MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL (GC) OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT HELD AT CITY HALL ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 AT 4:33 P.M. AT WHICH WERE PRESENT:

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Jeff J. Shamie</td>
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<td>Mayor</td>
<td>Christina Smith</td>
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<td>Councillors</td>
<td>Anitra Bostock</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marina Brzeski</td>
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<td>Philip A. Cutler</td>
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<td>Mary Gallery</td>
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<td>Kathleen Kez</td>
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<td>Cynthia Lulham</td>
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<td>Conrad Peart</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>Benoit Hurtubise, Director General (DG)</td>
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<td>Martin St-Jean, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Andrew Brownstein</td>
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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.

GC AGENDA

Adoption of the GC Agenda of September 4, 2018

It was agreed that the Agenda of the September 4, 2018 meeting of the GC be adopted, with the addition of the following items under New Business:

- Pool Schedule (DG Hurtubise);
- Urban Heat Island Effect (Councillor Brzeski); and
- AGIL Report (Councillor Kez).

Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting of the GC Held on August 6, 2018

The Minutes of the GC’s meeting held on August 6, 2018 were adopted with corrections.
Business Arising from Minutes of August 6, 2018

Last week, the DG and Councillor Lulham met with Mr. Pierre Boudreault, senior consultant and founder of Artères services et conseils en gestion d’artères commerciales et de centres-villes, to discuss the status of the commercial sectors’ economic development. On September 5, the DG, the Mayor, and Councillor Lulham will be meeting with Mr. Boudreault, Mr. Christian Perron, Executive Director – PME MTL, and Mr. Guy Bazinet, Assistant Director General – PME MTL, to discuss and plan further. Specifically, PME MTL has agreed to provide $10,000 towards designing the merchant associations’ websites; however, as this is the first funding in many years that PME MTL is allocating for stimulating the commercial sectors in Westmount, an additional $23,000 in funding will be sought from PME MTL for partial financing of the branding. Neither the associations nor the City have the funds required for the branding available for 2018, and the branding must be established before the City commissions the design and production of the totems.

Mme St-Jean presented draft By-law 1527, “By-law to further amend By-law 69 concerning parks,” pointing out the detailed list of greenspaces, parks, squares, lookouts, and stairs included under the revised “Annex A” of By-law 69.

- It was agreed that the City will trim the hedges around the Mount Pleasant Avenue stairs in order to maintain the area’s full visibility.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

DOG RUN UPDATE

Ms. Elisa Gaetano, Director of Engineering, joined the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The City received Groupe Solroc’s report on whether the dust raised by the activity of dogs and the wind in King George Park constitutes a health hazard. The report states that while there are sporadic peaks of dust, the vast majority of the time, the level of silica in the air is below the standard established for workers exposed to silica on a full-time basis, namely 40 hours a week for years. Therefore, the report concludes that the risk is minimal.

The report recommends that in order to reduce the level of silica dust as much as possible, the City should proceed with a trial of a dust abatement product. One application of the product in the King George Park dog run costs $4,710, is easy to apply and non-toxic, and can therefore by applied by Public Works. The product is commonly used for horse shows where considerable dust is produced and there is a significant investment in the health of the horses. It has yet to be used for a dog run. Accordingly, while one application is expected to last for a year, it may need to be applied more frequently. Based on this trial, which will run until the summer of 2019, as dust levels are naturally mitigated by the rainier weather of the upcoming months, the City will determine whether, and if so, how frequently, it will apply this product to its three dog runs.
The product is expected to be received next week and will then be applied when the weather is dry, as is required.

The City will publish Groupe Solroc’s report on its website, as well as the plan and schedule for applying the dust abatement product. The Westmount Dog Owners’ Association will be informed as well.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Gaetano briefed the GC on the status of the City’s infrastructure projects, pointing out that the City is far ahead of schedule as compared to 2017. Specifically, the water mains on Argyle Avenue, Kensington Avenue, and Burton Avenue have been rehabilitated. The paving and sidewalk reconstruction on Belmont Avenue and Metcalfe Avenue have been completed. The sidewalk reconstruction on Burton Avenue has begun and is expected to be completed by mid-October. The roadwork on Roslyn Avenue, a large project, is ahead of schedule. Sewer rehabilitation will be completed in the upcoming weeks. The Sherbrooke Street water main replacement work will begin on October 1st, at the Temple Emanu-El’s request due to the Jewish High Holidays throughout September and with the contractor’s agreement to begin the work at this time without imposing any penalty. Throughout all of this work, the City’s on-site employees supervise the projects and deal with the issues that arise as they arise.

The City has been equally successful in ensuring the timely progress of several professional services contracts, namely the completion of the infrastructure assessment for Westmount Park and the preliminary infrastructure analysis for the Roslyn Avenue stairs, as well as seeking tenders for the environmental assessment and survey elevations for the 2019 capital works projects.

While the contractors’ repair work on plantings, driveways, and walkways is underway, the City must explain to residents that this work is the responsibility of the contractors that caused the damage.

Ms. Julie-Anne Cardella, Director of the Library and Community Events, joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

- **It was agreed** that the City will publicize its abovementioned progress and efficiency in carrying out its infrastructure projects. This may be done with an interactive map on the City’s website as well as with on-site informational posters.

- **It was agreed** that the TAC will establish a list of criteria for where raised crosswalks are not suitable, with the construction of raised crosswalks as a general requirement upon the future reconstruction of any roads where such criteria are not met.

Ms. Gaetano left the meeting at 5:33 p.m.
GRANTS POLICY

Since March 2013, the City has provided grants to support Westmount-based organizations that provide community services that the City does not or cannot practically provide and that contribute to the quality of life of residents. Currently, the budget for these grants is set at $125,500, which has been adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index.

Director Cardella presented the proposed revised draft policy for the allocation of these grants, a product of the City’s existing policy with elements of other Canadian municipalities’ policies on the matter integrated as well.

As Contactivity currently provides the most essential services of the organizations receiving grants with its seniors’ programs, GC members discussed the possibility of separating Contactivity’s grant from this process for future years, instead creating a formalized 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.

Ms. Myriam St-Denis, Project Manager – Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Grant applications will be considered based on criteria detailed in an evaluation grid, such as the number of residents who participate and the percentage that said number represents of all of those who participate, with a grade for each criterion. Each application will be evaluated by three members of the administration independently and an average of the three grades for each application will be established. The amount of funding could then be allocated as a function of their average grade.

Mr. Tom Flies, Director of Urban Planning, joined the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

As the evaluation grid is more specific than the principles of the policy, it will need to be amended over time. Accordingly, while the draft policy will be submitted to Council for its prospective adoption at the October 1st Regular Sitting, the administration will prepare the evaluation grid, which will then be adopted subsequently as a separate document.

The policy and the evaluation grid will then be published on the City’s website in order to ensure that all potential applicants are informed of the criteria they need to satisfy.

➤ It was agreed that Councillor Gallery, in her capacity as the Commissioner of Library, Culture, Sports and Recreation, will draft a “Councillor’s Column” to published in the Westmount Independent outlining the revised grant policy.

Director Cardella left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
LIEUX DE CULTE / HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Director Flies and Ms. St-Denis updated the GC on the status of the Local Heritage Council’s project on the 13 houses of worship located in Westmount, which is aimed at promoting the long-term survival of these buildings in a manner that serves the community, namely by identifying each house of worship’s heritage value and its character-defining elements and by formally permitting each house of worship’s appropriate secondary uses.

Residents are being kept informed of the project as it progresses through a series of mediums. Initially, the City posted information on its website and then in July, issued a press release explaining the project’s goals and methodology. In the fall, another press release will be issued, updating residents on the project’s progress, and an interactive map will be added to the City’s website, followed by the “Value Statements” that will be finalized and then posted in the winter. The “Value Statements” identify each house of worship’s heritage value and its associated character-defining elements. The City will also hold public meetings/discussions in the fall, namely a guided visit of the houses of worship in collaboration with the Westmount Historical Association on September 30th and a conference with Mr. David Hanna, an expert in urban heritage, on October 25th. After the conference, the City will post an online consultation on its website aimed at determining the degree to which residents use the houses of worship, how much they are frequented for religious services, how much they are used for other activities, and the other activities for which they are used. A postcard will be distributed to residents informing them of the online consultation and inviting them to participate.

- It was agreed that the postcard informing residents of the online consultation will not feature any symbols of houses of worship in order to avoid offending any residents who may feel their house of worship was not represented.
- It was agreed that as St. Stephen’s Church has already been sold to a developer, it will not be included in the list of houses of worship in the online consultation.

GC members discussed the need for a new CPE, noting that Westmount Park Church is hoping to obtain the provincial government’s permission to open one. The City has expressed the need for a new CPE to Mr. Jacques Chagnon, MNA for Westmount–Saint-Louis, and to the Ministry of Families.

Confidential items were discussed.

Director Flies and Ms. St-Denis left the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

GC AGENDA (Continued)

Items from the Council Agenda to be Discussed in GC

Confidential items were discussed.
GC members discussed the recommendation to reject a building permit application under Item no. 23, “Urban Planning – Denial of Building Permit Application.”

GC members discussed the need for bids to be put into context by providing Council members with comparative figures for the bids recommended for approval, demonstrating the amount budgeted for this contract in relation to the bids received.

➢ **It was agreed** that as much as possible, comparative figures will be included with the bids recommended for approval, demonstrating the amount budgeted for this contract in relation to the bids received.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION (Continued)

**ISSUES PERTAINING TO CP AND THE AMT RAILWAYS**

While a Train Advisory Committee used to exist separately from the City, as a group of residents who made proposals to CP and the AMT, with said proposals established at meetings to which Council members were invited, it was essentially a lobbying group for matters beyond the municipality’s power.

It is important for the City to play an active role in lobbying the provincial and federal governments on issues that are of concern to residents, to the extent that it is effective. In this respect, the City has been successful, with Council members meeting with representatives of CP and the AMT to discuss how to manage the issues that arise from having train tracks in a residential neighbourhood and said representatives responding proactively.

➢ **It was agreed** that the City will continue to pursue CP’s and the AMT’s better management of the issues that arise from the tracks running through a residential neighbourhood. Most imminently, the DG will contact CP to schedule a meeting between them, the Mayor, and Councillor Kez, at which the City will stress the importance of repairing and maintaining the fence along the tracks.

**ONGOING ITEM: MTQ/TURCOT – UPDATE**

GC members discussed the concerns raised at the previous bon voisinage meeting as well as the issue of vibrations and dust from work carried out over Labour Day weekend.

**NEW BUSINESS: POOL SCHEDULE**

As the pool staff is made up of students who have returned to school for the year, despite the current warm weather, the pool can only be open for very limited hours. Specifically, it was open that morning from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and will be open again for those hours on Thursday and Friday. The pool will ideally be open on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. if enough lifeguards are available.
NEW BUSINESS: URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

GC members discussed the manners in which the urban heat island effect can be curbed in the context of recent lobbying of the Quebec government to take a more proactive approach to this issue.

NEW BUSINESS: AGIL REPORT

The City received AGIL’s final report earlier that day. It will be presented to the GC at its upcoming meeting and will then be posted on the City’s website in its entirety, paired with an explanatory introduction.

ABSENCES

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.