

Motions for Debate at September 11th New Westminster Council Meeting

Moved: Coun. Paul Minhas

Conducting a Review Regarding the Cause and Cost Pertaining to the City of New Westminster Oil Spill in the Fraser River

Whereas on July 20th an oil spill occurred in the Fraser River with the source being identified as the Samson V Museum which is owned and operated by the City of New Westminster; and

Whereas oil contamination in the Fraser River can have significant impact on the environment, protected fish species, habitat and shoreline; and

Whereas the public deserves a full explanation regarding the circumstances which led to the oil spill as well as the costs related to the cleanup.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to produce a public report regarding the July 2023 oil spill which emanated from the Samson V Museum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this oil spill public report include the following core components:

- An overview of the negative environmental impacts caused by the Samson V oil spill to the Fraser River and surrounding communities;
- The full list of government agencies, regulators, community partners, environmental non-governmental organization involved in responding to the Samson V oil spill;
- Full costing of the environmental cleanup including an estimate of staff time;
- An estimate of any fines that may be levied by regulators and senior orders of government;
- Analysis as to circumstances which triggered the Samson V oil spill released into the Fraser River;
- Cost analysis of moving the Samson V into drydock for a period of up to 12 months for necessary repairs, safety and cosmetic upgrades/refurbishment

Moved: Coun. Paul Minhas

TITLE: Increasing access to fresh drinking water for local residents and their pets

Whereas it is important for New Westminster citizens and their pets to have access to fresh drinking water in outdoor spaces during the warm summer months; and

Whereas the technology currently exists and has been proven to work in other cities throughout Metro Vancouver to install temporary water fountains using existing fire hydrants; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back to Council regarding the cost and operational requirements of installing temporary water fountains connected to a fire hydrant in time for summer 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff reach out to the City of Vancouver who have successfully implemented fire hydrant water fountains to determine if there are learnings that can be applied in New Westminster.

Moved: Councillor Daniel Fontaine

TITLE: Supporting our seniors by increasing hours of operation for Century House during the summer

Whereas other Metro Vancouver cities have ensured their seniors centers are more accessible throughout the year by keeping them open in the evening during summer; and

Whereas Century House is a critical gathering place for our seniors in New Westminster and it currently closes at 4:00 pm during the summer; and

Whereas Century House can serve as a cooling center during the hot summer months.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed as part of Budget 2024 to provide Council with the costs and operational requirements to extend the hours of operation at Century House to 9:00 pm on weekdays during the summer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the membership of Century House be surveyed regarding their level of interest in expanding the service hours during the summer and that the results of this survey be provided to Council for further consultation and evaluation.

Moved: Councillor Daniel Fontaine

TITLE: Supporting our local business community by implementing a pilot project to reduce parking fees

Whereas it is vital for the City of New Westminster to support our local businesses by retaining regular customers and attracting new patrons to our commercial districts; and

Whereas the high and ever-increasing cost of parking for short visits to our businesses located in our commercial districts can be a deterrent and decrease economic activity in our city; and

Whereas it is city policy to provide free public parking at City Hall, Queen's Park, Century House and a number of other city-owned facilities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the budget implications and operational requirements associated with establishing a pilot project to reduce parking fees in 2024 which will include the following core components:

- First hour of on-street parking (where paid on-street metered parking currently exists) will be complimentary. This would include the Downtown, Uptown, Sapperton and 12th Street business districts.
- Expand free on-street parking to after 7 pm during the business week from the current 8 pm setting.
- Parking will be free on Sunday and all statutory provincial holidays.