



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON POLICY AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

JANUARY 22, 2025

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 9:33 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened in person and via electronic means as authorized under the Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Meiszner, Chair  
Mayor Ken Sim  
Councillor Rebecca Bligh  
Councillor Lisa Dominato, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies  
Rowena Choi, Meeting Coordinator

### 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.

### PROCLAMATION - Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

The Mayor proclaimed January 29th as the Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia in the City of Vancouver, and invited the General Secretary of the Vancouver Islamic Center, and the Director of the Al Masjid Al Jamia Mosque to the podium to accept the proclamation and share remarks on behalf of the Muslim community.

## **PROCLAMATION - Lunar New Year 2025 – Year of the Snake**

The Mayor proclaimed January 29 to February 4, 2025 as Lunar New Year Week in the City of Vancouver, and invited leaders from Vancouver’s Chinese communities to the podium to accept the proclamation and share remarks on behalf of the local Chinese community.

## **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

MOVED by Councillor Bligh  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council adopt Reports 1 and 3 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Contract Award for Tree Removal and Associated Services in Stanley Park December 19, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the Report dated December 19, 2024, entitled “Contract Award for Tree Removal and Associated Services in Stanley Park,” for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10483)

### **2. Contract Award for Consulting Services for City of Vancouver False Creek South Landowner’s Conceptual Development Plan December 20, 2024**

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager, responded to questions.

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

MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for Consulting Services for the City of Vancouver’s False Creek South Landowner’s Conceptual Development Plan with Arup Canada Inc. for an estimated total contract value of \$4,000,000 over the initial 2-year term and the possible 1-year unilateral extension term (the “Agreement”), which will be funded from the Property Endowment Fund Capital budget.

- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute the Agreement to the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and Deputy City Manager.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's approval of A and B above unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10479)

**3. Change Order for Consulting Services for ServiceNow Resources Augmentation December 20, 2024**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council receive the Report dated December 20, 2024, entitled "Change Order for Consulting Services for ServiceNow Resources Augmentation", for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 10484)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**1. Effective Water Use in the City of Vancouver**

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

MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Residents rely upon core infrastructure including water to support day-to-day life and livability;
2. While water availability and shortages may not be top of mind for Vancouverites given our beautiful natural surroundings, water is a precious resource; and with increasing extreme weather events and climate change, we may experience shortages;
3. Paradoxically, recent atmospheric river events and the impacts on stormwater/rainwater overflow underscore the importance of conservation with the need to balance rainfall management, just as heat domes do. Water metering is essential to reduce flow and volumes, and to rainwater management in our city;
4. Water meters are used to measure water usage. Most are installed on the water services that connect and supply water to buildings. Currently in the City of Vancouver, water meters are required to be installed into:

- i. All newly built single and dual family homes;
  - ii. Existing residences that are being renovated or rebuilt;
5. There are opportunities to advance and expedite current plans to achieve greater adoption of water meters in Vancouver, as there are currently no requirements or incentives to install water meters in existing residences that make up the majority of homes in the city;
6. Affordability and rapidly increasing utility costs continue to plague residents. With water metering, the philosophy is that you only pay for what you use, and when you pay for it, people are more conscious of how much they consume;
7. Vancouver and the region are facing significant demands from aging infrastructure, as well as the need to support population growth and new residents. Water metering has financial benefits for infrastructure management (given that systems are designed for 2.5 times use), as well as environmental benefits. It costs Vancouver more than \$100 million annually to purchase bulk water from Metro Vancouver. The 2025 Annual Review of Water Rates and Water Works Bylaw Report (RTS #16422) indicates that the Water Purchase expenditure for Vancouver from the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) was \$100.3 million in 2024 and is anticipated to be \$107.5 million in 2025;
8. Currently water metering policy is squarely municipal jurisdiction, so the onus is on cities to advance their own water usage policies. Metro Vancouver may make recommendations to member municipalities but cannot mandate usage or regulate. That said, there is benefit in regional collaboration given Metro's role in the provision of major infrastructure, in order to achieve harmonization and greater impact;
9. Vancouver is behind other municipalities in the region. For example, in Richmond all single-family homes have been fully metered since 2018, and West Vancouver, Langley and Surrey are also metered. Burnaby residents in single and two-family homes will soon be getting water meters to track their water consumption – eventually leading to a pay-for-use water billing model in 2027; and
10. Water meters are a fair and equitable way of charging residents for water and will reduce the overall water consumption throughout the city. Water metering encourages conservation by giving residents and businesses direct feedback on their consumption, which leads to a reduction in overall water demand.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by the end of April 2025 on opportunities to reduce water usage and increase the installation of water meters throughout Vancouver, including policy options for existing single, multi-family, rental, mixed-use strata and commercial buildings, potential timelines, analysis of financial benefits to the City as well as to residents, and opportunities to encourage adoption;

FURTHER THAT the report back includes any projected capital costs to be borne by the City to install water meters across Vancouver as a consideration for the 2027-2030 capital plan, and any opportunity to initiate a water metering program within the current capital plan.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to engage with Metro Vancouver on its current water infrastructure plans and initiatives as may be beneficial to help inform this work.

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Bligh

THAT in the first paragraph of A, the words “pools, decorative water fountains and features including city-owned assets and parks,” be inserted after the word “buildings”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10480)

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*Following the vote on the amendment, Chair Meiszner relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Dominato in order to provide comments and resumed the Chair once done.*

\* \* \* \* \*

The amendment having carried unanimously, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10481).

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

WHEREAS

1. Residents rely upon core infrastructure including water to support day-to-day life and livability;
2. While water availability and shortages may not be top of mind for Vancouverites given our beautiful natural surroundings, water is a precious resource; and with increasing extreme weather events and climate change, we may experience shortages;
3. Paradoxically, recent atmospheric river events and the impacts on stormwater/rainwater overflow underscore the importance of conservation with the need to balance rainfall management, just as heat domes do. Water metering is essential to reduce flow and volumes, and to rainwater management in our city;
4. Water meters are used to measure water usage. Most are installed on the water services that connect and supply water to buildings. Currently in the City of Vancouver, water meters are required to be installed into:
  - i. All newly built single and dual family homes;

- ii. Existing residences that are being renovated or rebuilt;
5. There are opportunities to advance and expedite current plans to achieve greater adoption of water meters in Vancouver, as there are currently no requirements or incentives to install water meters in existing residences that make up the majority of homes in the city;
6. Affordability and rapidly increasing utility costs continue to plague residents. With water metering, the philosophy is that you only pay for what you use, and when you pay for it, people are more conscious of how much they consume;
7. Vancouver and the region are facing significant demands from aging infrastructure, as well as the need to support population growth and new residents. Water metering has financial benefits for infrastructure management (given that systems are designed for 2.5 times use), as well as environmental benefits. It costs Vancouver more than \$100 million annually to purchase bulk water from Metro Vancouver. The 2025 Annual Review of Water Rates and Water Works Bylaw Report (RTS #16422) indicates that the Water Purchase expenditure for Vancouver from the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) was \$100.3 million in 2024 and is anticipated to be \$107.5 million in 2025;
8. Currently water metering policy is squarely municipal jurisdiction, so the onus is on cities to advance their own water usage policies. Metro Vancouver may make recommendations to member municipalities but cannot mandate usage or regulate. That said, there is benefit in regional collaboration given Metro's role in the provision of major infrastructure, in order to achieve harmonization and greater impact;
9. Vancouver is behind other municipalities in the region. For example, in Richmond all single-family homes have been fully metered since 2018, and West Vancouver, Langley and Surrey are also metered. Burnaby residents in single and two-family homes will soon be getting water meters to track their water consumption – eventually leading to a pay-for-use water billing model in 2027; and
10. Water meters are a fair and equitable way of charging residents for water and will reduce the overall water consumption throughout the city. Water metering encourages conservation by giving residents and businesses direct feedback on their consumption, which leads to a reduction in overall water demand.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by the end of April 2025 on opportunities to reduce water usage and increase the installation of water meters throughout Vancouver, including policy options for existing single, multi-family, rental, mixed-use strata and commercial buildings, pools, decorative water fountains and features including city-owned assets and parks, potential timelines, analysis of financial benefits to the City as well as to residents, and opportunities to encourage adoption;

FURTHER THAT the report back includes any projected capital costs to be borne by the City to install water meters across Vancouver as a consideration for the 2027-2030 capital plan, and any opportunity to initiate a water metering program within the current capital plan.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to engage with Metro Vancouver on its current water infrastructure plans and initiatives as may be beneficial to help inform this work.

## 2. Change to Acting Mayor Roster 2025

MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. Council approved the 2024 Acting Mayor Roster at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on October 23, 2024;
2. Councillor Montague was approved as Acting Mayor for the month of July 2025;
3. Councillor Klassen was approved as Acting Mayor for the month of October 2025; and
4. Both Councillor Montague and Councillor Klassen agree to switch their respective months as Acting Mayor.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following updates to the roster for Acting Mayors are made in accordance with section 209 of the *Vancouver Charter* for the terms indicated below:

- 2025 July – Councillor Klassen; and
- 2025 October – Councillor Montague.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 10482)

The Committee adjourned at 10:47 am.

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

**JANUARY 22, 2025**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10:48 am, 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 Sim  
Councillor Rebecca Bligh  
Councillor Lisa Dominato  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

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

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk  
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies  
Rowena Choi, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

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. Contract Award for Tree Removal and Associated Services in Stanley Park
2. Contract Award for Consulting Services for City of Vancouver False Creek South Landowner's Conceptual Development Plan
3. Change Order for Consulting Services for ServiceNow Resources Augmentation

Council Members' Motions:

1. Effective Water Use in the City of Vancouver
2. Change to Acting Mayor Roster 2025



MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities at its meeting of January 22, 2025, as contained in Reports 1 through 3 and Council Members' Motion 1 and 2, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Montague  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council adjourned at 10:49 am.

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