

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 27, 2020
8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held by telecommunications means on April 27.

Present:	Mayor:	Mr. Beny Masella	
	Councillors:	Mr. Dino Mazzone	Seat 1
		Ms. Elizabeth Ulin	Seat 2
		Ms. Colleen Feeney	Seat 3
		Ms. Maria Torres	Seat 4

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

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

There were no residents and visitors in attendance.

NOTE This Council meeting was held in camera, and was attended by Council members using tele-communications means, as authorized by the Ministerial Order 2020-029 of April 26, 2020 from the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services (page 2, last paragraph).

1. Opening of the Meeting

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

That the Meeting be declared open.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-001

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Visitors

There was nothing under this item.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

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

To adopt the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, April 27, 2020 modified as follows:

- by adding item 9 c) : **RBC investment certificate.**

Carried unanimously
#20200427-002

4. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

To approve the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on the following dates:

- Regular Meeting of March 30, 2020;
- Special Meeting of April 16, 2020.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-003

5. **Correspondence**

There was nothing under this item.

6. **Report of the Mayor**

Mayor Masella noted that this is the second regular Council meeting held in camera, and that a special Council meeting was held the same way. He added that the audio portion of this meeting would be posted tomorrow.

As this is the seventh week of confinement, the Mayor remarked that there are people who are still trying to adapt some of their routines to help not propagating the virus, but it seems maybe some are bending the rules around the edges. A consequence is that the Town is getting complaints about neighbours walking less than six feet apart or a group of people stopping to talk in the street. The Mayor said he did not appreciate that part and hoped this will not become a community of finger-pointers. He urged residents to follow the directives the federal and provincial governments have imposed, adding that in his view, the most important is maintenance of social distancing. Going further into confinement he said, things may get less pleasant before they get better. But, if all continue to do their part, the community will emerge at the other end of this long and dark tunnel as a stronger one. Finally, he invited everyone to astay healthy and safe.

7. **First Public Question Period**

The Mayor announced the beginning of the First Public Question Period at 8:15 p.m.

Given the circumstances, residents had been invited to submit in advance their questions concerning matters of general interest to the Mayor and Councillors.

Webdiffusion Council meetings

1- Gabriella Saghy

Asked if it would be possible for the Town to provide interactive online access to Council meetings and discussions going forward.

2- Dana Rath

Would like live streaming of Council meetings and record of the proceedings to be available for future use. Asked if this service will be provided and if so, when will it be available.

3- Norbert Bedoucha

Asked why Council meetings are not streamed. Noted that every Council member has a computer with wifi and a variety of applications are available, and easily configured, to provide the Town with interactive Council participation.

4- Danielle Perron

Wrote that there has to be a new "normal". Asked that the Town live stream its public Council meetings in order to inform the residents and be transparent.

5- Carol Fiedler

Asked if the Town is unable to livestream public Council meetings because of a lack of technology. Suggested using the webinar option on Zoom.

6- Barry Werner

Asked what would be the costs be versus the benefits of live streaming.

7- Aubrj Marchand

Asked when people can expect to see Town Council meetings live-streamed.

8- Antoine Boissonneault

Suggested that having the council meetings live streamed does seem like an open, transparent and useful service.

9- David Superstein

Wrote that, as Council meetings are held behind closed doors, it is time to think again about live streaming them.

10- Abby Shyavitz.

Wrote that live streaming of public Council meetings is vital to keeping residents informed and engaged and to promote transparency and accountability on the part of the municipal government. Asked that steps be taken to establish the public's interest in live streaming by sending out a survey to residents via the e-bulletin and by posting it on the town website. Wondered if the Town website could possibly support steaming of meetings.

11- Jordan Berson

Asked why are Montreal West residents not benefiting from a live stream of Council meetings, and how do elected officials propose to keep the closed-door meetings relevant and helpful to the citizens.

12- Brian Ostroff

Given the fact that many people have adapted to working from home using easily accessible tools (like Zoom, Skype or FB live), asked if it would make sense to have Council meetings live streamed. Since it looks like social-distancing will be here for the foreseeable future so, again, it makes sense to live-stream important events like Council meetings.

13- Brian Benedetti

Noted that many municipalities across Canada and, indeed in the Montreal area, are webcasting Council meetings. Asked the Town to consider such a community service, if this is it within its means.

14- Paul Kenton

Wrote that it is good the Town is making audio recordings of Council meetings available, but it would be much more useful if video streaming was provided instead. In the past two reasons were always given for not providing video streaming: it was too expensive and too technologically complex. Both of these reasons are no longer valid; there are a few platforms now available which seem simple to use and do not require a technician. Asked also if Council is open to developing recommendations to redesign Council meetings to make them a little more interesting.

Parking restrictions

15- Gabriella Saghy

Noted that during this pandemic, parking restrictions have been lifted in Montreal West. Cars are parked on residential streets and it has not created any problems. Asked if it would be possible to make this permanent on certain streets, without permit, where there are mostly rental units.

Resources available for self-isolation

16- Barbara Farrell

Asked if there any resources available to Montreal West residents [Canadian citizens], returning from abroad and needing to self-isolate for two weeks away from other family members at their home address.

Local history initiatives

17- Margaret Griffin

Asked if the Town has been able to look into obtaining provincial funding for "local history" initiatives, for instance under Québec 82, as she made the suggestion earlier this year. Since many residents have more time on their hands than usual, this might be an ideal moment to actively encourage generating new ideas and contribute to community spirit through supporting small projects.

Speed Bump

18- Barry Werner

Asked why a speed bump has not been installed on Sheraton Drive between Crestwood as people constantly speed down this section of that street.

19- Kevin Brothaler

Noted that Brock North has three speed bumps between Sherbrooke and Curzon, while Ballantyne North only has two speed bumps between the same two streets, with a longer, slightly downhill stretch to Sherbrooke. Asked that a third speed bump be considered to make the street safer, like was done for Brock.

Lead pipes

20- Aubry Marchand

Wrote that the Town has declared that approximately 30% of potable water pipes still contain lead service lines. Noting that health should be the government's first priority, asked what is the current detailed timeline for the completion of water service line replacement for the Town, and on which streets.

Sidewalks

21- Giuseppe Guadagno

Asked what is being done about the decrepit state of the sidewalk on the south side of Côte Saint-Luc Road, between Sheraton and Westluxe.

22- Peter McLean

Asked if the Town has any information about financial aid from the federal government to low income seniors. Also asked if it would be possible to divide the sidewalks so that people only go in one direction all the way along Westminster; this idea was implemented on Monkland Boulevard. Finally, asked for a garbage can at the corner of Nelson and Westminster where the mailbox is, to prevent litter blowing up and down the street.

Street work and Track crossing

23- David Superstein

Wrote that the physical condition of Westminster North continues to deteriorate. Asked what plans the Town has to improve this situation. Also reiterated concerns about pedestrian safety at the intersection of Westminster and Sherbrooke.

Council Meeting Agenda and Basketball court

24- Abby Shyavitz.

Wrote that residents should have the power to bring matters of concern on Council agenda. Also asked that the Town look into investing in the refurbishment of the basketball court at Hodgson Field.

COVID-19

25- Brian Ostroff

Asked if the Town will be looking at any other measures to ease the financial burden on its residents, apart from delaying the second installment of property taxes.

26- Jo Ann Goldwater

Remarked that local stores are not all taking the same precautions that the situation would require. Some are very conscientious, others are more lax. Asked if the Town would be able to pass regulations, and enforce them in order to keep all residents safe.

Trees

27- Laura Cousineau

Expressed concerns about a public tree in front of her house. Although it is a beautiful and mature one, safety must come first. She noted that there have been interventions to secure it, but asked the Town to address this issue.

Sidewalks and Cafe with Mayor

28- Philippe Bergeron

Questioned whether all streets in Montreal West really need to have sidewalks on each side. That may not be necessary on each and every one. He did not ask to demolish sidewalks but suggested that this idea be considered when redoing a street. It could allow to save money on maintenance and repairs in the long run. Also asked if the Mayor would consider alternating between morning informal meetings and evening informal meetings with residents, once the pandemic is over.

The First Question Period ended at 8:40 p.m.

8. Contracts and Town Clerk's Office

There was nothing under this item.

9. **Administration and finances**

a) **Auditor's report – filing**

The financial statements for the fiscal year 2019 were tabled with Council. Councillor Colleen Feeney summed up the main points of this report.

b) **Approval of disbursements – March 26 to April 22, 2020**

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

That the list of accounts payable from March 26 to April 22, 2020 totaling \$ 371,195.29 be approved and paid as listed.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-004

c) **RBC investment certificate**

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

That the Treasurer be authorized to invest an amount of 3.5 million \$ in a guaranteed investment certificate of sixty days (not renewable) with the RBC which is the financial institution doing business with the Town.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-005

10. **Urban Department**

a) **Site Planning Projects and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP)**

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

- 1) To acknowledge receipt of the minutes of a meeting held by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) on April 22, 2020.
- 2) To approve as presented under the SPAIP the following plans submitted to this meeting, in accordance with the recommendations of the PAC as outlined in the minutes:

Address	Project
325 Brock N.	Demolition of a one-floor rear extension and construction of a two-floor extension as well as replacement of windows on the existing building (option 1);
21 Fairfield	Roof replacement, installation of new soffits and fascia.

- 3) To defer the examination of the following plans to a next meeting of this Council, in accordance with the recommendations of the PAC as outlined in the minutes:

Address	Project
124 Easton	Construction of a one-storey extension in the back yard.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-006

b) **Minor exemption request – 29 Campbell (process)**

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the Quebec Government declared a state of public health emergency in the entire territory of the province, which is still in force;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Social Services has issued various decrees of its own to address different situations in the present circumstances;

WHEREAS on March 22, Ministerial Decree No. 2020-008 declared that any legal provision calling for public consultation in municipalities shall be suspended for as long as the state of public health emergency is in force (seventh paragraph in the third page);

WHEREAS a municipality can overrule that suspension if its council decides to make a priority of a particular topic, provided that the public consultation is replaced with a fifteen-day period during which written comments can be made before the final decision;

THEREFORE:

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

That the minor exemption request recommended for approval by the Planning Advisory Committee at its meeting of April 22, 2020, concerning a front gallery at 29 Campbell, be declared a priority in light of the particulars of this case, without making any decision on its merits at this stage.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-007

11. **Public Works**

a) **Awarding of contract – equipment purchase (loader/backhoe)**

WHEREAS the Town of Montreal West issued a public call for tenders for the purpose of purchasing a loader/backhoe;

WHEREAS the bidders were required to offer a price under two different options, one being to also offer a purchase price for the Town's used loader/backhoe (Option A), the other one being to only offer a sales price for the new equipment (Option B);

WHEREAS six suppliers ordered the tender document;

WHEREAS two bids were received and assessed to verify their conformity with the requirements of the tender document;

WHEREAS the lowest bid has not been found conform on the technical level;

THEREFORE:

It was moved by Councillor Maria Torres, seconded by Councillor Dino Mazzone and resolved:

- 1) To award the purchase contract of a John Deere loader/backhoe model 410L (year 2020) to Brandt Tracteur Ltd under Option A, being the lowest conforming bidder, that is, for a total price of \$203,550 plus taxes.
- 2) To sell the New Holland loader/backhoe model B89TC (year 2012) to Brandt Tracteur Ltd for a total price of \$23,000 plus taxes.
- 3) To charge this expense to the working fund and that it be reimbursed within ten years.
- 4) To authorize the Director or Assistant Director of Public Work to sign any documents required to implement this resolution, including the delivery and registration of the purchased equipment and the sale of the used equipment, as the case may be.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-008

b) **Mandate to the City of Montreal to carry out a group call for tenders for the supply of road salt in bulk**

WHEREAS the City of Montreal has offered to coordinate a group call for tenders, on behalf of participating municipalities, for the supply of road salt in bulk from September 15, 2020 to April 30, 2021;

WHEREAS the Director of Public Works will act as representative of the Town of Montreal West in this regard;

THEREFORE:

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

- 1) That the Council authorize the participation of the Town of Montreal West in a group call for tenders for the purpose of awarding contracts for the supply of road salt in bulk.

2) That the Town of Montreal West delegate to the City of Montreal the power to prepare the specifications and other tender documents, to proceed with the calls for tenders, to receive and to analyze the offers, and to report the results to the participating municipalities.

3) That the Director of Public Works and the Assistant Director of Public Works be each authorized to sign any necessary documents to implement this resolution.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-009

12. Human Resources

a) Request for salary deferral – Employee No. 124

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

1) That the request of Employee No. 124 for a leave without pay with salary deferral of eight (8) months beginning May 3, 2025 and ending January 2, 2026 be approved, in accordance with the provisions of the blue collars' collective agreement.

2) That Employee No. 124 be paid 86.67% of his regular salary as of May 2, 2020 until May 2, 2025 and that the balance of 13.33% be paid during his leave without pay.

3) That the Director General of the Town be authorized to sign any necessary document in order to implement this resolution on behalf of the employer.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-0010

13. Appointments

There was nothing under this item.

14. Councillors' Reports

a) Seat Number 1

Councillor Dino Mazzone reported on matters pertaining to Public Security and to Special Projects Fundraising.

b) Seat Number 2

Councillor Elizabeth Ulin reported on matters pertaining to Communications, Recreation and Culture.

c) Seat Number 3

Councillor Colleen Feeney reported on matters pertaining to Urban Planning, Finance, Administration and Human Resources.

d) Seat Number 4

Councillor Maria Torres reported on matters pertaining to Environment, Public Works and Buildings.

15. Deposit of Documents

There was nothing under this item.

16. Notice of Motion, Reading and Adoption of By-Laws

a) Adoption of By-Law No. 2020-004 – By-Law amending By-Law No. 2019-007 concerning taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2020

WHEREAS a copy of this By-Law in draft version was previously tabled at a Council meeting when the notice of motion was given, and made available in accordance with the law;

WHEREAS the purpose and scope of this by-law were summed up at the present meeting;

THEREFORE:

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

That By-Law No. 2020-004 entitled "By-Law amending By-Law No. 2019-007 concerning taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2020" be adopted.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-011

b) Adoption of By-Law No. 2020-005 – By-Law repealing By-Law No. 2008-005 concerning swimming pools

WHEREAS a copy of this By-Law in draft version was previously tabled at a Council meeting when the notice of motion was given, and made available in accordance with the law;

WHEREAS the purpose and scope of this by-law were summed up at the present meeting;

THEREFORE:

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

That By-Law No. 2020-005 entitled "By-Law repealing By-Law No. 2008-005 concerning swimming pools" be adopted.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-012

17. Second Public Question Period

The Mayor noted that there could be no second public question period in the present circumstances.

18. Termination of the Meeting

At 9:15 p.m., no questions being asked,

It was moved by Councillor Dino Mazzone, seconded by Councillor Maria Torres and resolved:

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously
#20200427-013

Beny Masella
Mayor

Claude Gilbert
Town Clerk

*The annexes mentioned above are deposited
in the municipal archives in File Archives-20200427*