
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MAY 2, 2016 AT 5:12 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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| Chair | Victor M. Drury |
| Mayor | Peter F. Trent |
| Councillors | Philip A. Cutler Rosalind Davis Nicole Forbes Christina Smith Theodora Samiotis |
| Absent | Cynthia Lulham Patrick Martin |
| Administration | Sean Michael Deegan, Director General Nicole Dobbie, Assistant Director of Legal Services and Assistant City Clerk |
| Recording Secretary | Andrew Brownstein |

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of May 2, 2016

It was agreed that the Agenda of the May 2, 2016 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following item under New Business:

- Concerts in the park (Councillor Forbes).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on April 18, 2016

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council's meeting held on April 18, 2016 were adopted with corrections.

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on April 18, 2016

- **It was agreed** that, further to the decision made at the General Committee's previous meeting to request that guests to the Flower Show event (replaced by the PAC Centennial Cocktail event this year) RSVP online through its website.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Regarding Item No. 6.1, "Support for the Adoption of the *Règlement relatif à la circulation des camions et des véhicules-outils*," Mayor Trent explained that as a neighbouring municipality to the *Arrondissement Sud-Ouest*, the City must adopt a resolution of support for the Borough's new truck route. The Director General informed Council that the TAC has approved the Borough's truck route in relation to its projected impact on the City.

Councillor Smith and Councillor Davis noted the traffic issues with the trucks delivering to Metro. Councillor Smith suggested that a meeting be scheduled with Metro's representatives in order to avoid the line-up of trucks on Victoria Avenue and Somerville Avenue. She explained that the supermarket must coordinate its deliveries in order to avoid receiving too many trucks at once.

- **It was agreed** that Council will adopt the resolution under Item No. 6.1, "Support for the Adoption of the *Règlement relatif à la circulation des camions et des véhicules-outils*," at that night's Regular Sitting.

Regarding Item No. 20.1, "Filing of the Financial Report and the Auditor's Report for the 2015 Fiscal Year," the Mayor informed Council that at that night's Regular Sitting, he will present his graph of the City's net debt. He explained that he will also discuss the cost of debt, particularly in light of the borrowing costs associated with using a centralized system, adding that the City can no longer benefit from its excellent credit rating.

The Mayor added that he will inform those present at the Regular Sitting that the City is involved in a legal dispute with the STM.

Regarding Item No. 20.1, Councillor Samiotis pointed out that the City should adjust its estimates for future budgets as to the expected revenue from the duty on the transfer of immovables and from licenses and permits. Specifically, the City received \$5.4 million in revenue for the former when \$3.3 was the projection in the budget, and \$1.2 million for the latter when \$650,000 had been projected. The Mayor noted that the City has corrected this discrepancy for the revenue from the transfer of immovables by budgeting for \$4.5 million to be received in 2016. Councillor Samiotis pointed out that the revenue from licenses and permits has exceeded \$650,000 for years.

Confidential items were discussed.

Council Question Period Follow-up

The Director General distributed copies of *Urgences-santé's* detailed report on the incident when a resident fell and *Urgences-santé* did not come to her assistance for five hours following her call, during which time Public Security provided her with assistance until their arrival.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

WESTMOUNT AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHASE I – PRESENTATION OF PLANS

Confidential items were discussed.

Ms. Elisa Gaetano, Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering and Infrastructure, and Mr. Benoit Hurtubise, Assistant Director General and Director of Hydro Westmount, joined the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Ms. Gaetano presented the plans for phase one of Westmount Avenue's reconstruction project. She explained that further to the bids sought for the two options for phase one, to carry out work from Belmont Avenue to Grosvenor Avenue or to carry out said work from Belmont Avenue to Victoria Avenue, Public Works recommends proceeding with the latter option.

Ms. Gaetano explained that Westmount Avenue will be reconfigured to have wider sidewalks, with bump-outs at the intersections in order to shorten crossing distances and slow down turning vehicles. She noted that the STM's buses' turning radii were taken into account in the reconfiguration of these intersections. Ms. Gaetano informed Council that the sidewalk on the north side of the street is to be widened considerably near Roslyn School, making room for a planting area. She added that the intersection at Grosvenor Avenue will have raised crosswalks. This intersection will also have a priority left-turn flashing green light for motorists going east on Westmount Avenue and turning south on Grosvenor Avenue.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that with phase one of Westmount Avenue's reconstruction, the City will be initiating its fluvial network of catch basins to reduce the intensity of the flow of water to the sewers in lower Westmount.

Further to Councillor Davis' inquiry, Ms. Gaetano explained that the 124 bus does not have a significant presence as a bus only passes along the route twice an hour.

Ms. Gaetano reported that signs will be installed at Claremont Avenue and Cedar Avenue informing motorists of Westmount Avenue's closure for construction. She added that work will be carried out six days a week, Monday to Saturday, and high early strength concrete will be used, both of which will ensure that the work is completed according to schedule. She emphasized the importance of completing the project before students return to school.

In terms of communication, Ms. Gaetano reported that the City intends to seek the streets' residents' approval to proceed with a system of online notices as opposed to the traditional distribution of paper notices.

Further to the Mayor's inquiry, Ms. Gaetano responded that the retention pipe for the catch basins are 1.2m in diameter. The Mayor pointed out that all residents should be informed of the City's innovative approach to improving its rainwater collection network.

Councillor Cutler noted that with Roslyn School and Marianopolis College on Westmount Avenue, this reconfiguration will create the school zone for motorists that is required in such an environment.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that Roslyn School needs to move its sprinkler system in order for this work to be carried out. Councillor Samiotis recommended that Director Poirier ensure that the architect incorporates this into the plans for the school's prospective construction and landscaping work.

Regarding the reconstruction of Prince Albert Avenue, from Sherbrooke Street to Côte Saint-Antoine Road, Ms. Gaetano reported that the plans have not been altered. Specifically, parking will be optimized at the intersection at Sherbrooke Street, as well as pedestrian safety, with sidewalks widened on both sides. The cobra streetlights around this intersection will be replaced with Washingtonian lights. The same principle will be applied to the intersections at Chesterfield Avenue, Windsor Avenue, and Côte-Saint-Antoine Road. This work will be carried out five days a week, Monday to Friday. She informed Council that pending the granting of the contract at that night's Regular Sitting, a public meeting to inform residents on the project will be held on May 11th at the Westmount Recreation Centre.

Further to Councillor Smith's inquiry, Ms. Gaetano confirmed that the bumped-out sidewalks will not result in a loss of parking spaces.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that a catch basin will be installed on the southeast side of the intersection at Windsor Avenue in order to avoid rainwater from pooling at that corner.

Confidential items were discussed.

Ms. Gaetano left the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

BICYCLE RACKS

Mr. Greg McBain, Director of Public Security, and Mr. Claude Vallières, Division Head – I.T., joined the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Director McBain informed Council that the City currently has a total of 18 bicycle parking poles equipped with loops to which bicycles can be locked. He recommended that the City install an additional 59 bicycle parking poles.

Director McBain reported that in order to install additional parking poles, the poles that currently exist from the City's former parking meters will be converted into bicycle parking simply by covering them with a sleeve equipped with a loop, which is then screwed into the ground.

Councillor Davis expressed her support for the initiative.

Councillor Samiotis recommended that more of the existing poles be converted into bicycle parking rather than be removed. Further to her inquiry, Director McBain informed Council that each sleeve costs \$300. Further to Councillor Drury's inquiry, the Director General reported that it costs approximately \$100 to remove each existing pole and cover the area with concrete. Director McBain recommended that the City proceed with its initial installation of the sleeves without removing the other posts until it assesses its needs.

Councillor Samiotis recommended that the City order 100 sleeves. Councillor Davis agreed. Councillor Samiotis suggested that Director McBain consult the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association for its opinion on the current list of prospective locations for the new bicycle parking poles. Director McBain responded that he will initiate the discussion with Mr. Dan Lambert, President of the WWCA, the following day.

Director McBain recommended replacing the existing 18 poles with the new model, as they are old, and many of them bent or rusted.

Director McBain presented the possibility of installing a rack for the parking of multiple bicycles near the CIBC bank on Sherbrooke Street.

Regarding the new parking meter system, Mr. Vallières presented the data recorded as of that day at 4:30 p.m. as to how much has been paid at each pay station as well as the method of payment used. He reported that Passport, the mobile application, is functioning well.

Confidential items were discussed.

The Director General informed Council that the City will not be ticketing motorists who have not paid for parking for the first week of this new system being in place. He added that a parking inspector will instead serve an instructional role throughout this period and assist motorists in using the new system.

Council members congratulated Mr. Vallières and Director McBain on their work in implementing this new parking meter system.

Mr. Vallières, Director McBain, and Assistant Director General Hurtubise left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

M^e St-Jean joined the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** that a draft amendment by-law for By-law 1315 incorporating the proposed amendments will be presented to Council at an upcoming General Committee meeting.

RENEWAL OF RECOGNITION FOR TAX EXEMPTION

M^e St-Jean informed Council that *Commission municipale du Québec* received a request from the Montreal Fluency Centre to renew the recognition that it was granted in 2006 that resulted in a tax exemption. He explained that he believes that the Montreal Fluency Centre still meets the criteria and will therefore have its tax exemption renewed. He informed Council that the CMQ is requesting the City's opinion on the renewal of said exemption, which the City must provide them with within 90 days following receipt of the notice. In order to act within this time period, Council would need to adopt a resolution expressing its opinion on the requested renewal at its upcoming Regular Sitting in June. M^e St-Jean explained that the City's approval of the request will help it to be granted, but it will not significantly affect the outcome of the CMQ's decision.

The Mayor noted that he was under the impression that the Hurtubise House and the houses of worship located within the City were the only properties qualifying for any tax exemptions. He inquired as to whether there are any others that currently benefit from this tax exemption – as well as how many others could qualify.

The Mayor pointed out that the Montreal Fluency Centre serves many non-residents. He recommended that the City establish a policy for its own criteria for giving its approval for these requests; if, indeed, the City receives no in-lieu of taxes from Quebec to compensate for the loss of taxes.

M^e St-Jean outlined the CMQ's criteria for qualifying for this recognition that results in a tax exemption. The institution must be a not-for-profit organization with a cultural and social benefit that would not be able to fulfill its mandate if it is obliged to pay taxes. The Mayor noted that Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, for example, meet these criteria, yet the City, he assumed, receives an amount in lieu of taxes. He emphasized that the state, and not the municipality, should pay for the role that the Montreal Fluency Centre serves.

- **It was agreed** that M^e St-Jean will report to Council at an upcoming General Committee meeting on whether there are any other properties that currently benefit from this tax exemption besides the Hurtubise House and the houses of worship, as well as how many others could qualify for it.

M^e St-Jean left the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES FOLLOW-UP

TRAFFIC

Councillor Cutler reported that the City of Montreal plans to extend its bicycle path network to Côte-St-Antoine Road and Westmount Avenue in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. The two cities' administrations have met to discuss the plans.

Councillor Cutler informed Council that it will be presented with three options for a prospective trucking route at the upcoming General Committee meeting on May 16th.

He reported that the TAC will prepare a quarterly report to Council regarding the status of its discussions and recommendations on the issues it has been asked to analyze.

The Director General recommended that for future General Committee meetings, "Council Objectives Follow-up" will only be discussed at the first meeting of the month, prioritizing presentations from the administration at the mid-month meetings.

- **It was agreed** that for future General Committee meetings, "Council Objectives Follow-up" will only be discussed at the first meeting of the month.

Confidential items were discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Davis inquired as to whether the merchants on Greene Avenue were invited to the press conference regarding the launch of the new parking meter system. Councillor Forbes responded that further to her discussion with Maureen Lafrenière of Communications, she learned that they were not invited. Councillor Samiotis noted that as this new system responds to years of requests from the Greene Avenue merchants, their presence at the press conference would have been useful. Council members agreed.

ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/AMT

Councillor Samiotis reported that contrary to the MTQ's earlier indication that the work on Greene Avenue as part of the Turcot project would be carried out towards the end of construction season, the presence of construction will be felt throughout the summer. She recommended meeting that a meeting between the MTQ and residents in order to address their concerns.

Councillor Samiotis informed Council that Ms. Patricia Dumais, a Westmount resident, has stepped down from the *Bon voisinage* committee concerned with the Turcot project. Mike Mossop, another resident, is expected to fill her position.

ONGOING ITEM: AGGLOMERATION SUMMARY REPORT

Copies of the “Agglomeration Summary Report” were distributed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 10:07 p.m.

VARIA: STREET PARTIES

Councillor Smith informed Council that the residents of Grosvenor Avenue are requesting that the street be closed to vehicular traffic between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Sherbrooke Street in order for a street party to be held one afternoon. She reported that she relayed the request to Director McBain.

NEW BUSINESS: CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Councillor Forbes recommended holding the concerts in the park outside of the WRC café. She explained that three or four concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons during the summer. The Mayor and the Director General expressed their support for holding the concerts in the proposed location.

Councillor Drury inquired as to the location of the Concert Classica event scheduled to be held on May 29th. Councillor Forbes responded that the event will be held at Victoria Hall.

Confidential items were discussed.

VARIA: COUNCILLORS' IPADS

Councillor Davis inquired as to whether any other Council members cannot view certain pages of the Council or General Committee agendas on their iPads. No other Council members reported having the same problem, and it was recommended that Councillor Davis present the issue affecting her ability to view these documents to Mr. Vallières.

VARIA: SPORTS AND RECREATION VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Councillor Smith recommended that the City provide the alcoholic beverages that will be served at the upcoming Sports and Recreation Volunteer Recognition Dinner free of charge. She pointed out that such is the practice at the Flower Show and the City should make its gratitude to its volunteers clear.

- **It was agreed** that the alcoholic beverages at the upcoming Sports and Recreation Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be served free of charge.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Victor M. Drury
Acting Mayor

M^e Nicole Dobbie
Assistant City Clerk