

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 6/2/2020 3:50:50 PM

**Subject:** Memo - Public Hearings in July 2020

**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor and Council - Public Hearings in July 2020.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Gil Kelley, GM of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability regarding Public Hearings in July 2020. A brief summary is as follows –

- ☐ Memo explains staff's strategy for public hearings in the summer
- ☐ To clear a backlog of items due to Covid, 3 additional public hearing dates will be requested to be added at the June 9 Council Meeting
- ☐ Referral for the MIRHPP application at 2538 Birch Street will also be rescheduled on June 9 Council Meeting - RTS 13730
- ☐ It will be given its own hearing date on July 9 in case there is a high speaker turnout

Best,  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
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Pronouns: he, him, his



*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*

## MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office

FROM: Gil Kelley  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Public Hearings in July 2020

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This memorandum lays out a strategy for accommodating the backlog of rezoning cases that resulted from the cancellation of public hearings in March and April during the early days of the COVID pandemic. Staff is requesting the Mayor and Council consider three additional public hearings during the summer to address these cases now awaiting scheduling.

Staff bring this request now as the City has received guidelines from provincial authorities on conducting hearings electronically and we have already successfully convened virtual hearings on several minor rezoning cases with low public interest. Staff are now confident that public hearings can proceed for all types of rezoning applications.

Nevertheless, staff do propose the hearing agendas be limited to only four items to ensure accommodation of speakers and to allow for the slower pace of the electronic format. Additionally, staff will carefully consider the scheduling of rezoning cases with high public interest and either (a) limit the agenda to only those cases, or (b) combine with cases exhibiting little or no public interest.

The next regularly scheduled public hearings are set for June 23rd and 25th. There four items for each of these hearing dates, and all items have been referred and public notification is underway.

At the June 9th Council meeting, Staff will be requesting that Tuesday, July 7th and Thursday, July 9th be added as new hearing dates. These two additional hearing dates will allow the outstanding items, which have been delayed due to the pandemic, to be scheduled for a hearing.


One of these items is the rezoning application for 2538 Birch Street (1296 West Broadway). This item proposes a rental tower under the MIRHPP program and it has generated a high level of public interest. On March 31, Council voted to defer the referral, which must also be rescheduled. Staff will place the Referral for 2538 Birch Street on the June 9th agenda for Council consideration.

Staff anticipate a large number of speakers may wish to address the Council on this item. Therefore, staff recommend this rezoning case be the only item scheduled for the July 9th public hearing.

Lastly, there are already two hearing dates in Council's schedule for July 21st and 23rd. Staff propose adding a third date for Tuesday, July 28th. This will allow us to continue to manage rezoning items with approximately four items per agenda while being responsive to processing applications within reasonable timeframes.

While we realize adding three public hearing dates is a significant request to the Council, staff believe it is important to accommodate rezoning items with as little disruption to normal processing timeframes as possible. We understand the impact that COVID pandemic has caused to most sectors of the business community and we strive to facilitate the continuation of this essential service.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gil Kelley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil Kelley, FAICP  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
604.873.7456 | [gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca)