
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON JANUARY 15, 2018 AT 4:34 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair	Cynthia Lulham
Mayor	Christina Smith
Councillors	Anitra Bostock Marina Brzeski Philip A. Cutler Mary Gallery Kathleen Kez Conrad Peart Jeff J. Shamie

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

Mrs. Sandra Avakian, Assistant Director General (ADG), Mr. Robert Talarico, Director of Public Works, Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head – Communications, and Ms. Julie Mandeville, Director of Finance, joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of January 15, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the January 15, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Upcoming Demolition Hearings (DG Hurtubise).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Due to the frequent heavy snowfalls since December 18th, 2017, the City's snow removal services have been operating at maximum capacity and have been noticeably more efficient than that of its neighbours. However, snow removal is costly, at roughly \$500,000 per major snow removal operation, and there are limitations on this service; employees cannot work beyond the maximum of 70 hours per week, and the snow dumps are far from the City, with empty trucks returning to the City 45 minutes after having left to unload.

The City has improved its snow removal services from the previous year by increasing its fleet of snow removal trucks from 32 to 36, in addition to purchasing two of its own. As with the rest of Public Works' vehicles, the City's two snow removal trucks are equipped with a white noise backup signal.

Mr. Samuel is working with Public Works to publish the priority snow clearing routes on the City's website.

The ADG, Director Talarico, and Mr. Samuel left the meeting at 4:49 p.m. Councillor Shamie joined the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Mandeville left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of the GC held on December 18, 2017

The Minutes of the GC's meeting held on December 18, 2017 were adopted with corrections.

Items from the Council Agenda to be discussed in General Committee

Under Item no. 22, "New Business: Adoption of a resolution to reject the proposed 2018 Agglomeration Budget," Council will prospectively adopt said resolution formally requesting that the 2018 Agglomeration Budget be revised, with similar resolutions to be adopted by all the suburban municipalities.

Under Item no. 10, "Professional Services – Approval of a system of bid weighting and evaluation (Engineering)," Council will prospectively adopt an improved system for the evaluation of tenders requested by Engineering.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

500 CLAREMONT - UPDATE

The City received valid requests to initiate the registry-referendum process from five zones. Accordingly, if Council proceeds with the adoption of the final resolution at tonight's Regular Sitting, a notice would be published on January 23rd informing the public of the upcoming one-day registry to be held on January 29th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in accordance with the procedure and time delays established by the law.

PARKING RATES – BY-LAW AMENDMENT

At tonight's Regular Sitting, Council will vote on the adoption of a notice of motion to amend "By-law 1498 on Paid Parking." This prospective amendment constitutes the uniformization of the paid parking rate throughout the City, namely by increasing the rate in the \$2/hour zone to \$3/hour. The prospective amendment would also exempt all recognized car-sharing services, currently Car2Go and Communauto, from paying for parking.

- **It was agreed** that the City will request that Car2Go and Communauto, as part of their annual reports, send the City their data from their vehicles' GPS regarding the locations in which the vehicles were parked and the timing of said parking.

DRAFT BY-LAW AMENDMENT CONCERNING NOISE

The proposed by-law amendment would ban the use of gas-operated leaf blowers upon its prospective adoption, having effect as of April 1st, 2018 when leaf blowers will begin to be permitted for the spring season, and would ban gas-operated lawnmowers as of April 1st, 2019. Electrically-operated models do not pose the same noise and air pollution concerns.

- **It was agreed** in principle that at its February 5th Regular Sitting, Council will adopt a notice of motion for the prospective adoption of a by-law to amend By-law 1387 concerning noise in the abovementioned manner.

OPERATIONAL HOURS OF THE MOUTON NOIR CAFÉ - UPDATE

Further to the Mouton Noir Café's request to modify its lease by extending its operational hours to 8:00 a.m. to 11:55 p.m. and to close earlier at its discretion, and the GC's decision at its December 18th, 2017 meeting to propose the extension of the Café's operational hours to 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with the café exercising its discretion to close earlier, but not earlier than the currently established closing times, namely 8:00 p.m. on weekdays, 5:00 p.m. on weekends in the winter, and 7:00 p.m. on weekends in the summer, the DG communicated the proposal. In response, the Café owner expressed his concern over the minimum operational hours.

GC members discussed the matter, pointing out that the City is leasing the premises for a public interest, namely to have a community space that is consistently and reliably open to the public. The balancing of this public interest with the Café's private interest is inarguably reflected by the modest rent being charged.

- **It was agreed** that the DG will reiterate the City's previous offer to modify the Mouton Noir Café's lease to extend operational hours to 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with the café exercising its discretion to close earlier; however, the café will not be permitted to close earlier than the currently established closing times, namely 8:00 p.m. on weekdays, 5:00 p.m. on weekends in the winter, and 7:00 p.m. on weekends in the summer, with the exception of statutory holidays when no

Sports and Recreation programs are being held. The DG will explain that the City is leasing the premises for a public interest, namely to have a community space that is consistently and reliably open to the public. He will remind the Café owner that the balancing of this public interest with his private interest is inarguably reflected by the modest rent being charged.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

DRAFT BY-LAW CONCERNING DOGS - UPDATE

GC members discussed the draft by-law prepared by M^e St-Jean further to their comments expressed at the December 18th, 2017 GC meeting. GC members recommended the removal of the proposed provision requiring applicants for dog licenses to demonstrate that they have liability insurance to cover the damage that their dog could cause to a third party as well as the proposed provision for the maximum permitted number of dogs in a person's care to be reduced from five to three.

GC members recommended the addition of three provisions to apply to dogs that are deemed dangerous. Firstly, in addition to being muzzled in public, a dangerous dog must be walked by an adult who is physically capable of controlling it. Secondly, it cannot be brought to a dog run or to Summit Woods. Thirdly, a dangerous dog is only to be permitted to be left in its owner's backyard further to Public Security's inspection of the premises and their confirmation that this can be done safely.

GC members discussed the need for an Island-wide, or ideally province-wide, dangerous dog database. In the event that an owner of a dangerous dog moves to another municipality, such a database would allow for the municipality to be made aware of the danger upon the owner's prospective application for a license.

- **It was agreed** that the proposed draft by-law will be modified with the removal of the provision requiring applicants for dog licenses to demonstrate that they have liability insurance to cover the damage that their dog could cause to a third party as well as the provision for the maximum permitted number of dogs in a person's care to be reduced from five to three. Three provisions will also be added regarding dogs deemed to be dangerous. Firstly, in addition to being muzzled in public, a dangerous dog must be walked by an adult who is physically capable of controlling it. Secondly, it cannot be brought to a dog run or to Summit Woods. Thirdly, a dangerous dog is only to be permitted to be left in its owner's backyard further to Public Security's inspection of the premises and their confirmation that this can be done safely.

NEW BUSINESS: UPCOMING DEMOLITION HEARINGS

Further to the applications for demolition permits for the buildings located at 4014 Sainte-Catherine Street and 2307 Dorchester Boulevard, Urban Planning has proposed to hold a demolition hearing on February 19th for the former and another on February 26th for the latter.

- **It was agreed** that the City will hold a demolition hearing for the building located at 4014 Sainte-Catherine Street on February 19th and another for the building located at 2307 Dorchester Boulevard on February 26th.

ONGOING ITEM: MTQ

The MTQ's upcoming *Bon voisinage* meeting is scheduled to be held on February 6th in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Councillor Kez will attend the meeting.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Cynthia Lulham
Chairman

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