



REPORT TO COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 9:30 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Peter Meiszner, Chair
- Mayor Ken Sim* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business – 9:30 am to 12 pm)
- Councillor Rebecca Bligh
- Councillor Christine Boyle
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Lisa Dominato*
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
- Councillor Mike Klassen, Vice Chair
- Councillor Brian Montague
- Councillor Lenny Zhou

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Chair also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's staff who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

None.

1. Presentation: Second Annual Climate Emergency Implementation Update

Brad Badelt, Director, Sustainability, Planning Urban Design and Sustainability, along with Matt Horne, Manager, Climate Mitigation, Accountability and Outreach and Rachel Telling, Senior Sustainability Specialist, provided a presentation and responded to questions. Additional staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability also responded to questions.

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During questions to staff, it was

MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT under Section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, Council ask a second round of questions to staff.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote)*

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MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the Presentation for Item 1, entitled "Presentation: Second Annual Climate Emergency Implementation Update" for information;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q2 on a restatement of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) budget and revised summary of proposed City investments for actions outlined in the CEAP, given that Council has determined not to proceed with Vancouver only transport pricing and has increased investment in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan amongst other factors, and further that the summary provide information on expected outcomes and contributions of each investment towards reducing carbon pollution and reducing future costs;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to update the CEAP plan by Q2 to reflect the City of Vancouver's full and complete operating budget and capital spending on direct climate mitigation and adaptation, and all projects that support climate mitigation and adaptation and the plan's big moves, including but not limited to new community facilities such as community centres, libraries, fire halls, retrofits to and rebuilds of community and civic facilities, grey and green sewer and rainwater capture infrastructure (including sewer separation), natural features, biodiversity initiatives, pedestrian pathways and bike lane improvements and expansions (for example improvements on the Granville Street Bridge), new parks and green space, annual tree planting, electrification of City vehicle fleets including fire and police vehicles, organics management and EV charging

infrastructure, in order to capture and communicate the City's full ongoing annual and four-year capital plan investments towards reducing carbon pollution and emissions.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT the following be added to the end of the motion:

FURTHER THAT Council reaffirm its commitment to acting urgently within our jurisdiction to get the Climate Emergency Action Plan back on track to meet our science-based climate targets, in ways that improve health, safety and equity;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back on requiring Multiple Conversion Dwellings to achieve new construction outcomes for heating and hot water;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back on expanding the Passive House incentives for multiplexes.

carried

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During discussion on the amendment, Councillor Carr rose on a point of information to ask for clarification from legal staff to provide Council with an opinion as to whether the carrying of the main motion could be the basis for Item 4 on the agenda, entitled "Climate Action Costs and Benefits (Members' Motion B4)", being ruled out of order.

Councillor Kirby-Yung then rose on a point of order to ask if the point of information was in order as she did not think Council could contemplate future business in terms of Council needing to deal with the item currently on the floor, versus what might potentially happen during a future item.

Following a recess from 11 am to 11:30 am, the Chair advised first on the point of order, and ruled that the point of information was not material to what was on the Council floor. The Chair then requested Council the liberty to allow him to ask the City Manager for a response to the point of information, despite it not being in order. The City Manager then provided a response noting that it is possible that Item 4 could be ruled out of order due to the substance of both motions for Items 1 and 4, but it would not be known until Council approved a motion on Item 1.

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Following the ruling of the Chair and the comments from the City Manager, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09032), with Mayor Sim absent for the vote.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added to the end of the motion:

FURTHER THAT City Council direct staff to:

- a. Prepare an overview to help inform Council's decision-making on the City of Vancouver's 2023 Operating Budget on how much of the operating budget is directly related to climate action, what that funding is used for, and how it benefits the City and residents, including positive impacts on health and air quality and helping avoid or reduce future costs of coping with climate impacts.
- b. Report back by the end of 2023 and thereafter on an annual basis to update Council with a "carbon budget" that more thoroughly presents the current and anticipated costs and benefits of the City's climate emergency action regarding:
 - i. additional repair, replacement or increase of city-owned infrastructure necessitated by the impacts of climate change (i.e., - 3- beyond the costs of meeting the needs of new development and scheduled infrastructure maintenance and replacement related to regular use, wear and tear);
 - ii. likely future climate impacts on Vancouver should the City not take appropriate climate adaptation measures;
 - iii. planned or proposed adaptation or resilience measures required to prepare for future climate impacts, and the extent to which those measures are likely to reduce the costs in b.i and/or b.ii;
 - iv. the results of mitigation measures in terms of actual and expected direct GHG reductions and whether the measures put the City on track to achieve its climate goals;
 - v. the social and economic benefits of the City's climate emergency actions, including for the most vulnerable people in our city;

AND FURTHER THAT City Council direct staff to include in the annual reports recommendations on how to maximize the positive benefits to the City of climate action, including how to better avoid climate costs and minimize the negative impacts of our changing climate.

carried

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During discussion on the amendment, it was

MOVED by Councillor Dominato

THAT Council extend the meeting past noon in order to complete Items 1 and 4.

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote)*

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Following the vote to extend the meeting, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09033). The motion as amended was then put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09034), with Mayor Sim absent for both votes.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

THAT Council receive the Presentation for Item 1, entitled “Presentation: Second Annual Climate Emergency Implementation Update” for information;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back in Q2 on a restatement of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) budget and revised summary of proposed City investments for actions outlined in the CEAP, given that Council has determined not to proceed with Vancouver only transport pricing and has increased investment in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan amongst other factors, and further that the summary provide information on expected outcomes and contributions of each investment towards reducing carbon pollution and reducing future costs;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to update the CEAP plan by Q2 to reflect the City of Vancouver’s full and complete operating budget and capital spending on direct climate mitigation and adaptation, and all projects that support climate mitigation and adaptation and the plan’s big moves, including but not limited to new community facilities such as community centres, libraries, fire halls, retrofits to and rebuilds of community and civic facilities, grey and green sewer and rainwater capture infrastructure (including sewer separation), natural features, biodiversity initiatives, pedestrian pathways and bike lane improvements and expansions (for example improvements on the Granville Street Bridge), new parks and green space, annual tree planting, electrification of City vehicle fleets including fire and police vehicles, organics management and EV charging infrastructure, in order to capture and communicate the City’s full ongoing annual and four-year capital plan investments towards reducing carbon pollution and emissions;

FURTHER THAT Council reaffirm its commitment to acting urgently within our jurisdiction to get the Climate Emergency Action Plan back on track to meet our science-based climate targets, in ways that improve health, safety and equity;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back on requiring Multiple Conversion Dwellings to achieve new construction outcomes for heating and hot water;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to explore and report back on expanding the Passive House incentives for multiplexes;

FURTHER THAT City Council direct staff to:

- a. Prepare an overview to help inform Council’s decision-making on the City of Vancouver’s 2023 Operating Budget on how much of the operating budget is directly related to climate action, what that funding is used for, and how it benefits the City and residents, including positive impacts on health and air quality and helping avoid or reduce future costs of coping with climate impacts.

- b. Report back by the end of 2023 and thereafter on an annual basis to update Council with a “carbon budget” that more thoroughly presents the current and anticipated costs and benefits of the City’s climate emergency action regarding:
 - i. additional repair, replacement or increase of city-owned infrastructure necessitated by the impacts of climate change (i.e., -3- beyond the costs of meeting the needs of new development and scheduled infrastructure maintenance and replacement related to regular use, wear and tear);
 - ii. likely future climate impacts on Vancouver should the City not take appropriate climate adaptation measures;
 - iii. planned or proposed adaptation or resilience measures required to prepare for future climate impacts, and the extent to which those measures are likely to reduce the costs in b.i and/or b.ii;
 - iv. the results of mitigation measures in terms of actual and expected direct GHG reductions and whether the measures put the City on track to achieve its climate goals;
 - v. the social and economic benefits of the City’s climate emergency actions, including for the most vulnerable people in our city;

AND FURTHER THAT City Council direct staff to include in the annual reports recommendations on how to maximize the positive benefits to the City of climate action, including how to better avoid climate costs and minimize the negative impacts of our changing climate.

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VARY AGENDA

At this point in the proceedings, it was

MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT Council vary the order of the agenda in order to deal with Item 4 next.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote)**

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

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4. Climate Action Costs and Benefits (Members’ Motion B4)

At the Council meeting on February 14, 2023, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 15, 2023, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

MOVED by Councillor Carr
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT the Motion entitled “Climate Action Costs and Benefits (Members’ Motion B4), be withdrawn from the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote)

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The Committee recessed at 11:58 am and reconvened at 2:31 pm.

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**2. A Climate Justice Charter for Vancouver
January 16, 2023**

Brad Badelt, Director of Sustainability, Planning Urban Design and Sustainability, along with Cathy Pasion, Climate Adaptation and Equity Manager, Sustainability Group, and members from the Climate Equity Working Group provided a presentation and responded to questions.

The Committee heard from five speakers, four who spoke in support of the recommendations and one who spoke about other aspects of the report.

MOVED by Councillor Boyle
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council receive *A Climate Justice Charter for Vancouver*, attached as Appendix A, written by the Climate Equity Working Group and direct staff to rely on the Climate Justice Charter to guide staff’s approach to climate work.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back on progress related to the Climate Justice Charter in the Climate Emergency Action Plan annual report and include an analysis of equity impacts in climate-related reports.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Klassen

THAT A be amended by striking the words “and direct staff to rely on the Climate Justice Charter to guide staff’s approach to climate work”;

FURTHER THAT B be struck and substituted with the following:

- B. THAT Council direct staff to apply an equity lens and the City’s Equity Framework to climate strategy and initiatives.

carried

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During discussion on the above amendment, Councillor Bligh rose on a point of order, under section 6.1 (b) of the Procedure By-law, noting Councillor Fry was making an allegation that directly or indirectly reflects negatively upon a group. The Chair agreed and cautioned Councillor Fry.

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Following the ruling of the Chair, the amendment was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 09036) With Councillors Boyle, Carr and Fry opposed. The motion as amended was then put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09037) with Councillors Carr and Fry abstaining from the vote.

FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

- A. THAT Council receive *A Climate Justice Charter for Vancouver*, attached as Appendix A to the Report dated January 16, 2023, entitled "A Climate Justice Charter for Vancouver", written by the Climate Equity Working Group.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to apply an equity lens and the City's Equity Framework to climate strategy and initiatives.

3. Repealing Vancouver's Single-Use Beverage Cup Fee (Members' Motion B3)

At the Council meeting on February 14, 2023, Council referred the above-noted motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 15, 2023, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

The Committee heard from 11 speakers, three who spoke in support of the recommendations and eight who spoke in opposition.

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During the hearing of speakers, it was

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Council extend the meeting past 5 pm in order to complete Item 3.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

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MOVED by Councillor Bligh
THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. On January 1, 2022, the minimum fee of \$0.25 for each single-use beverage cup distributed under the City's By-laws came into effect (i.e., License By-law No. 4450 and Ticket Offences By-law No. 9360);
2. In the days following the January 1, 2022, implementation of the \$0.25 fee on single-use beverage cups, numerous unintended consequences and publicly-identified concerns became apparent almost immediately and were widely reported in the media and on social media. Not the least of these were the equity impacts that the new fee was having on the most vulnerable persons in our community;
3. On January 25, 2022, in the wake of the single-use beverage cup fee implementation on January 1, 2022, Council unanimously directed staff to report back – on an urgent basis – by or before March 15, 2022, in order to provide Council with a better understanding of the known facts and experiences to date relative to the \$0.25 single-use beverage cup fee;
4. At the March 2, 2022, Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities, staff reported back to Council (i.e., Agenda Item 1: *Revisiting the City's Single-Use Beverage Cup Fee Policy*), with a number of recommendations including exempting drinks “provided at no cost to the customer from the cup fee requirement,” such as free drink vouchers and monetary gift vouchers, developing low barrier cup-share programs that can be accessed by people experiencing poverty or living with low incomes, and approving, in principle, by-law amendments that require food vendors to accept a customer's reusable cup for in-store orders;
5. The ongoing experience and feedback regarding the City's \$0.25 single-use beverage cup fee clearly indicates that the policy has not been effective in accomplishing its intended objectives (i.e., to change consumer behaviour, reduce the use of single-use beverage cups that ultimately end up in the landfill, and encourage people to switch to reusable cups);
6. Single-use beverage cups are recyclable and they are included in residential blue bin programs, including the City of Vancouver's blue bin program. Once the recycled cups arrive at an end processor, they are shredded and washed and the plastic component separated from the fibre component. The recaptured fibre is a valuable resource;
7. The City has a Vancouver Zero Waste Centre located at 8588 Yukon Street that accepts Printed paper, Paper packaging, Cardboard boxes, Plastic containers, Metal containers, Cartons and paper cups, Glass bottles and jars, Foam packaging, Plastic bags and overwrap, Other Flexible Plastic Packaging;

8. Likewise, Recycle BC has a network of depots across BC where residents can drop off packaging and paper free of charge. Most depots accept all materials including paper, packaging, cardboard boxes, plastic containers, metal containers, cartons and paper cups, non-deposit glass bottles and jars, foam packaging, plastic bags and overwrap, and other flexible plastic packaging;
9. Subsequent to the implementation of the City's \$0.25 fee on single-use beverage cups, Return-It and several companies such as Tim Hortons and Starbucks (with involvement by City) initiated a pilot project to reduce single-use cup waste – see: *Reusable and Single-Use Cup Recycling Pilot* (<https://www.return-it.ca/cups>);
10. Similarly, the Bidders' Project, as an example, hosts an annual *Coffee Cup Revolution* event to demonstrate what a coffee cup refund system could achieve, as well as to open the dialogue around how binning can support green communities, and vice versa. *Coffee Cup Revolution* participants exchange tens of thousands of cups during the event for a 10¢ refund. Since the start of the Coffee Cup Revolution, bidders in Vancouver have reportedly collected nearly 400,000 coffee cups by way of these annual events;
11. The City remains committed to reducing waste and litter from single-use items as we work toward becoming a zero waste community by 2040, including reducing the use of single-use beverage cups that otherwise end up in the landfill as well as encouraging people to switch to reusable cups as an alternative;
12. Given the overwhelmingly clear, unambiguous evidence that has accumulated over the past year since the introduction of the City's \$0.25 single-use beverage cup fee, notably its failure to change consumer behaviour in the manner intended, it is incumbent upon Council to explore other policy options and pathways in order to achieve the desired and intended waste reduction outcomes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to prepare amendments to the License By-law No. 4450 and the Ticket Offences By-law No. 9360 to repeal those sections enacted by Council on January 21, 2020, relating to single-use beverage cups, including any relevant by-law amendments enacted concurrently and/or subsequently, at the earliest possible date but no later than June 1, 2023;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to Council by 2023 Q4 with policy recommendations and alternative pathways that can effectively, efficiently, and measurably achieve the waste reduction and behaviour change outcomes anticipated in the implementation of the \$0.25 single-use beverage cup fee, including recycling options and initiatives;

AND FURTHER THAT Council resolve to work with provincial and federal counterparts to facilitate and enable prompt, coordinated action on single-use items toward comprehensive regional, provincial, and national strategies and actions.

carried

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Following the amendment below being put on the floor of Council, Mayor Sim rose to declare a conflict of interest on this item, out of an abundance of caution, as he has a company that uses single use beverage cups. He left the meeting at 5:48 pm and did not return for the remainder of the meeting.

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AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added as the second clause:

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to prepare amendments to the License By-law No. 4450 as necessary to require food vendors to itemize and identify the cost of single-use beverage cup(s) distributed to a customer, and to provide a discount to customers who bring their own cup(s).

LOST (Vote No. 09038)
(Councillors Bligh, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)
(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT the following be added at the end of the second clause:

“and specifically with options to re-initiate and fund a biner program (like the Coffee Cup Revolution) to collect and redeem some of Vancouver’s estimated 80 million annually discarded single use cups.”

LOST (Vote No. 09039)
(Councillors Bligh, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)
(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry

THAT, in the first clause, the words “but no later than June 1, 2023” be struck, and the words “pending scheduled staff report back by September 2023” be inserted.

LOST (Vote No. 09040)
(Councillors Bligh, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)
(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)
(Mayor Sim absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr

THAT, in the second clause, the word “alternative” be struck;

FURTHER THAT, in the second clause, the word “help” be inserted between the words “measurably” and “achieve”.

LOST (Vote No. 09041)

(Councillors Bligh, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)

(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)

(Mayor Sim absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

The amendments having lost, Council agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion. The first clause was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 09042) with Councillors Boyle, Carr and Fry opposed. The second clause was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09043), with Councillor Fry abstaining from the vote. The third clause was then put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09044), with Councillor Dominato absent for the votes, and Mayor Sim absent for the votes due to conflict of interest.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle

THAT Whereas clause 12 be struck.

LOST (Vote No. 09045)

(Councillors Bligh, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)

(Councillor Dominato absent for the vote)

(Mayor Sim absent for the vote due to conflict of interest)

The Committee adjourned at 6:39 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON
POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 6:40 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

PRESENT: Councillor Adriane Carr, Acting Mayor
Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Lisa Dominato
Councillor Pete Fry
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Councillor Mike Klassen
Councillor Peter Meiszner
Councillor Brian Montague
Councillor Lenny Zhou

ABSENT: Mayor Ken Sim

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE: Paul Mochrie, City Manager

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tina Penney, Deputy City Clerk
Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities. Its items of business included:

1. Presentation: Second Annual Climate Emergency Implementation Update
2. A Climate Justice Charter for Vancouver
3. Repealing Vancouver's Single-Use Beverage Cup Fee (Members' Motion B3)
4. Climate Action Costs and Benefits (Members' Motion B4)

Items 1 to 4

MOVED by Councillor Meiszner
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of February 15, 2023, as contained in items 1 to 4, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor Klassen
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 6:41 pm.

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