

MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2018
7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held on January 29, 2018 at the Town Hall located at 50 Westminster Avenue South.

Present: Mr. Beny Masella, Mayor
Mr. Dino Mazzone, Councillor
Ms. Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor
Ms. Colleen Feeney, Councillor
Ms. Maria Torres, Councillor

Also present: Me Raffaella Di Stasio, Director General
Me Claude Gilbert, Town Clerk

Mayor Beny Masella acted as chairman of the meeting.
Mr. Claude Gilbert, Town Clerk, acted as secretary of the meeting.

Twenty-five (25) residents and visitors were in attendance.

1. Opening of the Meeting

It was moved by Councillor Maria Torres, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

That the Meeting be declared open.

Carried unanimously
20180129-001 (1)

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Dino Mazzone, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

To adopt the Agenda of the Special Meeting of Monday, January 29, 2018, as presented.

Carried unanimously
20180129-002 (1)

NOTE A presentation was made by Councillor Colleen Feeney of the new Montreal West 2018 budget to replace the one that was adopted December 18, 2017 due to an unexpected increase of the quote-part due to the Agglomeration in the City of Montreal budget.

3. Presentation and adoption of a new 2018 budget for the Town of Montreal West in replacement of the one adopted on December 18, 2017

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Maria Torres and resolved:

1) To adopt the 2018 Budget of the Town of Montreal West, for an amount of \$15,823,046.00.

2) To deposit a copy of the 2018 Budget in the Town of Montreal West Archives.

3) To repeal Resolution # 20171218-003 (1).

Carried unanimously
20180129-003 (1)

4. Question period

The Mayor announced the beginning of the Public Question Period at 7:50 p.m.

The residents were invited to ask their questions to the Mayor and Councillors, solely on matters related to the budget and program of capital expenditures.

Zsolt Kekesi asked if the reason for re-adopting the current year's budget is that the amount of the contribution to Agglomeration expenses was miscalculated or errors were made in the past by Montreal. Councillor Feeney said that some of the increase was due to errors in the prior calculations by Montreal, but that these had been anticipated. The main reason for the re-adoption of the budget was that the City of Montreal brought in a budget which was much higher than the cost of living increase they had promised and that the Town had estimated. Mayor Masella explained in detail the changes entailed by the choices of the central municipality. In the end, it was always understood and expected that there would be an increase, but not of this size. The resident wondered if this scenario will play again next year. The Mayor answered that he certainly does not expect an equivalent decrease, but probably not another such increase. The resident also asked if the by-law change to the welcome tax is something special to Montreal West. The Mayor said other municipalities will probably do the same, like Montreal.

André Lavoie thanked Council for its effort to attenuate the impact of Montreal unexpected extra monetary contribution. He said the end result is nonetheless that the buck was passed on residents. The Mayor said that Montreal has announced that it would find something to modulate the welcome tax for young families, but not this year. If Montreal does it, Montreal West will consider this as well. The resident also wondered how the agglomeration governance process change could change to take into account the interests of other municipalities. The Mayor said that Minister Martin Coiteux seems open to discussion. It is true the current system is not fair.

Tom Johnstone asked what services residents of Montreal West get from Montreal by paying such a contribution to the Agglomeration. Mayor Masella noted that the whole debate is about whether it is fair money. However, there is no question that services are indeed provided, like the police, fire prevention, drinkable water, sewer treatment, etc.

Norbert Bedoucha asked what actions are being taken by the Mayor and his colleagues to fight the Agglomeration's non-sense. Mayor Masella explained that they want to meet the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The problem being the governance of the Agglomeration, ideas have been developed in the past to remedy the unfairness of the system, and now seems a good time to put them forward. The resident asked if Mayor Valérie Plante is open to the idea of such a meeting. The Mayor said she has proposed to start working in June to prepare the 2019 budget. That would be a huge difference with the 2018 budget. He also told her there have to be structural changes.

Louise Chenevert asked if the Town has a contract with the SPCA to provide for services with animals in Montreal West. The Mayor explained that it does not, and that these services are provided and paid for on a call basis. It seems more appropriate.

5. Termination of the meeting

At 8:04 p.m., no other questions being asked,

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Dino Mazzone and resolved:

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously
20180129-004 (1)

Beny Masella
Mayor

Claude Gilbert
Town Clerk

The annexes mentioned above are deposited
in the municipal archives in File *Archives-20180129 (1)*