1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Mayor calls the sitting to order.

Unless otherwise indicated in these minutes, the Mayor avails herself of her privilege provided for in section 328 of the *Cities and Towns Act* (CQLR, chapter C-19) by abstaining from voting.

2. MAYOR’S AND COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

3. FIRST QUESTION PERIOD

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**MOVER** 
Councillor Brzeski

**SECONDER**
THAT the agenda of the regular Council sitting of February 1, 2021 be adopted.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**MOVER** 
Councillor Brzeski

**SECONDER**
THAT the minutes of the regular Council sitting held on January 18, 2021 be approved.

6. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

6.1. CORRESPONDENCE

**Mayor Smith**

No reports are tabled.

6.2. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

**Councillor Brzeski**

The minutes of the General Committee meeting of Council held on December 21, 2020 are tabled and are available on the City’s website.
6.3. **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Councillor Kez

No reports are tabled.

6.4. **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Councillor Bostock

The minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on December 8, 2020 are tabled and are available on the City’s website.

6.5. **WORKFORCE REPORT**

Councillor Shamie

The workforce report for the month of December 2020 is tabled.

6.6. **PAYMENT REGISTRY**

Councillor Kez

The list of payments for the month of December 2020 is tabled.

6.7. **LIST OF APPROVALS IN VIRTUE OF BY-LAW 1507**

Councillor Shamie

In accordance with By-law 1507 on the Delegation of powers to certain employees of the City of Westmount, the list of authorizations of expenditures for the month of December 2020 is tabled.

7. **ADOPTION OF COUNCIL’S POSITION ON THE ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE MONTREAL AGGLOMERATION COUNCIL**

**MOVER**

Councillor Brzeski

**SECONDER**

THAT the Mayor, or in her absence the Acting Mayor, be authorized to make any decisions she deems necessary and in the best interest of the City of Westmount and its residents regarding the items on the agenda of the Montreal Agglomeration Council meeting to be held on February 25, 2021.

8. **HONOURING MR. ALEX KUCZMA, SECURITY GUARD FOR CONGREGATION SHAAR HASHOMAYIM**

WHEREAS Mr. Alex Kuczma has worked as a security guard for Congregation Shaar Hashomayim since 1991;

WHEREAS on January 13, 2021, Mr. Kuczma noticed, on the surveillance cameras, a person defacing the building of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue;

WHEREAS Mr. Kuczma quickly intervened to confront the perpetrator, less than a minute, after his arrival, and detained him until the police arrived;
WHEREAS Mr. Kuczma’s immediate and heroic actions prevented further damage to the synagogue and/or harm to the people inside and the community;

WHEREAS Mr. Kuczma responded with a sense of duty and love for the community he protects.

MOVER

Councillor Bostock

SECONDER

THAT the City of Westmount hereby recognize the heroic actions of Mr. Alex Kuczma and honour him by expressing sincere gratitude for his service to the broader community in protecting against hate-inspired destruction.

9. "RESPECTFUL DEMOCRACY, OUT OF RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY" CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS the polarization of public opinion in traditional media, and particularly in social media, leads to a multiplication of aggressive statements and acts of intimidation against elected municipal officials;

WHEREAS this phenomenon has escalated since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, in 2020;

WHEREAS intimidation, threats, and verbal abuse have no place in a democracy and do not promote the public's trust and recognition of its democratic institutions;

WHEREAS respect is a fundamental element of a democratic society which in turn requires the fundamental recognition of great freedoms, including the freedom of expression;

WHEREAS a respectful democracy honours the role of elected officials and reinforces the quality and the authority of institutions;

WHEREAS the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) has launched a national campaign on democracy and respect;

WHEREAS the members of the UMQ's board of directors adopted the following commitment statement on December 4, 2020:

"Our democracy is rooted in our history. We choose those who govern us. In a democracy, we can all be candidates for public office. When elections are held, citizens delegate the administration of the collective good to people who offer their services, like us. This way of managing our living environments, our regions, has enabled us to achieve one of the highest standards of living in the world, to evolve with safety, to have the opportunity to live our lives as we please, and to express ourselves freely.

Democracy thrives on debate and the clash of ideas. It is possible as long as people respect each other. However, in these times, our democracy is too often mishandled by unfortunate incidents: incivilities, disrespect, threats, intimidation and identity theft. In recent years, particularly with the rise in popularity of social
networks, vigorous but respectful debate has too often been replaced by insults, threats and intimidation.

This was true before the pandemic. But the pandemic has made it worse. It is normal that this difficult situation be a source of concern and anxiety. It is normal that we sometimes disagree with the decisions of the authorities. But it is not acceptable that women and men who exercise a public responsibility in the service of their fellow citizens should be intimidated, forced to resign, sometimes even receiving death threats, or forced to travel with police protection.

Within less than a year, municipal elections will be held in all Quebec municipalities. Until then, we must take care of our democracy. We must return to a debate that respects people and institutions in order to make the best decisions together. Let us remember that elected officials and public office holders are committed to the well-being of their population. Let us encourage political commitment, not discourage it.

As elected municipal officials, we are proud to serve our fellow citizens. That is why we call for respectful democratic debate. We say: ‘Respectful democracy, out of respect for democracy’. And we invite elected officials from all Quebec municipalities to join the movement.”

MOVER
Councillor Shamie

SECONDER
THAT the City of Westmount endorse the commitment statement entitled “La démocratie dans le respect, par respect pour la démocratie”;

THAT the City of Westmount commit to supporting elected municipal officials and all spheres of municipal governance to promote municipal democracy and build trust and confidence in democratic institutions;

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the UMQ.

10. CONTRACTS - PAYMENTS FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS at its special sitting held on December 21, 2020, Council adopted the budget for the 2021 fiscal year (Resolution No. 2020-12-240);

WHEREAS over the past few years, the Municipal Council has awarded contracts with terms of more than one year and has authorized the related expenses for the current year;

WHEREAS the expenses for these contracts must be authorized for the 2021 fiscal year.

MOVER
Councillor Kez

SECONDER
To authorize expenditures for the 2021 fiscal year for the contracts in the attached list;

To allocate these expenditures in accordance with the financial information included in the decision-making file No. 2020-1160.
11. ADOPTION - BY-LAW 1567 TO AMEND BY-LAW 1566 TO IMPOSE AND LEVY A TAX AND COMPENSATION FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR

City Clerk

The City Clerk to report that all formalities required for dispensing with the reading of this by-law have been observed and that copies of the by-law have been remitted to all members of Council and are available for public reference.

OBJECT

The City Clerk to explain that the object of this by-law is to postpone the latest dates on which the payments of property taxes and compensation for municipal services may be made.

MODIFICATION

The City Clerk to mention that the language of the English version of Section 2 of the draft by-law was clarified.

A copy of this modification is available for public reference.

Mayor Smith

Declaration by each member of Council present that he or she has read the by-law and that reading is waived thereof.

MOVER Councillor Kez
SECONDER

THAT By-law No. 1567 entitled By-law to amend By-law 1566 to impose and levy a tax and compensation for the 2021 fiscal year be adopted.

Declaration Mayor Smith

THAT By-law No. 1567 entitled By-law to amend By-law 1566 to impose and levy a tax and compensation for the 2021 fiscal year having been duly adopted; it is ordered that notices be given as required by law.

12. MODIFICATION OF A CONTRACT - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR GEOTECHNICAL STUDIES AND PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SUNNYSIDE AVENUE (Q-2019-036)

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2019, Council awarded a contract to Le Groupe Conseil Génipur inc. for professional services for geotechnical studies and preparation of plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Sunnyside Avenue, for a maximum amount of $82,782.00, including taxes (Resolution No. 2019-09-194);
WHEREAS the estimated total cost for professional services for geotechnical studies and preparation of plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Sunnyside Avenue with Le Groupe Conseil Génipur inc. is $98,648.55, all taxes included.

MOVER
Councillor Cutler
SECONDER
THAT the contract awarded to Le Groupe Conseil Génipur inc. for professional services for geotechnical studies and preparation of plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Sunnyside Avenue (Resolution No. 2019-09-194) be modified and increased to a maximum amount of $98,648.55, all taxes included;

THAT an additional expenditure be authorized in the amount of $15,866.55, all taxes included, for professional services for geotechnical studies and preparation of plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Sunnyside Avenue with Le Groupe Conseil Génipur inc.;

To allocate this expenditure in accordance with the financial information included in the decision-making files Nos. 2019-0842 and 2020-1159.

13. MODIFICATION OF A CONTRACT - PURCHASE OF ITRON FCS SOFTWARE AND EQUIPMENT FOR ITRON MOBILE SYSTEM (DDP-2020-003)

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2020, Council awarded a contract to Itron Canada, Inc. for the purchase of Itron FCS software and equipment for Itron Mobile system, for a maximum amount of $53,007.94, including taxes (Resolution No. 2020-12-247);

WHEREAS the estimated total cost for the purchase of Itron FCS software and equipment for Itron Mobile system with Itron Canada, Inc. is $65,950.10, all taxes included.

MOVER
Councillor Shamie
SECONDER
To authorize an expenditure in the amount of $57,360.38, including tax credits, for the purchase of Itron FCS software and equipment for Itron Mobile system (request for proposals No. DDP-2020-003);

THAT the contract awarded to Itron Canada, Inc. for the purchase of Itron FCS software and equipment for Itron Mobile system (Resolution No. 2020-12-247) be modified and increased to a maximum amount of $65,950.10, all taxes included;

To allocate this expenditure in accordance with the financial information included in the decision-making files Nos. 2020-1137 and 2021-1163.

14. URBAN PLANNING - APPROVAL UNDER THE SITE PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM (S.P.A.I.P.)

WHEREAS, according to By-law 1305 on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes, the issuance of some building permits are subordinate to the prior recommendation of plans by the Planning Advisory Committee;
WHEREAS according to section 3.2.2 of this by-law, Council must decide on the recommendations of the Committee by way of resolution.

MOVER
Councillor Peart
SECONDER
THAT, according to the recommendations made by the Planning Advisory Committee at its meetings held on January 25 and January 26, 2021, the building permit applications appearing on the attached list, reviewed under By-law 1305 on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes, be approved.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. SECOND QUESTION PERIOD

17. CLOSING OF THE SITTING

The Mayor declares the sitting closed.