



Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

In OPEN WORKSHOP SESSION

June 26, 2017 at 12:18 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

REGRETS:

Mayor Jonathan Coté

STAFF:

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| Ms. Lisa Spitale | - Chief Administrative Officer |
| Ms. Jacque Killawee | - Acting 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. Jackie Teed | - Acting Director of Development Services |
| Mr. Dave Cole | - Manager of Engineering Operations |
| Mr. Eugene Wat | - Manager of Infrastructure Planning |
| Mr. Gabe Beliveau | - Acting Supervisor, Towing, Parking & Animal Services, Cemetery & Field Maintenance |
| Mr. Philip Lo | - Council and Committee Clerk |

GUEST:

Gary Venuti, P.Eng. - Consultant

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

1. **Assessment of Water Conservation Measures and Residential Metering,** Director of Engineering Services and Gary Venuti, P.Eng.

- a. **Staff Report** (from June 12, 2017 Regular Meeting)
- b. **Presentation**

Eugene Wat, Manager of Infrastructure Planning, provided a presentation to Council, noting the following:

- There has been a reduction in daily per capita water consumption regionally due to various conservation initiatives such as lawn sprinkling restrictions;
- The City of New Westminster ranks second lowest in residential per capita per day water use in the region;
- Metro Vancouver could be further tightening lawn sprinkling restrictions for the summer of 2018;
- Approximately 70% of water consumption in the City is currently metered; single family residents are currently not metered;
- Rebate programs could be considered as part of a water conservation program, and could be combined with the Energy Save New West Program, and may work more optimally if offered along with other conservation programs and incentives such as water metering;
- Students could possibly be recruited as summer patrols, at a cost of approximately \$20,000;
- It would cost between \$60,000 to \$80,000 to conduct a water audit for all civic facilities;
- Approximately 3,000 homes in the City are currently “water meter-ready”; older homes may require extensive retrofitting to become meter-ready;
- Average water consumption reduction for metered single family residences is projected to be around 10%, which translates to an overall consumption reduction of between 1% to 2% over 15 years;
- Outdoor water usage is assumed to be the main source of the 10% difference between consumption per capita-day between multi-family and single family residences;
- The City’s water capital program would remain unchanged with projected reductions in water consumption, as the program is focused on watermain and hydrant replacements, as well as supplying water for fire fighting; and
- A voluntary metering program could be effective as a transition to full single family metering; however, a rate structure review would still be required, and could cause an initial shift in distribution of costs towards the unmetered households, due to a projected decrease in the water utility charge of metered households.

Discussion ensued, with Council noting the following:

- Regarding the City's enforcement efforts, most lawn watering could be happening at night;
- Further education and outreach programs, as well as communicating with Residents' Associations directly, may be beneficial;
- Concerned that the current rebate programs may not be encouraging more people to convert to low-flow or high-efficiency systems, and that further thought on how to achieve the City's goals with the rebate programs may be needed;
- The City should be clear that upgrade work cannot cause eviction of tenants;
- Utilize and distribute Metro Vancouver outreach materials as much as possible to avoid duplication of efforts;
- Mass roll-out of information using community-based social marketing may be more effective compared to enforcement or hiring summer students;
- Schools may be a good venue for disseminating information;
- The City should consider conducting water audits and maximizing its own water conservation efforts at civic facilities as an ongoing practice;
- Continue to put new meter-ready infrastructure in place, during other water capital work;
- Ongoing operational and maintenance costs of water metering should be considered as well;
- Any pilot program should consider a cross-section of the demographics, and provide concrete data for analysis; and
- The City may not reap economic benefit from full water metering, but the City should be prepared to address this should Metro Vancouver proceed with a full water-metering requirement.

Jim Lowrie, Director of Engineering Services, advised that the City had implemented a rainwater recovery system, where the water was used to melt accumulated ice and manage ice surfaces at the Queen's Park Arena. Mr. Lowrie noted that this resulted in a positive cost-benefit analysis and reduced consumption at the facility.

Mr. Gabe Beliveau, Acting Supervisor, Towing, Parking & Animal Services, Cemetery & Field Maintenance, advised that current enforcement efforts are on a reactive basis, with regular patrols, with "stage two" being more proactive enforcement. Mr. Beliveau noted that evening patrol and enforcement may be limited due to staffing, and that all offences are tracked in the City's Tempest system.

Gary Venuti, consultant, suggested that with the densification of multi-family

housing, plumbing fixtures are becoming more efficient and could account for decrease in water usage. Mr. Venuti also noted that there could be an additional intake of water in 2028 from the Coquitlam reservoir.

Council directed staff to provide a report to Council in the Fall of 2017 with recommendations based on Council's discussion on this subject at the June 26, 2017 Open Workshop meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

JONATHAN COTÉ
MAYOR

JACQUE KILLAWEE
ACTING CITY CLERK