In the years that marked the initial growth of the municipality, its character changed from a sparsely settled agricultural district to a complex municipality that realized tremendous residential, industrial and commercial development. The expansion of the administrative structure for the municipality mirrored this change, as Council directed the growth of departments and the addition of Council Committees to serve the interests and needs of the community.

The volume of Burnaby's records during this period reflected these changes. By 1911, a second municipal hall was constructed adjacent to the first hall at Kingsway and Edmonds. Not only did the new building provide additional space for Burnaby's growing staff, but it also provided the records with greater protection against fire through its concrete and brick construction and vaults.

The Great Depression marked a significant change in the business of the municipality. In 1932, when Burnaby faced financial crisis, the Provincial Government took control of the municipality's affairs by replacing an elected Council with an appointed Commissioner. As a result, the minutes and records created by Commissioners between 1932 and 1943 do not reflect the local political and community voices during this period.