



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In OPEN WORKSHOP SESSION

January 25, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mayor Jonathan Coté
Councillor Bill Harper
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Chuck Puchmayr
Councillor Mary Trentadue
Councillor Lorrie Williams

STAFF:

Ms. Lisa Spitale	- Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Jan Gibson	- City Clerk
Mr. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Mr. Gary Holowatiuk	- Director of Finance & Information Technology
Mr. Jim Lowrie	- Director of Engineering Services
Ms. Bev Grieve	- Director of Development Services
Ms. Vali Marling	- Anvil Centre General Manager
Deputy Chief Dave Jansen	- Police Department
Ms. Colleen Ponzini	- Manager of Financial Services
Ms. Jackie Teed	- Manager of Planning
Mr. Blair Fryer	- Manager of Communications & Economic Development
Mr. Claude Ledoux	- Parks Horticulture Manager
Mr. Jason Haight	- Parks Manager of Business Operations
Mr. Philip Lo	- Council and Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 12:39pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the consent agenda items be approved.

CARRIED.

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

REPORT FOR ACTION

1. **Draft 2016 – 2020 Financial Plan – General Fund**, Director of Finance and Information Technology
 - a. **Staff Report**
 - b. **Staff Presentation**

Colleen Ponzini, Manager of Finance, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed General Fund Operating Budget.

Discussion ensued, with Council noting the following comments:

- Departments could explore ways to deliver services more efficiently;
- The draft budget aligns well with current Council strategic initiatives; however, it may not be clear as to how the budget may be impacted by the resources required by the initiatives;
- Information may be needed on budget ‘drivers’, and how these compare with other municipalities;
- The base budget could be clarified with regards to funding requests by departments to deal with workload issues;
- As the 2.14% base budget property tax increase could represent a reduction in services, it may be helpful to understand what the percentage increase may be to maintain current service levels;
- A staff report outlining current and forecasted Anvil Centre revenues and expenditures may be necessary;
- The budget may strive to achieve a balance between workload and staff morale;
- The City should ensure that it has sufficient reserves, and benchmark reserve levels against the region;
- Discussions on the budget and the necessity of department funding requests may need to be separated, with the latter to take place before the budget process or as an ongoing organization review;
- Council expressed a comfort level with an adjusted property tax rate of below 3%.

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer, suggested that departments could evaluate temporary contract staffing levels annually, beginning in September and before the budget process. Ms. Spitale noted that staff could provide reports to Council regarding workload challenges and the efficiencies that the temporary contracting positions have created.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated January 25, 2016 be received.

CARRIED.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

2. **Update on Rogers Hometown Hockey Event**, Chief Administrative Officer

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receive the report dated January 25, 2016 for information.

CARRIED.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

No Items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

3. **Motion on Notice, Councillor Williams**

THAT a letter be written to Port Metro Vancouver asking them to re-consider and reduce the rental fees for marina owners on the Fraser River to make them comparable to the Provincial rates, with copies to the Minister of Transport, MP Peter Julian, MP Fin Donnelly, and Metro Vancouver.

The Motion of Notice was deferred to the February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:17pm.

JONATHAN COTÉ
MAYOR

JAN GIBSON
CITY CLERK