

## Special Meeting of White Rock City Council

### Minutes



July 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

PRESENT: Mayor Walker  
Councillor Chesney  
Councillor Fathers  
Councillor Johanson  
Councillor Kristjanson (entered at 4:05 p.m.)  
Councillor Manning  
Councillor Trevelyan

STAFF: Jim Gordon, Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations  
Carl Isaak, Director of Planning and Development Services  
Shannon Johnston, Manager, Budgets and Accounting  
Eric Stepura, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief  
Debbie Johnstone, Deputy Corporate Officer  
Donna Kell, Manager of Communications and Government Relations  
Chloe Richards, Committee Clerk

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#### 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

#### 2. **MOTION TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

**Motion Number: 2021-252...It was MOVED and SECONDED**

WHEREAS COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic;

WHEREAS the City of White Rock has been able to continue to provide the public access to the meetings through live streaming;

WHEREAS holding public meetings in the City Hall Council Chambers, where all the audio/video equipment has been set up for the live streaming program, would not be possible without breaching physical distancing restrictions due to its size, and holding public meetings at the White Rock Community Centre would cause further financial impact to City Operations due to staffing resources and not enable live streaming;

WHEREAS Ministerial Orders require an adopted motion in order to hold public meetings electronically, without members of the public present in person at the meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the City of White Rock to hold the July 12, 2021 Special Council meeting to be video streamed and available on the City's website, and without the public present in the Council Chambers.

Absent (1): Councillor Kristjanson

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion Number: 2021-253 It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Corporation of the City of White Rock Council adopt the agenda for its special meeting scheduled for July 12, 2021, as circulated.

Absent (1): Councillor Kristjanson

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 0)**

**4. TEMPORARY ONE LANE CLOSURE ON MARINE DRIVE AND IMPACT ON THE WEST BEACH BUSINESSES**

Council present this as an opportunity to hear from the businesses of West Beach along Marine Drive. With the temporary one lane closure on Marine Drive to expand patio space, Council encourage the business owners/ operators to call into the meeting and share their experiences with the temporary one lane closure.

1. The Deputy Corporate Officer noted the following "On-Table" correspondence:

- There were **Eighteen (18)** pieces of correspondence forwarded to Council and placed on the City website that responded to a request for

submissions. Two (2) of these submissions were petitions, one (1) with a total of 32 responses, and the other with a total of 990 signatures (18 from West Beach Businesses).

2) The Mayor asked for Phone in Submissions to now begin:

- White Rock Boathouse Restaurant - 14925 Marine Drive White Rock, not in support of the temporary lane closure, noted impacts on transit makes it more challenging for employees to get to and from work.
- S. Preddy, Little Odies Mini Donut (Memorial Plaza), not in support, stating they have noticed a significant decrease in sales/ foot traffic. With indoor dining returning back to normal would make sense for two-way traffic to resume. Noted while the closure has been successful for some, it is not for all businesses.

Councillor Kristjanson entered the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

- G. Knight, Le Sasquatch, 150675 Marine Drive, supportive of the one-way closure, noted that they had obtained a patio licence through the City and have hired additional staff for increased business thinking the closure would be in place until September. Sales have increased during this time and would like to see the project continue. For businesses on West Beach who have invested in this project it has created more business and should be permitted to stay. It was also noted that one-way traffic reduces speeds along Marine Drive and adds to safety in the area for kids and families.
- FIVE Kitchen & Raw Oyster Bar - 15047 Marine Drive, supportive of the one-way closure, would like this to stay in place until September. For smaller restaurants on Marine Drive any outdoor patio seating is desirable, which helps business.
- S. McQuade, Primos Mexican Grill – 15069 Marine Drive, supportive of the one way closure, noted this pilot project has helped businesses and has created new life on Marine Drive. Stated that businesses have suffered on Marine Drive in the past from the pandemic, construction and the loss of the Pier. This is a project that – for those who have chose to invest in the project – has paid off. Would like to see this extended to September, and for Council to look at other ways to address issues with the closure, such as additional signage for the parkade and more communication on the closure.
- R. Khanna, SSWR Chamber of Commerce, noted she has received mixed reviews on the one-lane closure; however, the City has made a decision and businesses have put investments into the initiative, which would be pre-

mature to end now. Looking into ways to assist those businesses who are still struggling was encouraged – improve the permitting process and better communication.

- Bella's Miracle Shop 14841/ 14877 Marine Drive, in support of keeping the one-way lane closure for Marine Drive. Her husband, however, is not in support – would like things returned back to two-way traffic.
- A. Valtri, The Ocean Beach, 14995 Marine Drive, not in support of the one-way closure, spoke of concerns with traffic on Marine Drive. With indoor dining allowed for up to 50 people finding staff can be challenging, let alone for additional tables on the Street. Losses for East Beach businesses are concerning, and having only some restaurants benefit from this pilot project does not seem fair.
- G. Wait, Jan's on the Beach Restaurant, 14989 Marine Drive, in support of the one-way closure, noting that this has worked well for their restaurant and has been good for business to have additional outdoor tables.
- A. Hansen, Charlie Don't Surf - 15011 Marine Drive – in support of the one-way closure, noted that business is up about 25%. Concerns if this does not go ahead there would be lay offs and/ or having to cut hours for staff. Making Marine Drive pedestrian friendly is a good idea to increase foot traffic in the area. With respect to traffic, it was noted that there were concerns this could create gridlock, but traffic has always been an issue on Marine Drive.

At 4:32 p.m. the Mayor noted that Council appreciated those who have taken the time to participate by providing feedback from West Beach Businesses.

## **5. DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL IN REGARD TO THE TEMPORARY ONE LANE CLOSURE ON MARINE DRIVE**

After hearing from both West and East Beach business owners/ operators, Council discussed the temporary one lane closure on Marine Drive.

The following discussion points were noted:

- Cost to date for the barricades is \$195,000. If this project were to continue to September, the approximate cost would be \$250,000.
- Staff has been keeping in contact with the contractor, and it has been noted that the earliest they would be able to remove the barricades would be early August. Following that it would take another one (1) to two (2) days to return Marine Drive back to normal, subject to weather.

- Ways to maintain the closure while assisting East Beach businesses were discussed.
- Permits issued for patios had an expiry date of September 30<sup>th</sup> (this was on the original template). Was communicated this way and was done so prior to the subsequent motion from Council to have this end when restaurants are at full capacity.
- Funding for the partial temporary one-way Closure for Marine Drive will be addressed from the COVID-19 Recovery Grant.

**Motion Number: 2021-254 It was MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT Council direct:**

1. **A survey take place for all residents in White Rock as well as businesses on Marine Drive regarding the impact that the one-way closure has had;**
2. **A Special Council meeting be held to review the results should this type of closure be needed in the future and how they can be improved in the future.**

Voted in the negative (1): Councillor Chesney

**Motion CARRIED (6 to 1)**

**Motion Number: 2021-255 It was MOVED and SECONDED**

**That Council continue with their commitment and continue the one way lane closure on Marine Drive on West Beach until September and defer to staff as to how to look into changing to revert back to two-way traffic for East Beach; and**

**THAT staff work with Zapoteca Mexican Grill and Seafood to help address their outdoor dining.**

Voted in the negative (5): Mayor Walker, Councillor Chesney, Councillor Fathers, Councillor Manning, and Councillor Trevelyan

**Motion DEFEATED (2 to 5)**

**Motion Number: 2021-256 It was MOVED and SECONDED**

**THAT Council reaffirms its last direction that once full indoor dining is restored the Marine Drive one-way traffic trial will be ended (no earlier than August 7<sup>th</sup>).**

Voted in the negative (3): Councillor Chesney, Councillor Johanson, and Councillor Kristjanson

**Motion CARRIED (4 to 3)**

**6. CONCLUSION OF THE JULY 12, 2021 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting was concluded at 5:04 p.m.



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Mayor Walker

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Debbie Johnstone, Deputy  
Corporate Officer