Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

ELECTRIC UTILITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting held electronically and in Committee Room 2
City Hall

PRESENT:	
Mayor Patrick Johnstone	Commissioner
Councillor Paul Minhas	Commissioner
Sally Bhullar-Gill	Commissioner
Maya Chorobik*	Commissioner
Lino Siracusa	Chair/Commissioner
Lisa Spitale	Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:	
Ronald Au	Senior Financial Services Analyst
Leya Behra	Manager, Climate Action
Rod Carle	General Manager, Electrical Operations
Steven Faltas	Business Process Manager, Electrical Operations
Marius Miklea	Assistant Corporate Officer

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Siracusa opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Chair Siracusa recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. They acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. They recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Minutes of October 24, 2023

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 24, 2023, Utility Commission meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Climate Action Decision Making Framework: Introduction and Implementation Plan

Staff presented on the guiding principles and general concepts of the Climate Action Decision Making Framework (CADMF) – a tool developed to allow Council to quantify potential decisions from a Climate Action perspective and provide a structured decision making approach to allocating funds from the Climate Action Reserve Fund (CARF). If endorsed by the Utility Commission, the CADMF will be put forward for endorsement at the Council Workshop on March 4, 2024.

In response to questions from Utility Commission members, Staff noted that all capital projects will be evaluated using the CADMF including utility rates and spending amounts. The framework is intended to help the utility in its work – fundamentally ensuring that there are resourcing and plans in place to continue providing utility and climate action services.

Clarification was provided regarding the Climate Action Levy (CAL) which is set at 3.5% and the money collected is put into the CARF. The reserve does not have any legislation guiding its use and this is left to the Utility Commission to develop such guidance. For the purposes of transparency, there may be considerations around how the money comes into the reserve and how the funds are utilized. The Commission considered it may be possible to have two reserves in which one reserve is for carbon credit sales and a second reserve funded solely by the CAL.

Further clarification was offered regarding funds collected through the CAL will fund the Climate Action Department operations and the residuals to be put into the CARF, as per their related bylaws.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Utility Commission endorse the proposed Climate Action Decision Making Framework.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 BC Hydro - Transition Options - RS 1830

Staff presented regarding a new rate code provided by BC Hydro. BC Hydro has made changes in their rates for consumption and demand, but the rate ends up where the Utility Commission resolved previously.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Utility Commission receives for information

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 Premier announces new actions to build electricity system, create jobs

Staff referred the commission to review a media release from Premier Eby regarding BC Hydro's expansion to the electrical system to power homes and businesses and create jobs.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Utility Commission receives for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Electric Sales & Purchases Report

THAT the Utility Commission receives the 2023 summary of electrical energy purchases and sales for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

8. MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Utility Commission will now go into a meeting which is closed to the public in accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, on the basis that the subject matter for all agenda items relate to matters listed under sections:

(1)(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 person appointed by the municipality;
(1)(c) labour relations or other employee relations; and
(1)(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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Utility Commission convened into the closed portion of the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

The Utility Commission reconvened into the open portion of the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Members of the Utility Commission thanked General Manager Rod Carle for his work with the City of New Westminster

9. END OF MEETING

Members of the commission thanked Roderick on behalf of the Electrical Utility for his contributions to the City of New Westminster across 18 years of service and congratulated him on his retirement.

Chair Siracusa terminated the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Lino Siracusa	Marius Miklea
CHAIR	ASSISTANT CORPORATE OFFICER