
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON MARCH 19, 2018 AT 4:30 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

Chair	Anitra Bostock
Mayor	Christina Smith
Councillors	Mary Gallery Cynthia Lulham Kathleen Kez Conrad Peart Jeff J. Shamie
Absent	Marina Brzeski Philip A. Cutler
Administration	Benoit Hurtubise, Director General (DG) Sandra Avakian, Assistant Director General (ADG) Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk
Recording Secretary	Andrew Brownstein

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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

BELL CANADA PROJECT – DEPLOYMENT OF FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK (FTTH) IN WESTMOUNT

Mr. Charles Gosselin, Bell’s Executive Advisor for Municipal Affairs, Mr. José Tiburcio, Bell’s Senior Manager – Right of Way and Municipal Affairs, and Mr. Salah Bouziane, Director of Hydro Westmount, joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Gosselin and Mr. Tiburico outlined the project. Bell hopes to install 16 Central Splitting Point (CSP) boxes in the City for its new fibre optics network. With more appliances connected to the same internet connection, needs have increased and will continue to do so, as soon refrigerators, dishwashers, laundry machines, etc. will be connected to the internet. The fibre optic network will provide 1 Gbps connections to satisfy these needs. Bell would assume all costs for the project, which would include the replacement of 80 Hydro Westmount poles, many of which are at the end of their lifespan, at a cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per pole for materials and labour. With the City’s approval of the plan, residents should be able to connect to this new network in late 2018. As a wireless system, nothing needs to be connected to their houses and residents should only be impacted to the extent of the brief service interruptions that will occur during the installation of the CSP boxes. Bell

would notify residents prior to these service interruptions and a link to Bell's webpage for the project will be posted on the City's website, so that residents will be able to express any concerns directly to Bell, with Bell responding quickly. Installations would be carried out sector by sector, with only a few days required per sector, ideally being completed in May.

The proposed locations for the CSP boxes have been chosen in consideration of the existing equipment sites to maximize the use of the existing infrastructure and through collaboration with Hydro Westmount, Urban Planning, and the PAC. The boxes to be installed are the smallest model of CSPs and are to be equipped with an inconspicuous anti-graffiti and anti-fade decal and as a whole, have the capacity to provide service to a population 130% as large as the City's. Accordingly, Bell does not believe they will be particularly obtrusive nor that they will need to increase in number.

GC members discussed the proposed locations for the new CSP boxes, noting that the City had emphasized that no boxes are to be installed in front of monumental buildings or in parks. Instead, lanes should be prioritized. For example, the proposed location in front of the Royal Montreal Regiment building located at 4625 Sainte-Catherine Street places a CSP box in front of this monumental building rather than in the lane behind it. Mr. Gosselin explained that Bell will have to carry out a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether it is in the company's interest to connect all sectors of the City to this new network, in consideration of the potential cost of building away from the existing infrastructure.

GC members expressed their satisfaction with the proposed locations at 3685 The Boulevard and in the lane behind 3259 St-Antoine.

- **It was agreed** that Councillor Lulham and Councillor Peart will revisit the proposed locations with Bell's representatives during the week of March 26th in order to determine which locations are suitable.

The ADG, Director Bouziane, Mr. Gosselin, and Mr. Tiburcio left the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

OFFICE DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES DU QUÉBEC (OPHQ) PLAN D'ACTION 2018

Mr. Sebastian Samuel, Division Head – Communications, joined the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Every year, the City must submit its *Plan d'action à l'égard des personnes handicapées* to the OPHQ.

M^e St-Jean joined the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

The OPHQ requires an official version of the plan in French. The City is finalizing its English translation of the plan for communications purposes.

The report indicates that according to the 2011 census, 32% of residents have some form of physical disability.

The report outlines all of the City's initiatives for improving accessibility for individuals with a physical disability. New to 2018, the City will offer adaptive swimming lessons, for which to date, Pointe Claire has been the only provider of such classes on the Island. Additionally, the library has begun delivering books to residents with a physical disability.

GC members noted the City's partnership with the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, emphasizing that it should be further developed.

- **It was agreed** that subject to the Healthy Cities Committee's approval, the *Plan d'action 2018 à l'égard des personnes handicapées* will be presented to Council for its prospective adoption at the May 7th Regular Sitting, with an update of the percentage of residents with physical disabilities according to the 2016 census' figures and the addition of an emphasis on the openness of sports and recreation programs to all participants, as well as a mention of the mobile application that informs users of how accessible each building is for those with physical disabilities.

Ms. Julie-Anne Cardella, Director of Westmount Public Library, joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

PROPOSED PRIVACY/ELECTRONIC FORMS POLICY

GC members discussed the draft privacy policy regarding the management of confidential information submitted through various electronic forms on the City's website.

- **It was agreed** in principle that Council will adopt the proposed privacy policy at its May 7th Regular Sitting.

Mr. Samuel left the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

2018 GRANTS FOR WESTMOUNT-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Cardella presented the proposed 2018 grants for Westmount-based community organizations. Said grants support these organizations' activities that provide a service to residents that the City cannot provide due to cost restrictions or other issues. A policy to this effect established in March 2013 has been applied for the allocation of these grants to date. Other municipalities typically provide grants along similar guidelines. Currently, the budget for these grants is set at \$125,500, which has been adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index.

GC members reviewed the proposed grants in the context of the organizations' mission statements and the reasons for their requested grants.

GC members discussed plans to reorganize this process of grant allocations for 2019 and beyond. The City will seek to better publicize this grant allocation program and divide grants into three categories, namely small, medium, and large, with each category having

its own selection criteria and, most likely, without increasing the total budget for said grants beyond the CPI.

As Contactivity currently provides the most essential services of the organizations receiving grants, namely with its seniors' programs, GC members discussed the possibility of separating Contactivity's grant from this process for future years, instead creating a partnership by which the City undertakes to contribute a certain amount in exchange for Contactivity undertaking to continue to offer certain services to the community.

- **It was agreed** that the proposed 2018 grants for Westmount-based community organizations will be presented to Council for its prospective adoption at the April 3rd Regular Sitting.

The awards ceremony for the McEntyre Writing Competition will be held on June 6th. Councillor Shamie volunteered to act as a judge for the event.

Ms. Cardella left the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of March 19, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the March 19, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following item under New Business:

- Parking (Councillor Kez).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on March 5, 2018

The Minutes of the GC's meeting held on March 5, 2018 were adopted with corrections.

Confidential items were discussed.

Items from the Council Agenda to Be Discussed in General Committee

Regarding Item no. 15, "Renewal of a Contract – Street Line Painting (PW-2017-988)," the proposed contract renewal does not include the painting of permanent lines and crosswalks, as this is a particularly expensive undertaking. Accordingly, the City will begin with a pilot project for the painting of permanent lines in a few test areas. In addition to avoiding the cost of repainting every year, more importantly, painting permanent lines prevents an annual post-winter period during which many of these lines are hardly visible.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

DRAFT BY-LAW CONCERNING DOGS – UPDATE

M^e St-Jean presented the draft by-law, highlighting the modifications made in light of the GC's comments expressed at its January 15th meeting.

Under the current by-law, no person may have more than four dogs at a time in his care at Summit Woods. Section 9 of the proposed by-law would extend this prohibition throughout the City, without reducing the maximum number of dogs to three as had been previously recommended. Section 12 and 13 of the proposed by-law would prohibit dangerous dogs from running off-leash in the designated areas and from entering Summit Woods. Section 16 stipulates that dangerous dogs must be muzzled and kept in the care of a person who is at least 18 years of age at all times in public places. Section 17 stipulates that the guardian of a dangerous dog must ensure that at all times when said dog is kept on private property, it cannot escape therefrom. Moreover, the proposed by-law would allow to more efficiently declare a dog as dangerous.

GC members discussed the possibility of increasing the fines for infringements to the by-law relating to dangerous dogs, noting that the City of Calgary's by-law empowers it to euthanize dangerous dogs.

- **It was agreed** in principle that, with the addition of a \$1,000 fine for first offences and a \$2,000 fine for subsequent offences that concern a dangerous dog, at the April 3rd Regular Sitting, Council will adopt a notice of motion for the "By-law Concerning Dogs and the Licensing Thereof," to be followed by the by-law's prospective adoption at the May 7th Regular Sitting.

ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT

The upcoming *bon voisinage* meeting is scheduled to be held in Victoria Hall on March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

ONGOING ITEM: AGGLOMERATION SUMMARY REPORT

The Mayor will meet with Outremont Borough Mayor Philippe Tomlinson on March 20th and with Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante on April 5th.

Confidential items were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting. The meeting was reconvened at 9:36 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: PARKING

Confidential items were discussed.

- **It was agreed** that the City will continually monitor the area around Prospect Street, Columbia Avenue, and Bruce Avenue for the occupancy of on-street parking. If the area's on-street parking becomes occupied to the extent that a resident-only parking section becomes justified on some or all of these streets, for all or some periods of the day, said section(s) will be installed.

GC members discussed the configuration of Prospect Park.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Anitra Bostock
Acting Mayor

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