GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of December 4, 2017

It was agreed that the Agenda of the December 4, 2017 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Recent Break-ins (DG Hurtubise);
- Dangerous Dog By-law (DG Hurtubise);
- Residents' Queries (DG Hurtubise);
- Leonard Cohen Square (Councillor Lulham);
- Occupancy Permits in Commercial Sectors (Councillor Peart); and
- Coordination of WRC Programming with Ped Days (Councillor Peart).

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of the GC held on November 20, 2017

The Minutes of the GC’s meeting held on November 20, 2017 were adopted with corrections.
Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in GC

Regarding Item no. 27, “2018 Schedule for the Regular Council Sittings,” under which Regular Sittings are to be held twice a month, mid-month meetings will still primarily deal with the allocation of permits. As spring break in Quebec schools will be during the first week of March, the permits-oriented Regular Sitting will be held during that week, and the larger agenda will be dealt with at the mid-month Regular Sitting.

Under Item no. 29, “Urban Planning – By-law 1489 – Adoption of a second draft resolution,” Council will vote on whether, in the context of the SCAOPI application for 500 Claremont Avenue, it accepts the proposed zoning variances regarding building height and usage. Further to Council’s prospective adoption of the second draft resolution, a communication document in the format of a Q&A outlining the reasons for which the City is satisfied with the proposed project will be published on the City’s website the following day.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY’S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head - Communications, Ms. Elisabeth Simard, Communications - Social Media Coordinator, and Mr. Claude Vallières, Division Head – I.T., joined the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

The City is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and has doubled its followers in the past year with the goal of doubling them yet again in the coming months.

Ms. Simard and Mr. Samuel encouraged GC members to operate their own social media accounts in their capacity as Council members, proposing Twitter as the most popular among elected officials, and briefed them on how to do so. These accounts are to be used as a medium for direct and instant communication between the resident and the elected official. Accordingly, response time should be reasonably quick, and accounts should be actively managed.

Council members who choose to operate such social media accounts are to do so in their capacity as members of Council. Accordingly, personal information should not be shared, the “Code of Ethics and Good Conduct” must be followed, and the opinions expressed must be clearly framed as those of the Council member and not those of the Council or the City. As much as possible, Councillors should use these accounts to direct their followers to the City’s website and social media by posting links to the website, sharing posts on Facebook, or retweeting on Twitter.

Mr. Samuel and Ms. Simard left the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO THE USAGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS

Mr. Vallières briefed GC members on the technological tools used by the City.
Council members’ iPads are configured with a Westmount Apple ID and are used to access email, a common Dropbox account, and the Conseil sans papier system.

Each Council member has a telephone number and voicemail associated with a landline in City Hall. For added efficiency in communicating with residents, calls to this number can be forwarded to another telephone. Council members can also call into the system from another telephone and then make a call with their City telephone number. Voicemail notifications can be sent to the Council member’s City email.

There are several Wi-Fi networks in City buildings, as different networks are used by the public, the majority of the administration, and the members of Council as well as those members of the administration requiring access to more sensitive information.

GC members discussed the possibility of making Wi-Fi available in public places, such as parks.

Mr. Vallières left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED

The DG and Mme St-Jean briefed the GC on the process for Regular Sittings.

Regarding Item no. 18, “Tenders by invitation - Rental of four (4) trucks for snow removal operations for the 2018 winter season,” GC members affirmed the importance of the City’s insistence that all snow removal trucks be equipped with sideguards. The DG confirmed that this requirement was integrated in this contract.

Regarding Item no. 24, “Adoption - By-law 1512 on truck and tool vehicle traffic,” the MTQ will not permit the requested restricted hours for the portion of the truck route on Clarke Avenue. However, without this north-south link, there would be too large of a gap between Victoria Avenue and Atwater Avenue, which would complicate the City’s operations. Additionally, truck traffic counts on Clarke Avenue are currently very low. Accordingly, Clarke Avenue, between Sherbrooke Street and Sainte-Catherine Street, is proposed to remain as part of the prospective truck route to be used between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The City will monitor the truck traffic on Clarke Avenue to ensure it does not become excessive, although it is not expected to. If it ultimately becomes necessary, Clarke Avenue can be removed from the truck route.

Regarding Item no. 29, “Urban Planning - By-law 1489 – Adoption of a second resolution draft,” in the event of damage caused by work related to the prospective redevelopment project, the promoter’s liability insurance will indemnify residents who suffer such damage.

BILL 122 – IMPACT ON THE PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICES

Bill 122, adopted by the provincial government in June, permits the City to adopt a by-law that sets out the terms governing the publication of its public notices. Said by-law would have to prescribe the publication of public notices on the internet and could include
publication by other means as well, therefore making it optional for municipalities to continue publishing their notices in newspapers. Currently, the City’s notices are published in French and English on its website, in the Westmount Independent, and at the entrance of City Hall.

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** that this item will be discussed further at the December 18th GC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 10:02 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS: RECENT BREAK-INS**

Mr. Jacques Meunier, Lieutenant from the SPVM’s Station 12, joined the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Lieutenant Meunier briefed the GC on the recent increase in break-ins, which he explained to be part of a broader trend in wealthy neighbourhoods in the Greater Montreal Area.

As a regular precaution, the SPVM recommends that people lock their doors, use a home alarm system, ideally one that is linked to the windows on the second floor as well, install bars on their ground floor windows, turn on their lights, and install timers for the lights to be turned on and off in their absence. They further recommend that people inform their trusted neighbours when they are leaving town in order for them to observe for any unusual activity. On the other hand, travel plans should not be publicized on social media, nor should expensive purchases or gifts.

Westmount residents leaving town can benefit from the service offered by Public Security for periodic check-ins on their residences.

GC members suggested that Lieutenant Meunier organize an education campaign for the City’s merchants on how to prevent break-ins and robberies.

Lieutenant Meunier left the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

**2018 BUDGET TIMELINE**

The Finance and Administration Committee will be presented with the first few possible versions of the operational and capital works budgets on December 7th. The following week, Council members will have their 2018 budget seminar. As the capital works budget is part of the Three-Year Capital Works Program, its adoption, namely in terms of the total amount to be allocated, cannot be delayed, and as such, it is scheduled to be adopted at the December 18th Special Sitting. Council will prospectively adopt the operational budget at a Special Sitting scheduled for January 11th. At the January 15th Regular Sitting, Council will prospectively adopt the by-law concerning the 2018 tax rates.
ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT

Confidential items were discussed.

The upcoming *Bon voisinage* meeting is scheduled to be held in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in February 2018.

NEW BUSINESS: DANGEROUS DOG BY-LAW

Councillor Lulham has asked that a draft of a dangerous dog by-law be presented. The goal of the proposed amendment is to improve the mechanism for declaring dogs as dangerous and imposing the corresponding consequence. The draft by-law will not include breed-specific provisions.

NEW BUSINESS: RESIDENTS’ QUERIES

Residents can ask questions, express concerns, or offer suggestions by filling out the “Contact us” form on the City’s website. These questions, concerns, and suggestions are then dispatched by Communications to the departments concerned. Traffic-specific matters are best communicated by email to the TAC at traffic@westmount.org.

NEW BUSINESS: LEONARD COHEN SQUARE

Upon the death of Mr. Leonard Cohen, a former resident, residents suggested that the City honour him. As the square on Prince Albert Avenue has yet to be named, it has been proposed to be named “Leonard Cohen Square,” which, as a preliminary proposal, was received favourably by Mr. Cohen’s family.

- It was agreed that Councillor Lulham will meet with Mr. Cohen’s manager to discuss the prospect of naming the square on Prince Albert Avenue “Leonard Cohen Square.”

NEW BUSINESS: OCCUPANCY PERMITS IN COMMERCIAL SECTORS

GC members discussed the possible adoption of a policy to restrict the allocation of permits for the occupancy of the public way, namely with materials and equipment blocking the sidewalk or road, in commercial sectors during the holiday season.

NEW BUSINESS: COORDINATION OF WRC PROGRAMMING WITH PED DAYS

- It was agreed that the City will determine if and how the WRC’s programming can be coordinated with the various school boards’ ped days.
ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

_________________________________________  _______________________________________
Cynthia Lulham                             M° Martin St-Jean
Acting Mayor                               Director of Legal Services and City Clerk