



**REPORT TO COUNCIL  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**MAY 31, 2023**

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 9:31 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 am to 2 pm)  
Councillor Rebecca Bligh\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business – 9:30 am to 1 pm)  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Lisa Dominato\*  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen, Vice Chair\*  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

**ABSENT:** Councillor Christine Boyle (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons)

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Olivia Kam, 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**

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Council adopt Reports 1 and 3, on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. 2023 Transportation & Public Space Directors' Update**

Staff from Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During questions to staff, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen*

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\* \* \* \* \*

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates May 2, 2023**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, an increase to the rates and fees that tow truck operators are authorized to charge for vehicles and other chattels impounded from public and private property under the Impounding By-law No. 3519 and the Vehicles for Hire By-law No. 6066 as discussed in the Report dated May 2, 2023, entitled “Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates” and as shown in appendices A and B of the same report.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, an increase to the fuel surcharge that tow truck operators are authorized to charge on tow rates for vehicles and other chattels impounded from public and private property under the Impounding By-law No. 3519 and the Vehicles for Hire By-law No. 6066, as discussed in the Report dated May 2, 2023, entitled “Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for

Hire By-laws – Towing Rates” and as shown in Appendices A and B of the same report.

- C. THAT Council approve, in principle, the repeal of Impounding By-law No. 3519 and the enactment of a new Impounding By-law, as discussed in the Report dated May 2, 2023, entitled “Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates” and outlined in Appendix B of the same report.
- D. THAT, Council approve, in principle, an amendment to the Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849, as discussed in the Report dated May 2, 2023, entitled “Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates” and outlined in Appendix C of the same report.
- E. THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to prepare and bring forward for enactment amendments to the Impounding By-law No. 3519 and Vehicles for Hire by-law No. 6066 as generally outlined in Appendices A and B of the Report dated May 2, 2023, entitled “Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates”.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09302)

## **2. Water Works & Drinking Water Conservation By-law Amendments May 5, 2023**

Staff from Engineering Services introduced the item and, along with Staff from Parks and Recreation, responded to questions.

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Water Works By-law (No. 4848) to reflect Council direction on April 26, 2023 pertaining to the exception of specific Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation water features or fountains from recirculation requirements until such time that they can be retrofitted to recirculating;  
  
FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment the necessary amending by-law generally in accordance with Appendix A of the Report dated May 5, 2023, entitled “Water Works & Drinking Water Conservation By-law Amendments”.
- B. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Drinking Water Conservation By-law (No. 12086) to reflect Council direction on April 26, 2023 pertaining to the exception of specific Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation water features or fountains from recirculation requirements until such time that

they can be retrofitted to recirculating;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment the necessary amending by-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the Report dated May 5, 2023, entitled "Water Works & Drinking Water Conservation By-law Amendments".

CARRIED (Vote No. 09297)  
(Councillors Carr and Fry opposed)

**3. Proposed Fire By-law Amendments for Notice Delivery  
March 28, 2023**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the Fire By-law that alter administrative provisions of the By-law generally as set out in Appendix D of the Report dated March 28, 2023, entitled "Proposed Fire By-law Amendments for Notice Delivery".
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment by Council a by-law as generally set out in Appendix D of the Report dated March 28, 2023, entitled "Proposed Fire By-law Amendments for Notice Delivery".

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09303)

**4. Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts  
May 12, 2023**

The Committee heard from one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the report.

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve capital budget and funding adjustments as outlined in the Report dated May 12, 2023, entitled "Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts" and Appendix C of the same report, which will result in:
  - a. An increase of \$3.2 million to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan; and
  - b. An increase of \$31.0 million to the Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets.
- B. THAT, as part of the Capital Budget closeout process, Council approve the closeout of 3 capital projects that were completed with surplus/deficit exceeding \$0.2 million, as outlined in the Report dated May 12, 2023, entitled "Quarterly

Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts” and Appendix D of the same report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09298)

**5. Council Resolution – Supervised Consumption Spaces  
May 1, 2023**

\* \* \* \* \*

*At the beginning of the item, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

*THAT the meeting extend past noon to conclude hearing from speakers for report 5.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

\* \* \* \* \*

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the recommendations.

\* \* \* \* \*

*After hearing from speakers, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

*THAT the meeting extend past noon in order to complete report 5.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

\* \* \* \* \*

*MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato*

**THAT the Committee recommend to Council**

**THAT Council adopt the resolution attached to the Report dated May 1, 2023, entitled “Council Resolution – Supervised Consumption Spaces” as Appendix A, not to enforce for a period of two years, Section 2 requirements of the Health By-law that prohibit indoor smoking, at supervised consumption sites that have Health Canada approval for indoor inhalation services, and meet applicable WorkSafe BC requirements.**

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT the words “and have received the approval of the Medical Health Officer.”, be added to the end of the paragraph.

amended

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the word “approval” be struck and replaced with “advice”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09299)

The amendment to the amendment having carried, the amended amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09300). The amended motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09301).

#### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

THAT Council adopt the resolution attached to this report as Appendix A, not to enforce for a period of two years, Section 2 requirements of the Health By-law that prohibit indoor smoking, at supervised consumption sites that have Health Canada approval for indoor inhalation services, and meet applicable WorkSafe BC requirements and have received the advice of the Medical Health Officer.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 12:14 pm and reconvened at 3:49 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

##### **A1. Requests for Leaves of Absence**

MOVED by Mayor Sim  
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT Councillor Bligh be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on June 14, July 12, September 13, October 4 and October 18, 2023, from 9:30 am to 1 pm;

FURTHER THAT Councillor Fry be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on June 1, 2023, from 3 pm onwards and June 15, 2023, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## A2. Ensuring Healthier Climate-Smart Homes

The Committee heard from four speakers in support of the recommendations, and ten speakers in opposition.

MOVED by Councillor Carr

SECONDED by Councillor Fry

### WHEREAS

1. The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2023 Update for Policymakers* report states that: “Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases have unequivocally caused global warming with global surface temperature reaching 1.1 degrees C above 1850-1900. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Increasing weather and climate extreme events have exposed millions of people to acute food insecurity and reduced water security. Impacts on some ecosystems are approaching irreversibility. In all regions increases in extreme heat events have resulted in human mortality and morbidity. In urban areas, observed climate change has caused adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure”;<sup>1</sup>
2. At least 25% of today’s global warming is driven by methane from human actions. Pipeline-grade natural gas suitable for residential consumers is over 90 percent methane. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere and 28 times greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide on a 100-year timescale;
3. Evidence is also clear that the use of gas fireplaces and gas stoves, which burn methane, not only contribute to global warming, but pose health risks, including increased rates of asthma in children;<sup>2</sup>
4. The Province of BC recently enabled local governments to establish GHG limits for new buildings by creating the BC Zero Carbon Step Code, adding it to the BC Building Code on May 1, 2023;
5. The director of the Zero Emissions Building Exchange (ZEBx), an industry hub that is strengthening capacities for zero-emission buildings, has stated, “It is without a doubt, more than possible to require almost all new buildings to meet the highest level of the Zero Carbon Step Code today,” and that current trends indicate that “climate-friendly and all-electric buildings will be able to be constructed for less than what it would have cost had gas-fired equipment been used”;<sup>3</sup>
6. BC local governments such as Victoria, Saanich, and Burnaby have already adopted, or are in the process of adopting, the highest step of the Zero Carbon Step Code (“Zero carbon Performance”);

7. Vancouver's Building Bylaw effectively prohibits the use of gas for space and hot water in new buildings but still allows gas infrastructure connections for uses such as gas stoves and gas fireplaces in new homes (equivalent to the "Strong Carbon Performance" step of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code); and
8. Given Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada's commitments to being net zero carbon by 2050, and climate scientists' call to immediately transition away from fossil fuels, it makes no sense to allow building of new fossil fuel gas infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council direct staff to:

- i. Report back to Council as soon as possible on a plan to update the Vancouver Building Bylaw (VBBL) for new residential buildings, expanding the requirement of zero emission space and water heating in new residential buildings to include no gas hooks-ups for any purpose including cooking and fireplaces to align the VBBL with the Zero Carbon Performance step of the BC Zero Carbon Building Step Code.
- ii. Include in future reports, policies and timelines related to zero emission retrofits of existing buildings, requirements to phase out as quickly as possible the use of gas for cooking and fireplaces.

amended

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*At this point in the proceedings, it was*

*MOVED by Mayor Sim  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

*THAT the meeting extend past 5 pm to complete all business.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Montague

THAT in i the words "expanding the requirement of zero emission space and water heating in new residential buildings to include no gas hooks-ups for any purpose including cooking and fireplaces to align the VBBL with the Zero Carbon Performance step of the BC Zero Carbon Building Step Code." be struck and replaced with the words "to adopt the recently announced top step of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code to align with the Provincial Government, Metro Vancouver, and other local government leadership in BC."



FURTHER THAT ii be struck and replaced with the following:

FURTHER THAT consideration be given in the plan to equity impacts that may unintentionally and unfairly affect the city's cultural and equity-denied groups.

CARRIED (Vote. 09304)  
(Councillors Carr and Fry opposed)  
(Councillors Dominato and Klassen absent for the vote)

The amendment having carried, the amended motion was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 09305) with Councillors Carr and Fry opposed and Councillors Dominato and Klassen absent for the vote.

## FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED

### WHEREAS

1. The *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2023 Update for Policymakers* report states that: "Human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases have unequivocally caused global warming with global surface temperature reaching 1.1 degrees C above 1850-1900. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred. Increasing weather and climate extreme events have exposed millions of people to acute food insecurity and reduced water security. Impacts on some ecosystems are approaching irreversibility. In all regions increases in extreme heat events have resulted in human mortality and morbidity. In urban areas, observed climate change has caused adverse impacts on human health, livelihoods and key infrastructure";<sup>1</sup>
2. At least 25% of today's global warming is driven by methane from human actions. Pipeline-grade natural gas suitable for residential consumers is over 90 percent methane. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere and 28 times greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide on a 100-year timescale;
3. Evidence is also clear that the use of gas fireplaces and gas stoves, which burn methane, not only contribute to global warming, but pose health risks, including increased rates of asthma in children;<sup>2</sup>
4. The Province of BC recently enabled local governments to establish GHG limits for new buildings by creating the BC Zero Carbon Step Code, adding it to the BC Building Code on May 1, 2023;
5. The director of the Zero Emissions Building Exchange (ZEBx), an industry hub that is strengthening capacities for zero-emission buildings, has stated, "It is without a doubt, more than possible to require almost all new buildings to meet the highest level of the Zero Carbon Step Code today," and that current trends indicate that "climate-friendly and all-electric buildings will be able to be

constructed for less than what it would have cost had gas-fired equipment been used”;<sup>3</sup>

6. BC local governments such as Victoria, Saanich, and Burnaby have already adopted, or are in the process of adopting, the highest step of the Zero Carbon Step Code (“Zero carbon Performance”);
7. Vancouver’s Building Bylaw effectively prohibits the use of gas for space and hot water in new buildings but still allows gas infrastructure connections for uses such as gas stoves and gas fireplaces in new homes (equivalent to the “Strong Carbon Performance” step of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code); and
8. Given Vancouver, British Columbia and Canada’s commitments to being net zero carbon by 2050, and climate scientists’ call to immediately transition away from fossil fuels, it makes no sense to allow building of new fossil fuel gas infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council direct staff to report back to Council as soon as possible on a plan to update the Vancouver Building Bylaw (VBBL) for new residential buildings to adopt the recently announced top step of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code to align with the Provincial Government, Metro Vancouver, and other local government leadership in BC;

FURTHER THAT consideration be given in the plan to equity impacts that may unintentionally and unfairly affect the city’s cultural and equity-denied groups.

<sup>1</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2023 Summary for Policymakers

<sup>2</sup> After seeing how gas stoves pollute homes, these researchers are ditching theirs  
By: Emily Chung, CBC News, April 7, 2022

<sup>3</sup> ‘Long overdue’: B.C. introducing new powers to limit emissions of new buildings  
By: Jake Romphf, Today in BC, April 4, 2023

<sup>4</sup> World is on brink of catastrophic warming, U.N. climate change  
By: Sarah Kaplan, The Washington Post, March 20, 2023

The Committee adjourned at 5:18 pm.

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

**MAY 31, 2023**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 5:18 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:** Mayor Ken Sim  
Councillor Rebecca Bligh  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

**ABSENT:** Councillor Christine Boyle (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons)  
Councillor Lisa Dominato (Leave of Absence – Personal Reasons)

**CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE:** Paul Mochrie, City Manager

**CITY CLERK’S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Olivia Kam, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, May 31, 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:

Reports:

1. Amendments to Impounding and Vehicles for Hire By-laws – Towing Rates
2. Water Works & Drinking Water Conservation By-law Amendments
3. Proposed Fire By-law Amendments for Notice Delivery
4. Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts
5. Council Resolution – Supervised Consumption Spaces

Council Members' Motions:

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence
2. Ensuring Healthier Climate-Smart Homes

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of May 31, 2023, as contained in Reports 1 to 5, and Members' Motions 1 and 2, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 5:20 pm.

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