MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON APRIL 3, 2017 AT 6:10 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair       Nicole Forbes
Mayor       Peter F. Trent
Councillors Philip A. Cutler
            Rosalind Davis
            Victor M. Drury
            Cynthia Lulham
            Patrick Martin
            Theodora Samiotis
            Christina Smith

Administration Sean Michael Deegan, Director General
                Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk

Recording Secretary Andrew Brownstein

NOTE TO THE READER:

The comments, opinions and any consensus views reflected herein are those of the participants in their individual capacity. As such, they are not binding upon the City or the administration.

The City and its administration are only bound by decisions that are authorized by the Municipal Council in the course of a public meeting by way of a resolution or a by-law.

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of April 3, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the April 3, 2017 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following item under New Business:

- Grosvenor Avenue Reconstruction Project (Councillor Smith); and
- Thank You Letters – 2017 Grants Programme (Mayor Trent).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on March 20, 2017

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council’s meeting held on March 20, 2017 were adopted with corrections.
Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on March 20, 2017

Councillor Smith noted the importance of carrying out the post mortem analysis of snow removal operations further to the March 14th-16th snowstorm. Councillor Martin agreed and confirmed that Public Works has begun its analysis.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Smith referred to Item No. 27, “Declaration – Sanctuary City.” She recommended removing the term “sanctuary city” as municipalities do not have the power to declare themselves sanctuaries in matters of immigration. As such, the prospective resolution is a declaration of the City’s continued commitment to providing services to all of its residents.

➢ It was agreed that Item No. 27 will be entitled “Declaration – Access to Services for all Residents.”

Councillor Martin inquired as to whether the naming of Vimy Park is to be announced at that night’s Regular Sitting, noting its apparent absence from the agenda. The Mayor confirmed that it is to be announced under Item No. 2, “Mayor’s and Councillors’ Reports.”

Confidential items were discussed.

Council Question Period Follow-up

The Director General informed Council that further to a resident’s request for the pool to be kept open later in the season, the City will respond to said resident with its assessment of the extent to which this will be possible.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

PROCEDURE FOR THE MAYOR’S REPLACEMENT

M° St-Jean outlined the procedure for the Mayor’s replacement in light of his announcement of his decision to resign. He explained that within 30 days of the Mayor formally resigning, and informing M° St-Jean in writing to that effect, Council must decide whether it wishes to proceed by a vote of Council to elect an interim mayor from among one of its members, or by a by-election.

M° St-Jean pointed out that if Council were to decide to proceed with a by-election, there would be two mayoral elections within a six-month period, a costly expense. He explained that if Council wishes to proceed with a vote of its members to elect an interim mayor, it must adopt a resolution to this effect at a Council sitting. The vote of Council to elect an interim mayor would be held publicly, but by secret ballot. Residents must be informed of
who is running. Accordingly, the date on which it is to be held would be announced by
public notice in a local newspaper. Mme St-Jean explained that the vote of Council would only
include those members acting in their capacity as Councillors, to the exclusion of the Acting
Mayor, who is only to vote in the case of a tie.

The Mayor suggested that if Council wishes to proceed in this manner, at that night’s
Regular Sitting, it could announce its decision to proceed by a vote of its members to elect
an interim mayor once his resignation takes effect. Mme St-Jean confirmed that this can be
done.

Councillor Samiotis explained that residents should not be left to wonder whether a
by-election will be held.

➢ It was agreed that at that night’s Regular Sitting, Council will prospectively
adopt a special resolution announcing its decision to proceed by a vote of its
members to elect an interim mayor once the Mayor’s resignation takes effect.

Confidential items were discussed.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP

TRAFFIC

Councillor Cutler drew Council’s attention to the issue of roadwork blocking access to the
driveways of residents who own electric vehicles, making them unable to charge their
vehicles. He referred to a few residents on Belmont Avenue with electric vehicles whose
access to their driveways will be blocked during the work that is to be carried out this
summer. He emphasized the importance of establishing a solution for this construction
season as well as for those in the future, as the prevalence of these vehicles is expected to
continue to increase.

NEW BUSINESS: GROSVENOR AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Councillor Smith commended Public Works’ planning of the work to be carried out on
Grosvenor Avenue between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Sherbrooke Street. She
explained that with 70 residences on the block and significant underground infrastructure,
establishing said plan was a complicated task. As an example of Public Works’ diligence in
this regard, Councillor Smith gave the example of its maintenance of appropriate access
for a resident with limited mobility to his home.

Councillor Samiotis raised the issue of illegal parking pads, referring to some on the
aforementioned portion of Grosvenor Avenue. She explained that it would be a challenge
for the City address the matter. Councillor Smith confirmed that Urban Planning and Public
Works are aware of the issue. Councillor Lulham informed Council that further to Public
Security’s interruption of a resident’s illegal construction of a parking pad on Victoria
Avenue, the resident simply finished the work on a Sunday. She reported that the City will oblige the resident to remove the parking pad.

**TRAFFIC (Continued)**

Councillor Drury informed Council that further to Council’s discussion of the reconfiguration of Anwoth Road at its February 6th General Committee meeting, the alternative option to what Council had proposed has been judged to be more suitable. Specifically, Council had made a preliminary decision to construct a full-size, standard width sidewalk (1.52m) along the west side of the street while replacing the sidewalk on the east side with a concrete border. This would allow for parking along the west side of the street to be maintained. Alternatively, the City would construct sidewalks along both sides of the street, each with a width of 1.37m, but with no parking permitted along the curved portions of the street. This would eliminate 8 of the street’s 24 parking spaces. In both cases, traffic will be made to circulate one-way southbound.

Upon consulting the residents of Anwoth Road, the City learned that given that the driveways on the east side of the street are particularly narrow, contractors do not have the equipment to plough them. Accordingly, one resident in particular explained that he only shovels enough space on his driveway to park his vehicle. As a result, he must stand on the sidewalk to fully clear his car. With the first option for the street’s reconfiguration, this would oblige the resident to clear part of his vehicle from the street. Councillor Drury explained that this safety issue takes precedence over the parking issue. He also pointed out that all of the residences on Anwoth Road have driveways.

- **It was agreed** that Anwoth Road will be reconfigured with the construction of sidewalks along both sides of the street, each with a width of 1.37m, but with no parking permitted along the curved portions of the street.

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARKS**

Councillor Lulham informed Council that the revised call for tenders for the new equipment to be installed in Westmount Park requests bids that include a swing structure to which specialty swings for handicapped children can be attached and for all equipment to not include plastic. The work is planned to be carried out in August. Therefore, the current equipment will be used for this summer.

Councillor Drury proposed the installation of a pickleball court in Westmount Park. The Director General informed Council that such a court is roughly the size of a badminton court. Council members expressed their interest in Councillor Drury’s proposal.

Councillor Lulham informed Council that further to significant interest expressed by residents for the installation of adult fitness equipment in one of the City’s parks, Public Works carried out an assessment of the best possible location for said equipment. She explained that as Westmount Park’s revamping is to maintain more traditional park-related equipment, and as the WAG already has plenty of sports-related equipment and attracts a younger audience than that which is expected to use the fitness equipment, Public Works
has recommended the use of the greenspace near the swimming pool. She reported that three pieces of equipment are to be installed there this summer by a reliable company. She added that Contactivity and the fitness classes at the WRC will be able to use the equipment.

PROCEDURE FOR THE MAYOR’S REPLACEMENT (Continued)

Mme St-Jean informed Council that it cannot officially announce its decision to proceed by a vote of its members to elect an interim mayor until the Mayor sets a date for his resignation. In order to establish this date so that Council may announce its decision to proceed by a vote of its members, Mme St-Jean explained that if the Mayor resigns on April 13th, the nomination period can then be initiated, a public notice can be published in the Westmount Independent’s April 18th issue, or if the time constraints require it, in the Montreal Gazette, and the vote can then be held on April 20th. The Mayor confirmed that he will formally resign on April 13th.

➢ It was agreed that the vote of Council’s members to elect an interim mayor will be held on April 24th at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Smith commended Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head of Communications, on his coordination of the communications for the Mayor’s announcement of his decision to resign.

Confidential items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP (Continued)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Lulham updated Council on the status of Mr. Pierre Boudreault’s study on the City’s commercial areas. Mr. Boudreault surveyed the merchants on Sherbrooke Street the previous week and will proceed with the merchants on Sainte-Catherine Street. He will then carry out a different survey for the owners and coordinate a poll of residents. The Director General informed Council that Mr. Mark Wilkins, of Mark Wilkins Communication: Market Research and Innovation, has agreed to carry out the poll of residents. Councillor Lulham reported that the poll should be done in May.
URBAN PLANNING

Referring to a resident’s request for access to information regarding a contract, Councillor Samiotis inquired as to whether the essence of the contract can be made public. Mme St-Jean confirmed that while certain aspects like the payment structure will need to remain confidential, the essence of the contract can be made public.

Confidential items were discussed.

ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/AMT

MTQ request for passage and use of Glen Road for MUHC emergency vehicle access

The Mayor relayed the MTQ’s request for the City to permit emergency vehicle access to and from the MUHC via Glen Road while the nearby portion of Saint-Jacques Street will be closed for construction due to the Turcot project.

Councillor Lulham expressed her support for granting the request. She explained that individuals in need of urgent care should not be required to follow a detour due to construction on Saint-Jacques Street. The Mayor agreed. Councillor Smith agreed, pointing out that access for emergency vehicles is only being requested to be permitted during the construction period.

➤ It was agreed that the City will grant the MTQ’s request for the City to permit emergency vehicle access to and from the MUHC via Glen Road while the nearby portion of Saint-Jacques Street will be closed for construction due to the Turcot project, and only during this period.

NEW BUSINESS: THANK YOU LETTERS – 2017 GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Mayor presented letters from the Visual Arts Centre and the Contactivity Centre expressing gratitude to the City for its positive response to their respective funding requests.
ABSENCES

Council members were requested to submit their absence sheets to the Assistant City Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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Nicole Forbes                                         M° Martin St-Jean
Acting Mayor                                          Director of Legal Services and City Clerk