MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 AT 4:02 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair                  David Laidley
Mayor                  Christina Smith
Councillors            Philip A. Cutler
                        Rosalind Davis
                        Victor M. Drury
                        Nicole Forbes
                        Cynthia Lulham
                        Patrick Martin
                        Theodora Samiotis
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 18, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the September 18, 2017 meeting of the GC be adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

PALM HOUSE AND POND GREENHOUSE – ARUP PREFEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. David de Koning of Arup Canada Inc. (Arup) and Mr. Robert Talarico, Director of Public Works, joined the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

The DG introduced Arup’s prefeasibility study on the refurbishing of the Palm House (Conservatory) and the Pond Greenhouse (Frog Pond). The potential refurbishment of the grow houses will be assessed once the City establishes its needs for them.

Mr. de Koning outlined Arup’s background, explaining that the company was created in London in the 1930s and grew to develop a strong international presence.
Mr. de Koning presented Arup’s proposal to keep the Conservatory’s and Frog Pond’s steel foundation and replace the wooden parts of the frame as well as install a modern glazing system. The proposed glazing constitutes laminated tempered glass with a PVB interlayer, which, in the event of glass breakage, serves to hold the broken pieces in place, while the current glass shatters into pieces when broken. This glass would be supplied by windshield manufacturers. As with windshields, this glass can withstand drastically different temperatures and humidity on its opposing sides. The new wood called Accoya, is guaranteed against moisture damage for 50 years. Mr. de Koning explained how the current and proposed systems handle humidity.

Councillor Martin joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Mr. de Koning outlined the process for replacing the glass and wood as well as the associated work.

Confidential items were discussed.

Mr. de Koning explained that while the new wood is guaranteed against moisture for 50 years, its lifespan can be increased by painting it, and more significantly, with an efficient drainage system.

Mr. de Koning explained that an energy study must be carried out, in light of which the City can decide whether it wishes to whitewash the glass or install a frit on it. He described a frit as more aesthetically pleasing and permanent, but costlier. The possibility of tinting the glass was raised. Mr. de Koning explained that the cost estimate is based on glass that would not be tinted.

Mr. de Koning informed the GC that the design could be completed within six to eight months, at which point construction could then begin. Once the old glass is removed, all work must be done from the outside. Therefore, this work could not be carried out in the winter unless a tent were to be built around the structure.

Mr. de Koning reported that the Accoya wood could be obtained from a supplier in Ontario. This type of wood is used in greenhouses in upstate New York where the climate is very similar.

Mr. de Koning left the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

**SNOW REMOVAL - UPDATE**

Director Talarico presented Public Works’ plans to improve snow removal in the upcoming winter.

Three Bombardier sidewalk plows are planned to be used overnight when necessary. In previous winters, sidewalk snow removal only began between 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., which Director Talarico explained is too late.
Snow removal in the commercial areas will begin as of 5:30 a.m., as there is already considerable traffic in these areas by 7:00 a.m.

Council members expressed their support for the above plans, noting that the decision to proceed in this manner is a matter of safety and ensuring a proper flow of traffic. Said decision must be communicated as such prior to the onset of winter and throughout the season.

Director Talarico explained that while there is a risk of disturbing residents, the City does not plan to clean throughout the night, but rather will aim to begin cleaning just early enough to avoid any safety or traffic issues. Director Talarico explained that over his seven years managing the snow removal fleet, he has witnessed traffic intensify, adding that it will only continue to do so. Accordingly, it may become necessary to begin cleaning in the early morning hours around schools as well. Director Talarico explained that this practice is best introduced gradually.

Confidential items were discussed.

Councillor Lulham joined the meeting at 4:41 p.m.

Councillor Samiotis expressed her concern about making a practice of overnight sidewalk-cleaning when the snowfall is not significant enough to require it, as the sidewalk plows vibrate. Director Talarico explained that as many of the sidewalks in Ward 7 and 8 are narrower, the Bombardier plows cannot be used, and instead, the City uses John Deere tractors equipped with snowplows in the front. Although they vibrate, they are very efficient.

Director Talarico reported that despite a shortage of snow removal trucks reserved for the City during the heavy March 2016 snowstorm, 32 trucks will be reserved once again for the coming season. Most storms require the use of 25 trucks, and accordingly, it is not worthwhile to reserve 40 trucks given the additional cost of doing so and the rarity of such large snowfalls.

All snow-cleaning vehicles are equipped with sideguards for safety, including those that clear the lanes.

Director Talarico informed the GC that as the Bombardier sidewalk plows cannot clear after major snowfalls like that of March 2016, three of these vehicles are being equipped with new snow blowers in the front for the upcoming season.

Director Talarico reported that after a storm, snow removal in the commercial areas is the first priority, followed by the remainder of Sherbrooke Street and The Boulevard.

As parking on one-way streets is only permitted on the right-hand side and snowplows push the snow to the right, Director Talarico confirmed that he will attempt to have the snow dumped on the left-hand side of these streets by organizing a route for these streets to be cleared with a plow oriented to the left.

The issue of contractors dumping snow from private property onto the sidewalk was discussed. Director Talarico informed the GC that when contractors apply for a license or
its renewal, they are given a memorandum advising them against dumping snow on the sidewalk.

- **It was agreed** that a communication document will be distributed to residents informing them of the City's plans to improve snow removal operations. Said document will inform residents that they can be ticketed if their contractor dumps snow from their property onto the sidewalk.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m., at which point Council held its Special Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 5:03 p.m.

**PARK(ing) DAY**

The DG reported that the City will be participating in the annual international PARK(ing) Day for a second time. The event will be held on September 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**TRUCK ROUTE**

The DG reported that the MTQ has approved the City’s prospective truck route, which is to run along Sherbrooke Street, Sainte-Catherine Street, and the portions of Clarke Avenue and Victoria Avenue between these two streets. During daytime hours, the truck route will also run on the same portion of Claremont Avenue and on Dorchester Boulevard. Trucks will therefore no longer be permitted to circulate on other streets except for local deliveries, for which they must follow the route to the closest point to their ultimate destination. This will apply to City vehicles as well. In order to initiate the route’s adoption, a notice of motion will be presented to Council at its October 2nd Regular Sitting. As the route connects to those of the neighbouring boroughs, its adoption is not subject to their approval by resolutions of their councils. Once adopted, the SPVM will enforce the route’s observance.

Council members expressed their approval of the prospective truck route.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m., at which point Council held its Demolition Hearing. The meeting was reconvened at 5:32 p.m.

**PROJET VENDÔME**

The DG reported that the TAC has recommended that Council accept the STM's proposal for a cut to be made in the New Jersey median on Sainte-Catherine Street for trucks to access the construction site, which will be managed by a flagman during working hours. The cut in the median will be sealed off beyond working hours. Much of the work is to be carried out on the Provigo lot off of Sainte-Catherine Street; however, the washing station will be located farther into the site and is therefore not expected to create much noise. While the project will worsen traffic, the planned improvements to the underground network between the MUHC and Vendôme metro station are needed.
Council members discussed the route to be followed by trucks exiting the site and the importance of being responsive to the traffic issues that may arise from the project.

Director Talarico left the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

**GC AGENDA (Continued)**

**Adoption of the GC Agenda of September 18, 2017 (Continued)**

The following item was added to the Agenda under New Business:

- Scheduling of upcoming GC meeting (DG Hurtubise).

**Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of General Committee held on September 5, 2017**

The Minutes of the GC’s meeting held on September 5, 2017 were adopted with corrections.

**Business arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on September 5, 2017**

Councillor Davis presented the draft communication on the indoor pool survey’s results.

- **It was agreed** that the communication on the indoor pool survey’s results will be translated and published.

The Mayor invited all members of Council to attend the tour of the Cartierville YMCA, which was built under a partnership between the City of Montreal and the YMCA with the help of a project manager who worked to obtain federal and provincial funding, with whom the Mayor recently met.

Councillor Lulham reported on the community garden meeting and the meeting between the City, Mr. Pierre Boudreault of Artères, and the merchants and commercial sector property owners held the previous week, which she described as successful.

Confidential items were discussed.

Further to the GC’s request for Legal Services to determine whether provincial law permits the City to equip its Public Safety officers with naloxone in order for them to administer the drug in cases of fentanyl overdoses, Mme St-Jean reported that the provincial government recently announced it is broadening the list of those permitted to administer naloxone to include users, their family members, and *autres intervenants*, which has yet to be defined. Councillor Cutler informed the GC that UQAM and McGill University announced that day that they are training their security staff to administer naloxone.
Council Question Period Follow-up

The DG confirmed that Public Works is replacing the two missing bicycle racks mentioned during the September 5th Regular Sitting question period.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies left the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Drury informed the GC that the Hydro Westmount Advisory Committee (the Committee) has met four times over the previous two years to analyse Hydro Westmount’s financial situation, its overall capital expenditure plans, and its strategic positioning. The Committee consists of the Mayor, the DG, the Director of Hydro Westmount, the Commissioner of Finance, namely Councillor Drury, and a former Commissioner of Finance, Tim Price, who chairs the Committee.

Councillor Drury explained that Hydro Westmount generates an annual operating profit ranging between $1 million to $1.4 million. In accordance with its 20-year capital investment plan, $2 million to $2.4 million is invested in its capital infrastructure annually.

Councillor Drury relayed the benefits of having Hydro Westmount that justify the aforementioned investment plan, as described by the Committee. Given the proximity of the services to its customers, Hydro Westmount provides more personalized and efficient service than Hydro Québec when issues arise. Similarly, Hydro Westmount communicates more efficiently with developers than does Hydro Quebec. Hydro Westmount’s underground services are safer, more reliable, and aesthetically pleasing than above ground power lines. With Hydro Westmount, the City can schedule its electrical infrastructure work to be carried out at its convenience, and alongside its general infrastructure work as is necessary. Hydro Westmount is equipped with a backup circuit for all customers. Hydro Westmount has a 5KV and 15KV underground network. Lastly, with Hydro Westmount, the City retains full ownership of its underground network.

Councillor Drury relayed the Committee’s recommendations. The Committee should be maintained under the next Council and should be made up of the Mayor, one or two Councillors, one financial expert, the Director of Hydro Westmount, the DG, and one expert from the field. The Committee should provide advice to Hydro Westmount and recommendations to Council on operations strategies, investment strategies, and future development plans, such as the potential use of batteries to reduce consumption during peak periods, as Hydro Quebec charges Hydro Westmount a significant premium for peak-period consumption.
The DG explained that while 80% to 90% of the substations’ equipment has recently been renewed and 75% of the poles have recently been upgraded, the underground network is the primary focus of the aforementioned investment plan.

**FILMING PERMIT REQUEST**

The DG relayed the *Bureau du cinéma et de la télévision de Montréal*’s request for a permit to film at Westmount Park School on November 18, 19, and 20. He explained that as November 20th is a Monday, the school and the City refused this date. The school expressed its approval for the filming to be carried out over the weekend; however, the City does not typically permit filming on weekends. Mme St-Jean explained that under By-law 1313, “By-law concerning filming permits,” filming permits are not granted for Sundays.

Council members expressed their support for allocating the permit for Saturday, November 18th. The DG expressed his doubt as to whether this will constitute sufficient time for the applicants considering that their initial request was for three days.

- **It was agreed** that in accordance with By-law 1313, the City will explain that filming is not permitted on Sundays and will propose that the *Bureau du cinéma et de la télévision de Montréal* request a filming permit for Saturday, November 18th, which, subject to Council’s approval, would prospectively be awarded.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT**

The DG reported that the MTQ reopened Greene Avenue on September 13th without informing the City. He explained that the lights in the tunnel are in the process of being installed. The eastbound bridge has been completed and is in use, but the temporary bridge is still being used for westbound traffic. The structure’s walls and beams have been coated with a finish to which graffiti does not adhere.

The DG reported that the next *Bon voisinage* meeting is scheduled for October.

Confidential items were discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS: SCHEDULING OF UPCOMING GC MEETING**

The DG recommended beginning the upcoming GC meeting at 6:00 p.m., as it is expected to have a light agenda, barring any unforeseen additions.

- **It was agreed** that the October 2nd GC meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m., barring any unforeseen additions to the agenda.
ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Christina Smith                  Mme Martin St-Jean
Mayor                            Director of Legal Services and City Clerk