
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON AUGUST 21, 2017 AT 4:05 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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| Chair | David Laidley |
| Mayor | Christina Smith |
| Councillors | Rosalind Davis Victor M. Drury Nicole Forbes Cynthia Lulham Theodora Samiotis |
| Absent | Philip A. Cutler Patrick Martin |
| Administration | Benoit Hurtubise, Director General (DG) - Infrastructure 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.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of August 21, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the August 21, 2017 meeting of the GC be adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

Ms. Jocelyn Dragon, Director of Human Resources, and Mr. Luc Dionne, actuary for Mercer Canada Ltd., joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Dragon and Mr. Dionne left the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m., at which point Council held its Special Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 5:12 p.m.

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Samiotis joined the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

INDOOR POOL – RESIDENTS SURVEY

Mr. Mark Wilkins of Mark Wilkins Consulting: Market Research + Strategy joined the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Mr. Wilkins outlined the information objectives of his survey. Specifically, he set out to determine the extent of current indoor pool use among residents and whether they need to travel to said pool, the favourability to an indoor pool for residents, the interested residents' expected type of use (recreation, training, rehabilitation), the expectations as to size and lanes, the expected frequency of visits by season and age, the opinions as to whether there should be an access fee, the opinions as to the incorporation of a gymnasium in the potential facility, and the expected uses for said gymnasium.

Mr. Wilkins outlined his methodology. A survey invitation letter was distributed by Canada Post to all 10,418 civic addresses. The letter indicated the purpose of the survey and provided a personal identification number (PIN) for each household, directing residents to complete the survey online via a webpage address indicated in the letter or by requesting a hardcopy from the City. The PIN was then to be indicated by the respondent when completing the survey through either medium. Accordingly, as only one response per household was permitted, demographic questions, including the number of children in the household, were included in the survey. The letter and the survey were provided in both English and French.

Mr. Wilkins informed the GC that 1,343 responses were received during the four-week data collection period, a response rate of 13%, which he explained exceeded his goal of a 10% response rate. Mr. Wilkins noted that 96% of the responses were submitted online and 4% were submitted on paper.

GC members discussed the potential of a bias in favour of the initiative, namely that those who respond tend to be those who are interested in the initiative in question. Mr. Wilkins denied the presence of such a bias, pointing out that every household was given an equal opportunity to participate; however, he acknowledged that every survey has a certain element of self-selection as only those who are interested in participating, but not necessarily only those who are interested in the initiative, do so.

Further to Councillor Lulham's inquiry, Mr. Wilkins explained that the survey did not seek to classify responses according to whether the respondents were property owners or tenants or in relation to the areas in which they live, as it was a preliminary survey that aimed for a

high response rate. He pointed out that of the residents who initiated the survey online, only 4% did not complete it.

Mr. Wilkins informed the GC that the survey has a margin of error of $\pm 2.7\%$, 19 times out of 20. He explained that a 5% margin of error is the acceptable standard in the polling industry.

Mr. Wilkins explained that he used the most recent Statistics Canada census data to weight the results of the survey by demographic in a manner that reflects the City's population. For example, while only 22% of the respondents were below the age of 45, this demographic represents 34% of the population; their responses were weighted accordingly.

Mr. Wilkins presented the survey's essential question: "The City is currently studying the desire and perceived need amongst Westmount residents for an indoor pool. Assume that the investment required to have an indoor pool were in your opinion reasonable and that it were to be designed with features that match your interests and needs. Were this to be the case, which of the following statements best describes you? I support an indoor pool [or] I do not support an indoor pool." He reported that according to his findings, 81% of residents support an indoor pool.

Mr. Wilkins informed the GC that this degree of support remained consistent over the four weeks of data collection. He presented the number of respondents and percentage in support at a few points in time during the four-week period.

Mr. Wilkins left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Councillor Drury expressed his agreement with the weighting of responses between the genders, but he questioned the weighting of the age demographics, explaining that the response rate per age group may more accurately reflect the City's demographics.

Confidential items were discussed.

The Mayor recommended further assessing the services offered by existing nearby indoor pools and whether residents are satisfied with these pools.

Councillor Samiotis inquired as to whether a gymnasium is needed given the existing space for activities in the WRC. Councillor Davis explained that the City currently rents 12 hours of gymnasium time per week for its activities.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC held on August 7, 2017

The Minutes of the GC's meeting held on August 7, 2017 were adopted with corrections.

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on August 7, 2017

Councillor Samiotis relayed concerns expressed by residents as to an increased presence of rats in the southeast sector. She recommended that residents only put their garbage out on the morning of collection days, as opposed to the night before. She recommended that Public Security advise residents who have put their garbage out before the permitted time of the correct time for doing so.

Confidential items were discussed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

LIVING WALL FEASIBILITY – PROSPECT PARK

Councillor Samiotis explained that the feasibility of the construction of a living wall needs to be assessed as part of the development of a potential improved design for Prospect Park.

Confidential items were discussed.

DANGEROUS DOGS

Councillor Lulham reported that since 2015, there has been a gradual increase of dogs attacking humans and other dogs. She noted that the aggressive dogs are of a variety of breeds.

Councillor Lulham referred to the City of Calgary's by-law on dangerous dogs, which it terms "vicious dogs." The conditions for qualifying a dog as vicious are clearly defined in the by-law. The by-law states that once a dog is qualified as such, it is prohibited from using dog runs and must be neutered. If outside, a vicious dog must be kept in a secured backyard or if in public, it must wear a muzzle and remain on a leash of a maximum length of 1 metre held by a person aged 18 or over. If the owner fails to comply, Calgary can then order the dog's removal from the City's territory.

Confidential items were discussed.

WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE – RINKS & ACTIVITY ROOMS RENTAL POLICY

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** that the draft policy will not be submitted to Council for its approval at the September 5th Regular Sitting.
- **It was agreed** that interested members of Council will discuss the issue of free ice time in the context of limited programs available for girls with Director Lapointe, namely how to improve and expand upon said programs, the existing demand for these programs, and the efforts made to promote them.

FILMING PERMIT POLICY

The DG presented the filming permit policy that is currently applicable. He explained that the policy does not set a restriction on the use of parks. Councillor Lulham explained that while the allocation of these permits is a relatively negligible source of revenue, film producers often monopolize parks to the detriment of residents. The Mayor recommended looking into the City of Montreal's tariffs for filming permits.

- **It was agreed** that the draft policy will be amended to include a definition of the use of parks.
- **It was agreed** that at an upcoming GC meeting, the DG will report to the GC as to the City of Montreal's tariffs for filming permits.

Confidential items were discussed.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Christina Smith
Mayor

M^e Martin St-Jean
Director of Legal Services and City
Clerk