
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AT 5:02 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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

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.

Administration	Benoit Hurtubise, Director General (DG) Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk
Recording Secretary	Andrew Brownstein

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of September 5, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the September 5, 2017 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following item under New Business:

- The Cannon (Councillor Martin).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

MOBILE LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION SYSTEM

Mr. Claude Vallières, Division Head – I.T., joined the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Mr. Vallières explained the mobile license plate recognition system as the second phase of the pay-by-plate parking system. He informed the GC that the license plate recognition system's start-up costs total at roughly \$96,000, to be paid in the first year, and that an additional \$30,000 in operational costs is to be paid each year. Mr. Vallières reported that \$25,000 of the aforementioned start-up costs will be used for the purchase of a new software for managing the permit-purchasing process.

Mr. Vallières outlined the objectives of the pay-by-plate parking system (Phase 1) and the license plate recognition system (Phase 2). He explained that while Phase 1 focused on facilitating the use of the paid parking system for motorists, Phase 2 focuses on facilitating the City's management of the broader parking system. He explained that under the City's current by-law, when an infraction has been committed, a parking ticket must be placed in the motorist's windshield. He explained that if these tickets could be sent by mail, the parking agent would not have to exit the vehicle to place the ticket on the offender's windshield.

Mr. Vallières reported that the license plate recognition system is very efficient as it can read license plates from a far distance with cameras facing forwards and backwards.

Mr. Vallières informed the GC that in order for the project to finance itself over a five-year period, the installation of cameras on two vehicles would need to result in a total of five additional tickets issued per day.

Mr. Vallières informed the GC that approximately 100-125 overnight parking permits are obtained each night. He explained that the City does not impose a tariff on these permits as they are understood as parking for guests.

Further to Councillor Lulham's inquiry, Mr. Vallières explained that the license plate recognition system has greatly increased the efficiency of the parking agents' operations, as by simply circulating throughout the City, the system continually takes photographs and verifies whether the vehicle photographed has been parked for over four hours.

Councillor Davis noted the practice of many motorists moving their vehicles a few feet after nearly four hours of being parked in order to remain parked in essentially the same location for a period that exceeds four hours. She suggested creating a paid permit for parking for up to eight hours in certain locations.

Councillor Cutler informed the GC that limited permits can be registered into the license plate recognition system. Specifically, teachers could theoretically purchase a permit for parking around their respective schools until 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Councillor Cutler reported that a GPS system installed in the Public Safety vehicles tracks their routes, which allows the City to ensure that all roads are covered.

Further to Councillor Drury's inquiry, Mr. Vallières informed the GC that the system takes timestamped and geotagged photographs of every parked vehicle's license plate as the parking monitoring vehicle circulates. When the parking monitoring vehicle returns to the same area and takes a photograph of the same vehicle parked in exactly the same spot beyond the permitted time that it may remain parked in that same location, an infraction is issued. Mr. Vallières explained that the system compares the backgrounds of the two photographs to ascertain whether the vehicle is in fact in exactly the same location.

Further to Councillor Samiotis' inquiry, Mr. Vallières informed the GC that Westmount is the first municipality in Quebec to be equipped with this technology, adding that it is already used by municipalities in British Columbia and Alberta as well as by the Sureté du Québec.

Noting that this system could allow the City to collect significant revenue, Councillor Samiotis recommended considering whether this or similar technology can be used for managing construction and occupancy permits.

Confidential items were discussed.

Mr. Vallières briefed the GC on the spam-blocking system used for the Westmount email server. He explained that the system only filters emails coming from external addresses. He reported that a very high percentage of these emails are blocked, and accordingly, the system has proven to be a worthy investment. He noted that it is rare, but sometimes an email is mistakenly blocked.

Mr. Vallières left the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of General Committee held on August 21, 2017

The Minutes of the GC's meeting held on August 21, 2017 were adopted with corrections.¹

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on August 21, 2017

Councillor Lulham reported that further to the GC's discussion regarding the possibility of prioritizing the potential construction of a living wall along Prospect Street, so that it could be built in 2018, Public Works has proposed to remove another park project from the list of projects already scheduled for 2018. She noted that Public Works' formal recommendation is to follow.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Confidential items were discussed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

NALOXONE

Councillor Cutler reported that in the context of fentanyl becoming increasingly present in street drugs in British Columbia, the province amended its law that restricted the power to administer medication to certified medical professionals (doctors, nurses, and paramedics).

¹ Moved by Councillor Samiotis and seconded by Councillor Forbes. Councillor Martin and Councillor Cutler abstained from voting on the Minutes' adoption given their absence at the August 21st, 2017 meeting.

Specifically, police and first responders in British Columbia are now permitted to administer naloxone, the antidote for an opioid overdose, and have been trained and equipped to do so. Councillor Cutler explained that as the fentanyl crisis has spread throughout Canada, several other provinces have begun to follow suit; however, the *Direction de santé publique* maintains that Quebec's current law does not permit this.

Councillor Cutler informed the GC that naloxone kits are small, cost roughly \$50 each, and last for a long time. He explained that in the light of the fentanyl crisis, many users equip their friends with naloxone kits and consume their drugs one after the other in order to administer the antidote if necessary. Councillor Cutler explained that fentanyl overdoses are extremely time-sensitive. Accordingly, he recommended that the City work to make naloxone kits accessible to Public Safety officers.

Councillor Lulham reported that Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre has expressed the City of Montreal's intention to work with the federal and provincial governments on this issue and to train police officers and firefighters to administer naloxone. However, the SPVM has expressed its opposition to being endowed with this responsibility.

The Mayor noted the prevalence of lethal overdoses from fentanyl-laced street drugs. She recommended publicly expressing the City's intention to participate in the discussions with the federal and provincial governments to address this issue.

- **It was agreed** that Legal Services will determine whether the current law allows the City to equip its Public Safety officers with naloxone in order for them to administer the drug in cases of fentanyl overdoses.
- **It was agreed** that if the current law allows the City to equip its Public Safety officers with naloxone in order for them to administer the drug in cases of fentanyl overdoses, it will do so.
- **It was agreed** that if the current law does not allow the City to equip its Public Safety officers with naloxone, the City will present the matter to the other members of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, to prospectively then present the matter to Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, and then together, to petition the Quebec government to make the required legal amendment.

The Director General reported that Public Safety officers have expressed their readiness to administer naloxone once they receive the necessary training.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Martin recommended equipping Public Safety officers with EpiPens as well.

Councillor Cutler informed the GC that fentanyl overdoses increased by 80% from 2015 to 2016 and are on pace to increase by an additional 90% in 2017.

PUBLICATION OF THE INDOOR POOL SURVEY

The DG sought Council members' opinions as to whether the City should publish the survey's findings on its website. He noted that Mr. Mark Wilkins of Mark Wilkins Consulting: Market Research + Strategy, who carried out the survey, recommends publishing only his executive summary.

Councillor Davis suggested rewriting the executive summary in order to render it more accessible to the average resident.

The Mayor expressed her hesitation to publish the survey's results at such a preliminary stage. She explained that while support for the potential project appears to be very high, few details as to the potential project have yet to be established. She recommended that the City look further into said details and meet with the YMCA representatives to discuss the possibility of establishing a partnership under which the City would fund the construction of an indoor pool and the YMCA would fund its operation costs. Councillor Samiotis and Councillor Lulham agreed. The Mayor and Councillor Davis informed the GC that the City will be meeting with the YMCA on September 7th.

Councillor Martin recommended publishing the survey's results and explaining that at this stage, they can only be understood as the responses to a survey; no further plans have been made.

Councillor Forbes expressed her hesitation to create expectations prematurely.

The Mayor maintained her recommendation for the City to meet with the YMCA on September 7th before publishing information on the matter, but agreed that the survey's findings should then be communicated and with a clear explanation that research into this possible project is only at a very preliminary stage.

Councillor Samiotis explained that the City's research into the Southeast planning was not well-received because it was posted on the website in a piecemeal manner before it could be put into context. Accordingly, she seconded the Mayor's recommendation for the City to first meet with the YMCA, further recommending that the DG, the Mayor, and Councillor Davis draft a communication document outlining the key points of the survey's findings and how they are to be understood. Said draft communication would then be sent to the rest of the members of Council to be finalized in light of their opinions. As part of this communication, Councillor Drury recommended explaining that the survey's results must be understood as a demonstration of widespread interest in an indoor pool, therefore justifying further research into this matter. Said draft communication will then be sent to the rest of members of Council to be finalized.

- **It was agreed** that the City will first meet with the YMCA representatives to discuss the possibility of establishing a partnership under which the City would fund the construction of an indoor pool and the YMCA would fund its operation costs. The DG, the Mayor, and Councillor Davis will then draft a communication document outlining the key points of the survey's findings and that said findings must be understood as a demonstration of widespread interest in an indoor pool, therefore justifying further research into this matter. Said draft

communication will then be sent to the rest of the members of Council to be finalized.

LED PROJECTOR FOR CITY HALL

The DG sought the GC's opinion on the proposal to replace the four projectors used to illuminate City Hall with colour LED projectors at a cost of \$2,500 each. He explained that the LED projectors can shine light in white as well as in ten colours.

Confidential items were discussed.

M^e St-Jean suggested to delay the purchase of new projectors given the plan to refurbish City Hall. The DG agreed that this must be considered. He confirmed that he will determine whether it is worth replacing the projectors in light of the prospective refurbishing.

Confidential items were discussed.

M^e St-Jean left the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: TRAFFIC

Councillor Lulham briefed the Council on the change to the direction of traffic on Metcalfe Avenue, Hillside Avenue, and Abbott Avenue and the way the change is being managed. On August 25th, a notice was distributed to the residents of the area informing them that the traffic lights on Metcalfe Avenue, Hillside Avenue, and Abbott Avenue would be in use as of following day. However, this was delayed until September 1st, which residents were notified of on August 31st. Councillor Lulham reported that while the aforementioned traffic lights were functioning on September 1st, a stop sign facing the former direction of traffic on Abbott Avenue was only removed a few days later further to her contacting Public Security requesting for them to do so.

Councillor Lulham informed the GC that flashing red traffic lights at two adjacent intersections on Sainte-Catherine Street, namely Park Place and Lewis Avenue, caused confusion, as motorists did not know where to stop. She reported that stop signs are now being used instead of the flashing red lights. Further to Councillor Lulham's inquiry, the DG informed the GC that these traffic lights were supposed to have been in use as of September 1st. He confirmed that he will ensure they are functioning without delay.

Councillor Martin reported that upon his visit to the site, a Public Works employee informed him that the contractor has not been sufficiently organized.

Councillor Lulham informed the GC that the matter will be discussed at the upcoming TAC meeting scheduled for September 12th.

The DG sought the GC's approval of the TAC's minutes from its previous meeting, explaining that it is an advisory committee.

Confidential items were discussed.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARKS

Councillor Lulham reported that at its September 18th meeting, the GC will receive a presentation from the company that inspected the conservatory's structure with its recommendation.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Councillor Drury informed the GC that he, the DG, and Mr. Salah Bouziane, Assistant Director of Hydro Westmount, have been drafting a document regarding Hydro Westmount's Advisory Committee's activities over the previous year-and-a-half, which will be presented to the GC at its September 18th meeting.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Samiotis informed the GC of the presence of rats on Columbia Avenue, Bruce Avenue, and Hallowell Avenue. She explained that an Urban Planning building inspector discovered a nest at the southern end of Bruce Avenue.

She recommended that the City prioritize communication with residents as soon as these issues arise. She explained that rather than the City distributing copies of its pamphlet instructing residents how to help control the presence of rodents, a group of concerned residents took the initiative to distribute the pamphlet to their neighbours.

The DG relayed the aforementioned building inspector's recommendation to distribute the pamphlet and any additional information to a broader area.

- **It was agreed** that the City will distribute its pamphlet on how to help control the presence of rodents, as well as any additional information, to the residences south of Dorchester Boulevard and Sainte-Catherine Street, from Clandeboyne Avenue to Blenheim Place.

The DG explained that the Turcot project destabilized the rats' environment, which caused them to move to their current location

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: URBAN PLANNING

Councillor Samiotis provided further information on two permit applications being submitted to Council for its prospective approval at that night's Regular Sitting under Item 23, "Urban Planning – Permit Approvals."

Councillor Samiotis briefed the GC on her meeting with Ms. Myriam St-Denis, Project Manager – Urban Planning, regarding the study on the houses of worship. Two firms have been hired to assist the City carry out the study, the majority of which will be done under the next Council's mandate.

Further to Councillor Samiotis' inquiry, the DG confirmed that Stantec's current mandate is limited to the traffic study of Dorchester Boulevard and Sainte-Catherine Street. Councillor Samiotis specified that the study will only be presented to the next Council.

The Mayor reported that Public Works' roof blew off in the August 22nd storm, but nobody was injured. Councillor Martin commended the recently-hired Public Works employees in charge of building infrastructure for their efficient management of this situation.

The Mayor informed the GC that Mr. Russell Copeman, Borough Mayor for Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, requested the City's assistance in clearing the fallen trees from the August 22nd storm. She reported that the City sent a Public Works crew and a chipper truck the following day. She relayed Borough Mayor Copeman's appreciation.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Lulham informed the GC that the meeting between the City, Mr. Boudreault, the merchants, and the owners of the buildings in which the merchants are located is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on September 13th at Victoria Hall. Councillor Forbes and Councillor Davis pointed out that the lawn bowling event is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. that same evening, explaining that they would like to be present at both.

- **It was agreed** that Councillor Samiotis and Councillor Forbes will jointly write a letter to the merchants and property owners reminding them of the meeting and notifying them that a few councillors will be absent as they need to attend another City event at the same time as the meeting. The DG will request that Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head – Communications, send a copy of the original invitation letter sent to the merchants and property owners to all Council members, on which Councillor Samiotis and Councillor Forbes will base their letter.

Councillor Davis reported that Ms. Katie Pothier has stepped down from her position as the Co-ordinator for the Victoria Village Merchants Association.

Councillor Lulham informed the GC that at the meeting, the City will request the merchants' and property owners' email addresses in order to form a database for future communication.

NEW BUSINESS: THE CANNON

Councillor Martin informed the GC that the previous week, he, the DG, Mr. Robert Talarico, Director of Public Works, and a representative from the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment met with two experts from Ottawa to discuss the cannon's history and their prospective restoration.

Councillor Martin explained that beyond the two cannon's origin, namely England in 1810, their history is otherwise unknown. He explained that based on a physical analysis of the cannon and the history of British artillery, these experts will determine the cannon's history. He relayed their hypothesis that the cannon may have been a gift to Canada for Confederation in 1867.

Councillor Martin relayed the cannon restoration experts' proposal to restore and further determine the history of the cannon. While certain parts need to be replaced and carriages need to be built, which would typically cost \$100,000, these experts have proposed to carry out the project for \$30,000. The DG explained that these individuals are volunteers for a non-profit organization.

Councillor Martin explained that the restoration would take a year and would be carried out in Ottawa, during which time, the City can determine where the cannon would best be displayed. Regarding concerns for the cannon being vandalized or stolen if displayed publicly in a park, Councillor Martin explained that when assembled, each cannon weighs 3 tonnes and can be equipped with a GPS and protected with motion-detector lighting and a surveillance camera.

Councillor Martin sought Council members' opinions as to whether they would support the prospective allocation of \$30,000 for the restoration of the cannon as part of the 2018 budget.

Confidential items were discussed.

Further to the Mayor's inquiry, Councillor Martin explained that he contacted these restoration experts on the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment's recommendation.

- **It was agreed** in principle that the City will allocate up to \$30,000 for the cannon's restoration as part of the 2018 budget, ideally for the cannon to be put on display in a park.

M^e St-Jean returned to the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Cynthia Lulham
Acting Mayor

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