MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MAY 1, 2017 AT 5:06 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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

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 May 1, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the May 1, 2017 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Family Day (Councillor Davis); and
- Indoor Pool (Councillor Davis).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on April 18, 2017

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council’s meeting held on April 18, 2017 were adopted with corrections.
Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on April 18, 2017

Confidential items were discussed.

Further to Mayor Smith’s inquiry, Councillor Davis confirmed that she is a member of the federal committee for the Canada 150th celebrations.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Process for Council Agenda

The Mayor explained that in the past, items have been moved by one member of Council, seconded by another, voted on, and then commented on. She proposed that at future Council meetings, Council members comment on the items before they vote on the resolution’s adoption. Councillor Martin noted that this has been the practice to date. Mè St-Jean explained that to his memory, while Council members have commented on some items before voting, the general practice has been to vote before commenting.

➢ It was agreed that at future Council meetings, items will be moved by one member of Council, seconded by another, at which point Council members will provide their comments prior to voting on the resolution’s adoption.

Council members determined who would move the items typically moved by Councillor Lulham at that night’s Regular Sitting in her absence.

Councillor Samiotis referred to the permit application that is to be presented to Council for its approval under Item 17, “Urban Planning – Approval of Building Permits,” that requests permission to remove 40 trees. She explained that many of these trees are dead or dying, and she confirmed that their removal is in accordance with the City’s by-law concerning tree felling, pointing out that they will be replaced by new, appropriate trees.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Cutler joined the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Councillor Davis informed Council that a group of masters swimmers may be present at that night’s Regular Sitting to inquire about the hours during which they will be given access to the pool.
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

WESTMOUNT CITY VEHICLES COLOUR SCHEME

The Director General relayed Public Works’ request for all new vehicles to be painted white. He explained that the maroon colour that has been used to date is often not available, and as a result, the new vehicles must be repainted. He pointed out that this would standardize the City’s colour scheme for its vehicles, as all Public Security vehicles were made to be white as of the previous year.

Councillor Samiotis questioned whether Public Works’ vehicles should be painted white, given the nature of the work they are used for, which may lead to the dirt being more. The Director General pointed out that Public Works is equipped with a car wash, which can be used as frequently as necessary.

Councillor Samiotis sought Council’s opinion on whether this proposed shift would take away from the City’s corporate branding. The Mayor noted that the decal is more apparent on white vehicles. The Director General agreed.

➢ It was agreed that all new Public Works’ passenger vehicles and pick-up trucks will be painted white.

Confidential items were discussed.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP

Traffic

The Mayor informed Council that the truck route was presented to the provincial government. She inquired as to whether the City must seek the neighbouring boroughs’ approval of its truck route, and questioned when we can enforce this truck route. Councillor Martin reported that according to the MTQ’s explanation to Public Works, their approval is not needed because the truck route conforms to theirs. Mme St-Jean informed Council that he will confirm this is the case.

Councillor Drury reported that as part of Anwoth Road’s reconfiguration, traffic will be made to circulate one-way northbound further to the recommendations expressed by residents and a City snow plow driver. He noted that the two sidewalks will be maintained.
Councillor Cutler informed Council that a portable radar station was installed on Lansdowne Avenue. He explained that in addition slowing traffic, it reminds residents and motorists of the City’s dedication to road safety.

Councillor Cutler reported that the TAC has recommended the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk at Wood Avenue and Sherbrooke Street.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that the line designating the bicycle path on Westmount Avenue will be repainted, and better data will be collected this year. He explained that due to certain issues beyond the City’s control, the data from the previous year was inconclusive. He noted that Vélo Québec commended the City on the Côte-Saint-Antoine Road bicycle path’s placement, namely on the north side of the street, between the lane for parked vehicles and the rest of the roadway. The Mayor recommended confirming that Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce will link its bicycle path on Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Avenue to the one that begins on Westmount Avenue.

Infrastructure and Parks

The Mayor inquired as to whether the prospective contract for the Grosvenor Avenue project grants the City a 15-day time period between the awarding of the contract and the beginning of the work. The City is in fact granted the aforementioned 15-day time period under the prospective contract.

Councillor Davis reported that the splash pad was installed in Prince Albert Park last fall. She informed Council that a splash pad party will be held as soon as the weather permits in order to celebrate the end of construction on Prince Albert Avenue. She invited all members of Council to participate in the event.

Councillor Davis informed Council that the pool will be opened on May 29th.

Councillor Drury inquired as to when the water will be turned back on at the WAG dog run. The Director General confirmed that he will ensure it is turned back on without delay.

Regarding the Grosvenor Avenue project, the Mayor inquired as to whether it is the City or the contractor that is required to remove contaminated soil in the event such soil is discovered. Councillor Martin explained that as one general contractor is being selected to deliver the entirety of the contract, any soil decontamination that is required will be managed by said contractor.

Hydro Westmount

Councillor Drury drew Council’s attention to Item 18 of the Council Agenda, “By-law to Establish Rates and certain Conditions for the Supply of Electricity for the Year 2017-2018 – Adoption.”

Confidential items were discussed.
Communications

Confidential items were discussed.

The Mayor informed Council that she has increased her use of her Twitter account, namely to communicate City-related matters. She reported that a communications meeting will be held on May 3rd.

Urban Planning

Councillor Samiotis reported that Prince Albert Square has been nominated by Opération Patrimoine for the Island of Montreal’s Coup de Coeur Patrimonial Space as part the celebration of Montreal’s 375th anniversary.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Samiotis recommended providing Urban Planning with clear guidelines as to the definition of the public good element that must be assessed in the consideration of PPCMOI applications.

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that a grid for residents wishing to carry out work on their windows is to be presented to Council for its discussion and prospective approval at the May 15th General Committee meeting.

Economic Development

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that the survey of merchants is ongoing. The Director General reported that the survey’s results will be presented to Council at its June 15th General Committee meeting.

Confidential items were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: FAMILY DAY

Councillor Davis relayed the request of Mr. Ralph Thompson, a photographer for the Westmount Independent, to be permitted to use a drone to take pictures of the entire event, in which no individuals will be identifiable. She explained that Mr. Thompson has been certified to use a drone for photography purposes and has experience doing so. He has substantial liability insurance in the event that the drone causes any damage, but the drone is to be launched from a place away from any people and will be monitored by an official observer at all times.
It was agreed that Mr. Thompson will be permitted to operate a drone for the purpose of taking pictures of the Family Day event, which will be published in the Westmount Independent.

**NEW BUSINESS: INDOOR POOL**

Councillor Davis recommended carrying out a feasibility study to determine the cost of building and operating an indoor pool. Councillor Martin recommended doing a pre-feasibility study, which he explained is done in-house as a very preliminary assessment. He explained that he has done many pre-feasibility studies and offered to personally undertake the proposed assessment. He explained that the study would involve an assessment of the dimensions of the pool and the related facilities that would be required in order to establish the approximate cost of building and operating an indoor pool. This would allow for Council to discuss the potential project in a more informed manner.

The Mayor noted that this information would ultimately be assessed in consideration of whether there is sufficient demand for an indoor pool among residents. She proposed discussing the matter further at the May 15th General Committee meeting.

It was agreed that at the May 15th General Committee meeting, Council members will discuss the possibility of carrying out a pre-feasibility study for the potential construction and operation of an indoor pool.

**ABSENCES**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.