
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON JUNE 18, 2018 AT 4:24 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of June 18, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the June 18, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

COMPOSTING PROGRAM FOR MULTI-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Mr. Robert Talarico, Director of Public Works, and Ms. Elisa Gaetano, Director of Engineering, joined the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

The City will be expanding its composting program to multi-residential buildings of nine units or more, the majority of which are located to the south of Sherbrooke Street. The initiative will be carried out over three phases, with the first phase beginning on July 3rd, targeting 27 apartment buildings with a total of 835 apartment units. The City will provide

each apartment unit with a 7L kitchen container, a box of 20 compostable bags, and an informational pamphlet prepared by Mr. Sebastien Samuel, Division Head – Communications, and Ms. Marina Peter, Environmental Coordinator – Public Works. The City will provide each apartment building with an appropriate number of 240L bins, to be increased as necessary at the building managers' request. The second phase is scheduled to begin on January 15, 2019, targeting 57 apartment buildings with a total of 830 units, and the third phase is scheduled to begin on October 1, 2019, targeting 8 apartment buildings with a total of 1930 units.

- **It was agreed** that as part of Phase I, the informational pamphlets will be distributed throughout the City in order to remind all residents of the importance of composting and the City's dedication to City-wide participation, ideally prompting those who already have compost collection from their residences, but do not compost, to begin doing so.
- **It was agreed** that the City will publish a column in the *Westmount Independent* detailing the expansion of its composting program to multi-residential buildings of nine units or more and emphasizing the benefits of composting.

In order to encourage residents of the apartment buildings that are the subject of this initiative to compost, GC members recommended eliminating the second garbage removal of the week, which is unique to these apartment buildings. This will also encourage composting among the neighbours, who often take advantage of the apartment buildings' second garbage removal by adding their own garbage to the buildings' bins.

GC members discussed other cities' approaches for reducing residents' garbage. For example, Beaconsfield weighs residents' garbage bins upon garbage removal, and once a certain amount of garbage has been removed within a given a year from a given residence, the resident is charged for the excess. In San Francisco, residents are fined for disposing of garbage, compost, or recycling in the incorrect bin.

- **It was agreed** that, in anticipation of the City's contract for garbage removal coming to term in 2019, the administration will contact the City of Beaconsfield for information as to the effectiveness of its aforementioned initiative in reducing residents' garbage. The City will then determine whether the same model should be applied in Westmount and integrated into the next garbage removal contract.

Director Talarico left the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

ENGINEERING PROJECTS UPDATE

While at this point in the year, most municipalities on the Island have awarded contracts for roughly two-thirds to three-quarters of their 2018 capital works projects, the contract for the last of the 2018 capital works projects is recommended to be awarded at the July 3rd Regular Sitting and all are within budget. GC members commended Engineering on its hard work in this regard, noting the advantages of acting this efficiently, such as better pricing and more time to provide residents with information on the projects before work begins.

Throughout the process, Engineering is determining the projects to be undertaken in 2019 and over the course of the following four years.

GC members recommended prioritizing the reconstruction of the eastern portion of the roadway on Sunnyside Avenue and the sidewalks on Belvedere Road, if possible.

Subsidies can only be obtained for the replacement of the public portion of lead services when they are replaced within the same project as a subsidized water main rehabilitation or replacement project. The replacement of lead services during sidewalk reconstruction work is not subsidized.

GC members recommended building raised crosswalks wherever appropriate as part of any future road reconstruction. Raised crosswalks visibly establish the pedestrian's right of way and are more easily traversed by those with reduced mobility. For driveway access, GC members recommended putting sharper and shorter cuts in the sidewalks while leaving the rest of the sidewalk flat, where the sidewalks are wide enough to do so, in order to avoid having undulating sidewalks, which can be difficult for pedestrians with reduced mobility.

GC members requested that a summary of the Engineering projects' statuses be presented in a Gantt chart. The administration explained that unfortunately, the City does not yet have the software that would be required for such a presentation.

Confidential items were discussed.

STM PRESENTATION – PROPOSED TRAFFIC DEVIATION PLAN FOR THE ATWATER PROJECT

Mr. Mario Lévesque, Project Director, Mr. Rami Massaad, Chief Engineer, Mr. Simon Brossard, Construction Superintendent, and Mr. Nikolas Dzeletovic, Project Engineer, joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

In light of the signs of water infiltrations in the Atwater metro station, the membrane above the station is to be rehabilitated. The STM representatives reported that the STM is holding its first informational meeting for residents at the MUHC later that night.

As part of the project, the STM will install two elevators to service the station.

The exterior work will be carried out over two construction periods, with the western and eastern portions of the project to be done from March to November 2019 and from March to November 2020 respectively.

As the work constitutes the excavation of 3m of soil between the roadway and the current membrane, it will necessitate the closure of De Maisonneuve Boulevard between Atwater Avenue and Wood Avenue to vehicular traffic. However, the circulation of pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained for the entirety of the project, although both the walkway and

bicycle path will have to be moved. Access for emergency vehicles will also be maintained for the entirety of the project.

The STM compared several options for detours for vehicular traffic to the average time it takes to travel on De Maisonneuve Boulevard from Chomedey Street to Wood Avenue in regular traffic conditions. Ultimately, the STM determined that motorists commuting north on Atwater Avenue who intend to turn left on De Maisonneuve Boulevard will be directed to Sherbrooke Street to turn left.

The work is scheduled to be carried out during regular construction hours, ending at 6:00 p.m. The STM will explore the possibility of extending working hours to 7:00 p.m. if this will allow for a shorter construction period and if it does not contravene the applicable labour legislation.

Director Gaetano, Mr. Lévesque, Mr. Massaad, Mr. Brossard, and Mr. Dzeletovic left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m., at which point Council held its Regular Sitting, followed by a Demolition Hearing at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:09 p.m.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Adoption of the GC Agenda of June 18, 2018 (Continued)

It was agreed that the following items will be added to the Agenda of the June 18, 2018 GC meeting under New Business:

- Budget (Councillor Peart); and
- Mayor's Update (Mayor Smith).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on June 4, 2018

The Minutes of the GC's meeting held on June 4, 2018 were adopted with corrections.

Business Arising from Minutes of June 4, 2018

The City has been watering the sand in its dog runs when the weather is dry and is analyzing whether there is a reduction of dust in the surrounding atmosphere as a result. The City is looking into the cost of installing a sprinkler system that would use the water source that supplies the dog watering dish, if this is successful. However, as this dust-reducing method requires a substantial amount of water, all other possible methods will be explored before a sprinkler system is installed. The City has invested roughly \$300,000 into its dog runs over the past three years.

- **It was agreed** that, subject to Legal Services determining the City's ownership of Groupe Solroc's report from testing the sand in the dog runs, said report will be

published on the City's website along with an explanatory introduction drafted by the administration.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

GREENHOUSES PHASE II – FOUNDATIONS – UPDATE

Phase II of the greenhouses project concerns the grow houses. After assessing the state of the grow houses' foundations, it was determined that none of the foundations can be built upon.

Confidential items were discussed.

LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA – UPDATE

- **It was agreed** in principle that at the July 3rd Regular Sitting, Council will prospectively adopt a notice of motion for the amendment of By-law 69, "By-law Concerning Parks," by which smoking will be prohibited in all parks, which includes Greene Square and Prince Albert Square, as listed in Annex A of By-law 69. Additionally, while the definition of "parks" in By-law 69, namely "Any municipal-owned green space, play area, dog run, square, parking lot or location hereinafter listed in Annex 'A' of this by-law and forming an integral part thereof," arguably already includes the lookouts on Summit Circle and Roslyn Avenue, for added clarity, the two lookouts will be added to the list of parks under Annex A.
- **It was agreed** that at an upcoming meeting, GC members will discuss whether marijuana will be permitted to be sold in Westmount, and if so, where.

Confidential items were discussed.

ENVIRONNEMENT MONTRÉAL – PARK(ING) DAY

PARK(ing) Day is an annual international event, expected to be held in 162 cities in 35 countries in 2018, during which parking spaces are converted into temporary public spaces in order to encourage residents to consider the many ways in which this space could be used by the public.

The Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, the Horticultural Society, the Library, and Healthy Cities would prospectively participate in the event should the City participate. The event would be held in Victoria Village on September 26th.

GC members discussed the possibility of holding the event in the Library's parking lot or alternatively, on Greene Avenue, closing the street to vehicular access for the duration of the event.

- **It was agreed** that Councillor Brzeski and Councillor Gallery will discuss with the administration whether the City should participate in this year's PARK(ing) Day, and if so, to what extent, relaying the administration's recommendation to the other members of Council for discussion by the end of July.

Confidential items were discussed.

CREATION / REVISION OF COMMITTEES – UPDATE

- **It was agreed** that the ADG and the DG will consult Ms. Julie-Anne Cardella, Director of the Library, and develop a recommended plan for the structural organization for community event-planning.

ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT

The Mayor's response to Mr. Martin Patriquin's article in the *Montreal Gazette*, which the newspaper published the following day, will be published in English and French on the City's website.

VARIA: REQUEST FOR USE OF WESTMOUNT TRAIN STATION

- **It was agreed** that at an upcoming meeting, before being able to consider this request, GC members will have a broader discussion on the repurposing of the former train station.

NEW BUSINESS: BUDGET

- **It was agreed** that at the July 3rd GC meeting, Ms. Julie Mandeville, Director of Finance, will present a report on the status of the 2018 budget as of May 31st, 2018.

NEW BUSINESS: MAYOR'S UPDATE

At the meeting held on May 30th with the parents of participants in the City's hockey programs, the City explained that due to a shortage of players in Westmount, in order to remain in the league, the teams would need to merge with those of a neighbouring borough in the same division.

GC members discussed possible ways of promoting the hockey programs, such as holding a Sports and Recreation open house.

- **It was agreed** that the City will seek to get new residents more involved in community life by advertising its Sports and Recreation programs to them, particularly hockey.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Christina Smith
Mayor

M^e Nicole Dobbie
Assistant Director of Legal Services and
Assistant City Clerk