
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 AT 5:08 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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

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	Sean Michael Deegan, Director General Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk
Recording Secretary	Andrew Brownstein

GENERAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

Adoption of the General Committee Agenda of September 6, 2016

It was agreed that the Agenda of the September 6, 2016 meeting of the General Committee of Council be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- PARK(ing) Day (Councillor Lulham);
- Art Westmount (Councillor Forbes);
- Policy on Access to City Facilities (Councillor Martin);
- Swimming Pool (Councillor Martin); and
- Confidential item.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on August 15, 2016

The Minutes of the General Committee of Council's meeting held on August 15, 2016 were adopted with corrections.

Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of General Committee Held on August 15, 2016

Confidential items were discussed.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Councillor Smith inquired as to whether an adapted swing is to be installed in King George Park. Councillor Lulham responded that as part of the current park infrastructure improvements, climbing structures are being installed in King George Park. An adapted swing will be installed in Westmount Park, and later possibly in King George Park as well. She informed Council that the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of October. The Director General noted that it is possible said work will only be completed in the spring.

The Mayor reported that several municipalities have adopted resolutions against Bill 56, the *Lobbying and Transparency Act*. He explained that the prospective law would oblige volunteer groups like the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association and the Westmount Municipal Association to be registered provincially as lobbyists. He suggested the possibility of adopting a similar resolution against Bill 56 at the October Regular Sitting.

The Mayor directed Council's attention to Item no. 9, "Contingencies – Wood Avenue Project (Tender PW-2016-972)," which, if approved, will authorize an additional expenditure for the road and sidewalk reconstruction and replacement of the water mains and services on Wood Avenue between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Sherbrooke Street. He informed Council that a Montreal resident questioned the necessity of carrying out the sidewalk work bordering on Dawson College's west property line, to which he responded that the work is absolutely necessary. Councillor Martin confirmed the necessity of said work. Councillor Forbes informed Council that representatives of Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom have requested that this work not be carried out on the Jewish High Holidays. She reported that she forwarded the request to Mr. Patrick Raggo, Director of Public Works, and noted that she will ensure Mr. Benoit Hurtubise, Assistant Director General and Director of Hydro Westmount, is informed as well.

Regarding Item no. 11, "Participation in a Public Tender with *Le Centre de services partagés du Québec* (CSPQ) – Multifunction Photocopiers," the Mayor recommended explaining at that night's Regular Sitting that the expenditure of \$168,000 covers the rental of the photocopiers in question for a period of five years and that we should elaborate on the City's current costs.

Councillor Martin directed Council's attention to Item no. 19, "By-law to Amend the Code of Ethics and Conduct of Employees – Adoption." He explained that contrary to the by-law's title, the addition to be added to the by-law by this amendment deals with Council members' obligations and that of their office personnel. He explained that as indicated in the amending by-law, Council members are personally responsible for their own violations of the provision in question as well as those committed by their office personnel, noting that employees cannot be held personally responsible.

Council Question Period Follow-up

The Mayor corrected the note regarding his response to Mr. Bruce Anderson's request for further details to be included in the tender documents for the construction of the dog runs at King George Park and at the WAG. He explained that he wanted detailed specifications for all contracts going out for tender to ultimately be published on the City's website, not solely for the dog runs in question.

Regarding Mr. Paul Marriott's request for clarification regarding the obligation of Public Security officers to wear their uniform, the Mayor explained that he had responded that the City should not approve another collective agreement that does not explicitly specify PSO's obligation to wear the uniform provided. The Director General pointed out that the blue collar PSO's collective agreement already contains such a provision; however, the collective agreement with the white collar PSO's does not.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

DOG LICENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMILI)

Mr. Claude Vallières, Division Head – I.T., and Mr. Greg McBain, Director of Public Security, joined the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Mr. Vallières outlined the scheduled implementation of the new dog licence management system, EMILI. The system can be in operation by the end of the month. As a communication plan, Mr. Vallières recommended posting information on the new system on the City's website and on Facebook, and distributing a press release, information pamphlets, and an email to individuals who already have a permit. He noted that the system still requires a few modifications, namely one that will allow non-residents to obtain their dog licences through EMILI.

Mr. Vallières informed Council that EMILI functions through an online application. Dog owners can also apply in person at Public Security's office. Payment can be made in cash or by credit card, with the possibility of payments through PayPal to be confirmed.

Mr. Vallières reported that the system can inform the City when an individual attempts to register a dog of a certain breed that has been deemed illegal. The system can also be set to record applicants' dogs' medical history. It can also inform users of dogs that have been lost in the City. Mr. Vallières explained that these elements will likely be included as part of a second phase of the system's implementation.

Councillor Samiotis joined the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Mr. Vallières informed Council that of the City's residents, there are currently roughly 1,000 dogs for which their owners hold permits. Among non-residents who walk their dogs in the City, there are currently roughly 150 licensed dogs. The supplier of the new dog licence management system estimates that dogs reside in roughly 25% of dwellings. Mr. Vallières estimated that there are roughly 2,500 dogs belonging to residents and 350 dogs brought

into the City by non-residents for recreation. The mayor questioned the accuracy of the 25% figure in a City such as Westmount where 50% of dwellings were rented and therefore were mostly apartments.

As a possible incentive measure to encourage more dog owners to comply with their obligation to obtain a licence, Mr. Vallières suggested that dog owners could be given a free permit for one year if they register prior to December 31st. Councillor Lulham expressed her opposition to this proposal, explaining that dog owners require significant City services, the cost of which is to be offset by the fees collected for dog licences.

Mr. Vallières presented a visual rendering of the tag, equipped with a chip that can be scanned to identify the dog in question. If a PSO is hesitant to scan the chip due to concerns over a potential aggressive response from the dog, the number on the tag can be entered into the system and the same information retrieved.

Mr. Vallières demonstrated the system's interface, as it will be seen by the user.

Councillor Lulham recommended that the online application request that dog owners enter their veterinarian's name, the number of their dogs' vaccination certificate, as well as the date on which the vaccination was provided. She explained that not all applicants will be equipped to scan their vaccination certificates. At the end of the online application, Councillor Lulham suggested including the equivalent of a signature, a request for the applicant to tick a box thereby confirming that they attest to the above information being true.

As the essential aspects of the system, namely those dealing with licensing, are functioning, Mr. Vallières recommended announcing the new system's implementation at the October Regular Sitting.

Mr. Vallières explained that with EMILI, the permits will be valid for one year from when they are obtained, as opposed to the current term that applies for all dog licences that runs from January 1st to December 31st. Councillor Lulham noted that as all registered dog owners are currently on the same aforementioned term, the City should be sure to have sufficient tags for the renewal of all existing permits by December 31st.

Mr. Vallières updated Council on the recently-implemented parking meter system. He presented a chart outlining the revenue obtained from the new meters, pointing out a dip in said revenue over the summer, which is now returning to its usual amount. He informed Council that use of the mobile application, Passport, has continued to increase. Councillor Davis inquired as to whether the City obtains part of the administration fee applied when using Passport. Director McBain responded affirmatively, informing Council that the City obtains \$0.05 for every payment made on Passport. He explained that while the City of Montreal obtains \$0.20 for every payment made on Passport, Westmount's parking rates are lower than those of Montreal.

The Mayor took the opportunity to point out – while apologizing for his pedantry – that in the General Committee agenda, "licence" was spelled as "license," which is the American spelling for the noun. He noted that he frequently sees American spelling used in City documents and emphasized that the City should be using software that corrects these

errors. Mr. Vallières responded that the City is already using such software; Microsoft Office's spell-check must simply be set to Canadian English.

Mr. Vallières and Director McBain left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

SUMMIT CIRCLE PROJECT

Ms. Elisa Gaetano, Assistant Director of Public Works – Infrastructure and Engineering, and Ms. Jayme Gerbrandt, the City's horticulturalist, joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Gaetano reported that earlier that day, the Ministry of Culture and Communications formally confirmed its approval of the prospective project by email by granting the associated permit. The provincial grant was confirmed as well; Quebec will fund 50% of the project's cost up to a maximum of \$625,000.

Ms. Gaetano informed Council that the lowest bidder for the work, Aménagement Côté Jardins Inc., is certified by the AMF and has carried out projects in Baie d'Urfé and Montreal. The company has a planting team and its owner is an agronomist, making it particularly well-suited for this project. Ms. Gaetano explained that the contractor selected for the project will be responsible for the supplying, planting, and watering of all trees, providing a one-year guarantee. Ms. Gerbrandt pointed out that as the planting will be carried out in the spring and early summer of 2017, a season that requires significant watering, she is pleased to see this included in the prospective contract.

Ms. Gaetano explained that as discussed at the previous General Committee meeting, many additional aspects were included in Hatch Ltd's revised plan for the project, some necessary and some complementary. Effectively additional infrastructure projects, the complementary aspects were added in order to avoid the costs associated with a second construction period and a separate construction contract. Accordingly, the project's original cost estimate of \$800,000 has been replaced by essentially two projects totalling \$1.3 million.

In order to adhere as much as possible to the original cost estimate, Ms. Gaetano and Ms. Gerbrandt distinguished between the work that is necessary for the naturalization project and that which is complementary to the project. Accordingly, they estimated the naturalization project's cost at \$842,782. The complementary work, which includes the construction of a viewpoint and an extended concrete area leading to the naturalized area as well as new lighting, which will be carried out in the spring, is estimated to cost \$545,099. In order to avoid the costs associated with a separate construction contract, the entirety of the work is to be awarded as one contract to be executed over two fiscal years and funded accordingly.

Councillor Martin inquired as to whether Summit Woods will be accessible in the winter. Ms. Gerbrandt responded that a few thoroughfares will be maintained. Ms. Gaetano explained that the Washingtonian lights will be kept in place until the spring.

The Mayor expressed his approval of Aménagement Côté Jardins Inc. as the prospective contractor for the naturalization project, as well as the distinction between the naturalization project and the, additional, complementary work.

Further to Councillor Cutler's inquiry, Ms. Gaetano explained that the aforementioned estimated costs are before the provincial grant is taken into account.

Regarding the pathway that links Summit Circle to Ridgewood Avenue in Côte-des-Neiges, Councillor Lulham recommended proceeding with the proposed improvements, particularly in light of the provincial grant.

- **It was agreed** that the City will carry out the proposed work on the pathway that links Summit Circle to Ridgewood Avenue in Côte-des-Neiges.

Councillor Lulham noted that the City will attempt to encourage the City of Montreal to improve its portion of the path.

Ms. Gaetano explained that the Ministry's permit for the project carries with it the obligation to have an archaeologist on site. Said archaeologist will monitor the excavation and stop the work as is necessary in order to ascertain the presence of artifacts having historical value. Ms. Gaetano informed Council that under the prospective contract, the City will not be required to pay the additional cost in salaries associated with work stoppages that exceed 15 minutes.

Councillor Drury inquired as to whether the provincial grant is one of those being awarded as part of Montreal's 375th anniversary. Councillor Lulham and Councillor Samiotis responded that it is not.

Further to Councillor Davis' inquiry, Ms. Gaetano informed Council that the work will begin in September if the contract is awarded at that night's Regular Sitting.

Ms. Gaetano and Ms. Gerbrandt left the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

WINTER CYCLING CONGRESS

Councillor Lulham informed Council of the request from Mr. Dan Lambert, President of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association for the City to participate in the Winter Cycling Congress that is to be held in Montreal in February 2017. Specifically, Mr. Lambert has requested that the City demonstrate, alongside the boroughs of Ville-Marie and Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, to which he will present the same proposal, the effective snow clearing, carried out on the De Maisonneuve bicycle path. Mr. Lambert has also proposed that the City, and the aforementioned boroughs, set up mobile workshops along the bicycle path and serve hot chocolate at the event.

- **It was agreed** that the City will participate in the Winter Cycling Congress that is to be held in February 2017.

THE OPEN DOOR

Director McBain joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Councillor Samiotis explained that with the closure of a soup kitchen and a shelter in downtown Montreal resulting in the growth of The Open Door, the number of homeless people in the southeast sector has increased. Accordingly, she recommended that the City request assistance in handling the matter from Montreal. She noted that Public Security and the SPVM have devoted disproportionate resources to managing the issues that have stemmed from the presence of many homeless people around St. Stephen's Church after The Open Door closes and into the night. Despite these efforts, there is still little control over the situation. Councillor Samiotis explained that the municipality's role is to maintain peace and security, while the funding of social programs is the provincial government's responsibility.

Councillor Samiotis emphasized that St. Stephen's Church must work to ensure that homeless people do not congregate on or around the church's property after hours as a result of The Open Door.

Director McBain outlined the issues to which Councillor Samiotis was referring. He explained that so far this year, Public Security has received 270 calls regarding issues relating to homeless people in the area, with many more relating to violence and heavy intoxication than before. Director McBain explained that the issues are not limited to St. Stephen's Church and the adjacent Weredale Park, but are also prevalent in Dorchester Park and the Tupper Lots. He noted the City's liability for potential damage caused to the vehicles parked in its lots.

Confidential items were discussed.

The Mayor pointed out that other churches have begun (or will no doubt begin) offering similar services, and accordingly, the City should aim to develop a holistic solution. Councillor Lulham noted that the Church of the Advent was sold and now offers some of the same services provided by The Open Door. She agreed that the City should not be devoting Public Security to carrying out the work that should be managed by private security.

Director McBain explained that many of these individuals have been barred from that shelter, adding that it does not admit those who are intoxicated.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Cutler suggested that in order to address these issues, the City should work with the federal government, which has undertaken efforts to manage issues related to homelessness, particularly among those who are First Nations.

Councillor Cutler recommended looking to San Diego's recent initiatives to address its similar issues. He explained that as many of San Diego's homeless are former military personnel, the state has a similar additional responsibility for providing assistance as in the

case of the First Nations in Canada. For example, alcohol cannot be purchased in a certain area of San Diego after 6:00 p.m.

Ultimately, Councillor Cutler emphasized the need to proceed with the support and assistance of the federal and provincial governments. Councillor Samiotis agreed, reiterating that fundamentally, these social issues fall under the purview of the federal and provincial governments.

Confidential items were discussed.

The Mayor referred to an article published in *La Presse* on August 16th indicating that upon the City of Montreal's insistence, the STM will demolish the waiting area at the exit of Atwater metro station in Cabot Square in attempt to curb criminal activity in the area.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Martin proposed installing a camera in Weredale Park in order to allow Public Security to monitor the area remotely and then go to the premises to remove people when they see groups congregating. Director McBain explained that there are several areas in the City where homeless people congregate and while such a measure will help clear these people from one area, they will simply move to another.

Confidential items were discussed.

Council members thanked Director McBain and his department for their work on the matter.

Director McBain left the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

POLLING RESULTS

The Mayor referred to Council's decision, affirmed on several occasions in the past, to rely more on polling to ascertain residents' interests and concerns. He explained that Council meetings and "Letters to the Editor" in the local newspaper tend to produce unrepresentative views that are skewed to the negative.

The Mayor explained that as a professional poll was determined to be too expensive, the City distributed a poll on the City's services via E-Westmount. As only subscribers to E-Westmount participated in the poll, the Mayor recommended interpreting the results accordingly.

The Mayor summarized the results. Overall, the vast majority residents are satisfied with the City's services. They are particularly pleased with the quality of service received from City employees. Satisfaction with the City's infrastructure and Urban Planning scored the lowest, but were by no means poor (46% satisfied and 51% satisfied respectively).

Further to her meeting with Mr. Sebastian Samuel, of the City's Communications department, Councillor Smith recommended publishing the poll's results on the City's website. She further recommended that future polls should be available on the website in

order to allow for more respondents to participate. She suggested including a question by which the respondent identifies himself as a resident or non-resident.

The Director General informed Council that the City intends to hold another poll in October.

The Mayor recommended seeking the services of Mr. Mark Wilkins, who currently runs his own polling firm, in order to ensure that the legitimacy of the City's polls are not later criticized.

- **It was agreed** that the City will seek the services of Mr. Mark Wilkins in order to validate the legitimacy of the City's polls.

The Mayor emphasized the importance of taking measures to ensure that individuals only respond to a poll once.

Councillor Samiotis recommended incorporating a comments section in order for respondents to qualify their answers, which will help guide the City in its interpretation of their responses. She informed Council that she is in the process of preparing a survey for Urban Planning, which will be distributed to all of the past year's permit recipients.

Councillor Samiotis recommended distributing a message via E-Westmount thanking those who participated in the current poll and alerting all subscribers of the upcoming poll that is to be distributed shortly.

NEW BUSINESS: PARK(ing) DAY

Councillor Lulham briefed Council on the City's participation in the international PARK(ing) Day event, during which parking spaces will be converted into temporary public spaces aimed at encouraging alternate use of parking spaces. The event will be held on September 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Healthy Cities, the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, and the Horticultural Society will all participate in the event. Incredible Edible Westmount will be promoted at the event, the City's urban agriculture initiative by which edible plants are incorporated into floral displays in parks and street planters. Councillor Lulham reported that she will be meeting with the City's merchants this week to seek their support and potential participation in PARK(ing) Day.

On a related note, Councillor Lulham informed Council that on September 22nd, Mr. Karl Moore will be speaking at the library on living without an automobile.

NEW BUSINESS: ART WESTMOUNT

Councillor Forbes briefed Council on the schedule for the annual Art Westmount event. The event will be launched on September 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the gallery at Victoria Hall. The main event will be held on the first weekend of October as part of the province's *Journées de la culture*. Nearly 70 authors and artists will participate in Art Westmount.

Councillor Forbes informed Council that the event is funded entirely by the participating authors and artist, who then keep the profits of whatever they sell.

Councillor Martin informed Council that the Westmount Baptist Church, located on Sherbrooke Street between Roslyn Avenue and Lansdowne Avenue, has been holding a carwash every weekend in the church's parking lot. He inquired as to whether the church needs a permit to carry on this activity. Councillor Samiotis responded affirmatively. Councillor Lulham recommended inquiring with Director Poirier as to the by-law that had been applied to stop repeated garage sales being carried out on a regular basis.

NEW BUSINESS: POLICY ON ACCESS TO CITY FACILITIES

Councillor Martin informed Council that Dawson College charged an admission fee for its hockey game held at the WRC. Mayor Trent explained that a policy regarding the access to and the use of the WRC has recently been drafted. To date, the policy on the matter for Victoria Hall has been applied for all City facilities. The same principle guides both policies; events held in City facilities must be open to all residents.

The Director General reported that Dawson College charged the same admission fee for all of its games during the previous season. The proceeds are then used to fund the team, namely its travel costs for away games. He explained that all CEGEPs proceed in this manner. He added that Dawson College pays the standard rate for its ice time and takes the time slots that most other teams would not take. The Director General acknowledged that the practice of allowing Dawson College to charge this admission fee is an oversight on the administration's part in its application of the policy on the use of City facilities.

Councillor Martin informed Council that the Jewish National Fund is scheduled to hold an event at Victoria Hall for which an admission fee is to be charged. The Mayor explained that as this event is not geared towards the broader Westmount community, an admission fee cannot be charged.

Councillor Lulham reported that Centre Greene has requested that the City fund the renovation of the building's front steps, as well as the installation of a ramp. The Director General pointed out that all improvements are to be carried out at the cost of Centre Greene, adding that significant repairs were carried out the previous year. The Mayor noted that minor maintenance is the responsibility of Centre Greene, but major work is to be carried out by the City. He questioned how the proposed work is to be qualified. Councillor Lulham explained that as the stairs are falling apart, their renovation is both necessary and well beyond the scope of minor maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS: SWIMMING POOL

Councillor Lulham and Councillor Davis commented on how busy the pool was during Labour Day weekend, with many swimmers inquiring as to why the pool was being closed for the season while the weather is still ideal for outdoor swimming.

Councillor Martin recommended keeping the pool open throughout September, weather permitting. He explained that the City should maximize the use of its new and expensive facility, particularly given that the pool is heated at no additional cost to the City as it uses heat generated from the cooling of the WRC's ice rinks. Councillor Martin explained that the current pool staff is not sufficiently available to keep the pool open throughout September. He emphasized the need to address this issue during the hiring process, explaining that lifeguards must be available to work part time in September as a condition of their employment.

Councillor Lulham suggested hiring a larger pool staff, allowing them to be trained throughout the summer or work split seasons, from May to July and July to September for example.

The Mayor relayed the cost estimate of \$45,000 provided by Mr. Andrew Maislin, Sports and Recreation Operations Manager, for keeping the pool open until the near end of September. Councillor Martin noted that this cost estimate should be considered against the additional revenue that will be collected in the form of day passes. The Mayor added that said revenue will be of particular significance given that the City will have the last remaining open outdoor pool on the Island.

Confidential items were discussed.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Rosalind Davis
Acting Mayor

M^e Martin St-Jean
City Clerk