be beneficial to consider redirecting road access to the hospital onto the regional road network rather than relying on East Columbia to be the primary road access to the hospital.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council receive the March 11, 2019 staff report for information.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**18. Proposal for Public Realm Improvements in Brow of the Hill at 1010 Fifth Avenue**

In response to a question from Council, Erika Mashig, Manager, Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space Planning, noted that the site of the parklet is in a well-treed area, and only neighbourhood planting of plants would occur due to the constrained site.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council endorse the new location and design concept for the Brow of the Hill parklet; and,*

*THAT Council direct staff to proceed with implementation of the parklet for summer 2019.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**20. Quayside Tugger Pilot House: Removal and Replacement Project**

In response to questions from Council, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Erika Mashig, Manager, Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space Planning, provided the following information:

- Community organizations have historically become attached to City projects through a desire to support City amenities, most typically within parks projects;
- There is no established policy, but rather a practice of accepting improvements made possible by particular supporters; and,
- The theme of the proposed installation has been maintained in order to keep the identity of the working riverfront, and to replace the existing Tugger structure with a piece that is similar in design and interactivity.

Council noted the following comments in discussion:

- Concern was expressed that the proposed design of the replacement structure does not reflect any indigenous relevance, and this would be an appropriate location due to the original history of the river;
- Policy around designations and legacy projects may need further development for ease of implementation of such projects in future;
- Due to the deteriorated state of the existing structure, it may not be recommended to stop the implementation process at this point;
- It would be worthwhile to note that the waterfront is an important public space for discussion and to bring indigenous voices into these discussions early on in future; and,
- The proposed structure would be an enjoyable space for children.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council direct staff to bring a report back on the replacement of the Tugger Pilot House, addressing some of the comments made by Council.*

**DEFEATED**

Mayor Cote, and Councillors Das, Johnstone, and McEvoy voted in opposition.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT staff proceed with the proposed removal and replacement of the Tugger Pilot House located at 830 Quayside Drive along the Waterfront Esplanade between the River Market and Fraser River Discovery Centre (FRDC).*

**CARRIED.**

Councillors Puchmayr and Trentadue voted in opposition.

**21. Downtown Dog Off-Leash Area – Partial Relocation**

Council noted that while Simcoe Park is a reasonable choice for a dog park, further locations in the lower downtown area should continue to be evaluated, as residents would need to cross Royal Avenue and negotiate a substantial hill to reach Simcoe Park.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the lower portion of the Downtown Dog Off-leash Area be relocated to Simcoe Park “central” as described in the March 11, 2019 staff report; and,*

*THAT staff evaluate the potential for a dog park in an area of downtown that is south of Royal Avenue; and,*

*THAT staff be directed to undertake the next steps as outlined in the March 11, 2019 staff report.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**Procedural Note:** Council recessed from 8:10 to 8:18 p.m.

**Procedural Note:** Item 24 was addressed after Item 27 and prior to Item 26

**24. Open Delegations**

**Jagjit Singh**, of the Sukh Sagar Gurdwara, discussed the temple’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration which took place on March 3, 2019, as well as the history of the society and the community in Queensborough. Mr. Singh noted the organizations support of the community through their charitable work, and thanked the City and Council for their support and time. Mr. Singh presented Council with service awards.

Mayor Cote thanked the Gurdwara for their community involvement and congratulated them on the significant anniversary.

**Avalon Findlay**, member of Force of Nature Alliance, discussed the necessity to make changes to fossil fuel emissions and the future impacts of climate change on humankind. She noted the worries of her generation about the state of the world, and emphasized that the time is now to change and take action to make the City more sustainable. Ms. Findlay requested that Council declare a state of climate emergency.

**Philia Zhang**, resident, discussed youth's perspective of climate change and its effects on the current and future generations, with specific note about the effects of plastic on nature and the environment. Ms. Zhang requested that Council take action and declare a state of climate emergency.

**Jennifer Nathan**, resident and member of Force of Nature Alliance, discussed the effects of climate change and the temperature levels of the earth. She noted that there are numerous school strikes happening in communities and countries around the world, which are being supported by thousands of academics. Ms. Nathan requested that Council declare a state of climate emergency and ask other levels of government for change.

**Jake Hubley**, member of Force of Nature Alliance, discussed the Alliance's work of asking cities to take action. He thanked City Council for the work on the environment strategy and asked Council to make more changes in order to lower emissions. Mr. Hubley noted that climate emergencies have been adopted in many cities across North America and emphasized that changes can be made in cities in order to quell the many feelings of uncertainty being experienced by residents, and to underscore the hope that things can change.

**Judith Brook**, resident of District of North Vancouver, discussed the many recent environmental disasters, such as forest fires in BC, and the IPCC targets for emission reductions in order to maintain the future health of the planet. She noted that many municipalities have adopted a climate action mandate and discussed that a SMART approach for fighting climate change would be for Council's support of the motion to declare a state of climate emergency.

**Angie Macnab**, Eggs Canna, expressed concerns with the recently published results of the cannabis retail applications received by the City. She noted a published error in the scoring of Eggs Canna's application and confusion that was experienced with the retail aesthetics evaluation. Ms. Macnab further expressed concern that there had been no opportunity to engage with staff on the results of the application and asked Council to ask staff to review Eggs Canna's application again in order to recalculate the scores and be more transparent about the decision process.

In response to a question from Council, Mike Watson, Planner, noted that there was a typographical error in Appendix G: Summary of Evaluation of Applications related to the application at #122– 610 Sixth Street. The summary table for the uptown applications incorrectly transcribed an aesthetic score of ‘12’ when the aesthetic score received was actually ‘6’. The ‘Overall Score’ for this application of 42 was noted correctly and, as such, was tied in overall score with two other applications and was analyzed in accordance with the process adopted by Council for the initial intake of cannabis retail rezoning applications.

**Oana Nicoara**, Eggs Canna, expressed concerns with the tabulation of the retail application scores, noting that the only tie-breaker element staff were able to use was in regards to nuisance mitigation. Ms. Nicoara explained why her company selected their retail site within the mall, and how this location would address issues of nuisance mitigation, with measures such as onsite security monitoring, loitering reduction measures already present within the mall, reduced hours of operation, and segregation from liquor sales locations. Ms. Nicoara noted that the location decisions made by her company were made with substantial regard to the best interests of the community.

**Craig Lust**, Eggs Canna, expressed concern in regards to the misinformation that was printed in reference to his business’ application, noting that he has not yet received a response from City staff. Mr. Lust noted that he is looking for clarity about his ability to access the reports to see what his original scores were.

Mr. Watson discussed the evaluation process, and what would be accessible to the applicants, noting the following information:

- Staff independently reviewed the applications, rejecting any that were incomplete, and assessed them based on the application checklist criteria, which is public; and,
- Staff would be willing to go over the checklist with the applicants and help them to understand the scoring.

**Jaclynn Pehota**, of the Cannabis Commerce Association of Canada (CCAC), spoke on behalf of Eggs Canna, which was a founding member of CCAC. She advocated for Eggs Canna and emphasized their dedication to the business process. Ms. Pehota suggested that the first retailers in a municipality should be experienced and well-equipped, like Eggs Canna, and she encouraged Council to approve their license.

**Ian Dawkins**, of CCAC, made some general remarks about the retail application approvals process, noting that New Westminster is benefitting from the past experience of other cities throughout this process. He noted that Eggs Canna are notable supporters of CCAC and that they have always followed due process and operated with regard to regulations, while building relationships and trust along the way. Mr. Dawkins requested that Council make the responsible choice and



ensure that the right stakeholders are at the table from the outset, noting that experience and dedication should be taken into consideration.

**John Morettie**, cannabis retail applicant, discussed the mall as a retail location and the advantages of it in terms of smoking regulations and rules. He noted that the mall deters nuisance concerns, as it is attended by security guards. Mr. Morettie asked that staff re-evaluate the applications based on the facts brought up at the Council meeting.

**George Petropavus**, Reel Reef Store, expressed concerns about the results of the cannabis applications report, and requested a review of the scoring outcomes for the Uptown area. He noted his belief that errors had been made on the scoring based on other applicants' unlicensed operations and the lack of time provided to review the application results before the Council meeting.

**Marina De Gregorio**, Reel Reef Store, noted her company's work to prepare a specific and thorough application, noting their record and experience of business operations in the City. Ms. De Gregorio expressed dissatisfaction with the process and apparent inconsistencies with the evaluations, noting that Council should not overlook the severity of the concerns brought up at the Council meeting.

**Procedural Note:** Council recessed from 9:28 to 9:33 p.m.

**Procedural Note:** Item 25 was addressed after Item 21 and prior to Item 28.

## BYLAWS

### 25. Bylaws for adoption:

#### a. Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw 8097, 2019

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Engineering User Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw 8097, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

#### b. Cemetery Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8102, 2019

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Cemetery Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8102, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**c. Development Services Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw 8098, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Development Services Fees and Rates Amendment Bylaw 8098, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**d. Controlled Substance Property Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8081, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Controlled Substance Property Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8081, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**e. Noise Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8082, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Noise Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8082, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**f. Construction Noise Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8083, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Construction Noise Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 8083, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**g. Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8096, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Electrical Utility Amendment Bylaw No. 8096, 2019 be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

Councillor Johnstone voted in opposition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Procedural Note:** Item 26 was addressed after Item 24 and prior to Item 14.

**26. Climate Action in the City of New Westminster, Council McEvoy and Councillor Nakagawa**

Council noted the following comments in discussion:

- Appreciation was expressed to all the community members, particularly the youth, who participated in the discussion on this topic;
- There is no time to wait for senior levels of government to take action – the time is now as all evidence points to a tangible and serious climate crisis;
- It would be important for the City to both make a statement but also to ensure that a plan such as a green budget is developed;
- Environmental policy has both global and local effects, with impacts felt by all parts of the community and the province;
- The targets recommended by the IPCC are based on real issues, and should not be ignored
- There is a need for environmental and climate change policy to be declared and inform all aspects of the City’s planning;
- There is opportunity for the City to join forces with many other cities in Canada be a leader in this work;
- The motion put forward demonstrates that the City takes climate change seriously and it could be sent out to all of UBCM and LMLGA to get solidarity; and,
- While all aspects of the community are important, this motion presents an opportunity and a roadmap to remind Council of the importance of the environment and to be held accountable to do more, without complacency.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*WHEREAS the earth is currently on track to warm by more than 3 degrees Celsius; and*

*WHEREAS An October 8, 2018 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that it is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, rather than 2 degrees as previously understood, and that doing so “would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society,” and that we have until 2030 to undertake these changes; and*

*WHEREAS The IPCC report puts the benchmark for greenhouse gas reduction targets for corporate and community-wide emissions at 45% by 2030, 65% by 2040, and 100% by 2050; and*

*WHEREAS The British Columbia government declared a provincial state of emergency in 2018 over record-setting wildfires; and*

*WHEREAS The Legislature of British Columbia and the House of Commons of Canada have acknowledged the growing crisis of climate breakdown by holding emergency debates following the release of the IPCC report; and*

*WHEREAS Local governments worldwide are taking action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and calling on senior levels of government for an urgent, emergency response; and*

*WHEREAS The costs to New Westminster for dealing with the impacts of climate change - including sea level rise - are significant; and*

*WHEREAS The most vulnerable members of our community are the most impacted by the effects of climate change; and*

*WHEREAS The City of New Westminster has been taking action on sustainability through the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan, Community Energy and Emissions Plan, and Envision 2032;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

*THAT Council recognize that climate change constitutes an emergency for the City of New Westminster; and*

*THAT Council direct staff to report back on how the following action items can be implemented:*

- 1. Update existing City plans with new targets as per the IPCC report;*
- 2. Increase ambition and/or accelerate timelines for existing actions under the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan and the Community Energy and Emissions Plan;*
- 3. Consider new actions to help the City achieve its targets;*
- 4. Consider new actions that would help reduce GHG emissions beyond the scope of the City's current climate targets;*
- 5. Track and report on community emissions;*
- 6. Engage the community in discussion on how to drastically reduce GHG emissions with particular focus on those most vulnerable to climate impacts and most in need of support in transitioning to renewable energy;*
- 7. More broadly communicate with the community about City emissions and targets;*
- 8. Implement a carbon budget; and,*

*THAT Council direct staff to include climate action for consideration within the City's strategic plan that is currently being developed.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Item 27 was addressed after Item 10 and prior to Item 24.

**27. Queen’s Park Sportsplex – Conceptual Design**

Don Driedger, Manager of Major Projects, and Jay Young, Manager of Recreation Facilities, provided a Powerpoint presentation about the Queen’s Park Sportsplex, covering details about the location, design, budget, construction schedule, and the inside of the new structure.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Driedger noted that the structure had previously been proposed as a fabric structure, however durability issues, maintenance, and design within the Queen’s Park setting had provided sufficient reasons to adjust to metal.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council receive the March 11, 2019 staff report for information.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**Procedural Note:** Item 28 was addressed after Item 25.

**28. Sixth Street Pedestrian Overpass – Update on Construction**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Council receive the March 11, 2019 staff report for information.*

**CARRIED.**

All members of Council present voted in favour of the motion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Chinu Das announced that the Newcomers Festival and Information Fair would take place on March 30<sup>th</sup>, with information being provided on healthcare, jobs, and financial programs, as well as entertainment, children’s activities, and food.

**NEXT MEETING**

**April 8, 2019**

Jacque Killawee, City Clerk, noted that a Regular Council meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. and immediately adjourn to a Closed meeting, and then the Regular meeting will reconvene at 6:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Council Chamber on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

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**JONATHAN COTE**  
**MAYOR**

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**JACQUE KILLAWEE**  
**CITY CLERK**