

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held by telecommunications means on January 25, 2021.

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
Ms. Manon Schalk, Communications Officer

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

NOTE This Council meeting was held in camera, and was attended by Council members using telecommunications means, as mandated by the Ministerial Order 2021-074 of October 2, 2020 from the Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services (page 3, paragraph 14).

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
#20210125-001

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Visitors

There was nothing under this item.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

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

To adopt the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, January 25, 2021 as presented.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-002

4. Approval of the Minutes

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

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

- Special Meeting of December 14, 2020;
- Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020;
- Special Meeting of January 21, 2021.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-003

5. Correspondence

There was nothing under this item.

6. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Masella noted the following points.

1. Yes, the Town will delay the due dates for property tax payments, now that the related municipalities have agreed with the Agglomeration that the due date for their contribution to shared services will be postponed too.
2. No, the curfew rules should not hamper when people put out their bins for collection, be it for recycling and compost on Monday nights or for garbage on Wednesday nights; they should be put out before the 8 p.m. curfew.
3. Yes, the garbage collection day has been changed to Thursdays and three different communications have been sent out to that effect, so residents shall ensure their garbage is put on by very early Thursday morning at the latest.
4. No, the light at Westminster and Avon has not become a permanent flashing red light. There is something defective in the control box and the Town is working with KPH, the Turcot contractor, to address the problem.
5. Yes, the outdoor rinks are huge success. Kudos to Town employees who have developed new configurations, new places and have stepped up the maintenance to allow more residents to enjoy the outdoors more fully.
6. No, it is not right to try and impede Town employees from undertaking their tasks. Respect for residents is part of their job requirement so the converse is expected. If one disagrees with a Town decision, please get in touch with the administration or an elected official who covers that particular portfolio.

7. First Public Question Period

The Mayor announced the beginning of the First Public Question Period at 8:10 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.

1. Joanna Duy

Attended one of the sales presentations given by the Easton condo project team. Considering some issues like the site decontamination of the site and traffic questions, that would be more appropriately answered by the Town, she asked if there are plans for a public consultation and if so, when.

2. Jennifer Melnick

Concerning the Easton development, expressed concerns about parking and traffic in that area, pedestrian safety, and access to the library by car for elderly and handicapped persons. She also asked if the promoter could be required to add another level of underground parking.

3. Wes Walls

Asked if there is a timeline on when the Turcot contractor KPH will repair the lights at the Avon/Westminster intersection, which have been broken for a while now.

4. Sarah Brunel

Asked the same question, and noted that drivers do not always respect the four-way stop currently in place.

5. Sandra Suissa-Moghrabi

On the same topic, noted that the alternating flashing red lights at the said intersection are not always functioning and even when they are, cars often burn the red light to go left onto Westminster. She also asked to have police directing traffic.

6. Ryan Johnson

Said that the four-way red light (at Avon and Westminster) is not sufficient to safeguard pedestrians crossing Avon. He urged the Town to have this urgent problem be fixed. Children cross this intersection daily to get to school.

7. Kevin Alladin

Asker for an update on the traffic light situation, and if there can be a recourse against the contractor when garbage is not picked up.

8. Abby Shyavitz

Asked if the Town is considering to delay the installments for the 2021 property taxes, like the City of Montreal has done. Also asked if there is a plan to offer programming/instruction at the pool this summer and when will the plan for the summer, including registration dates, be announced. Finally she asked when the Town will begin recruiting lifeguards and day camp positions, if at all.

9. Andre Chenier

Complained that permanent parking permits are issued without sufficient verification although the traffic by-law states that overnight parking is not allowed. Wondered if it could be a good idea to amalgamate the Public Security Department of Montreal west and Côte Saint-Luc to save money.

10. Nathalie Benaroché

Complained that Royal West Academy students at lunch time continue to violating Covid safety measures on Westminster, and asked what role the Town could be in this matter.

11. Anne Roop

Asked if it could be possible to add another (smaller for toddlers) toboggan hill to the one that was made in George Booth park which is wonderful for family outdoor fun.

12. Ian Robinson

Concerning the lawsuit launched by the City of Beaconsfield which is claiming \$4 million from the Montreal Agglomeration in relation to an alleged error in the calculation of its contribution for regional services, asked if the Town has done an evaluation to ensure the formula is correct for Montreal West. Also asked if the other demerged municipalities share Beaconsfield's concerns.

13. Sheila Ettinger

Asked for an update about lead pipes in Montreal West. Also asked that phone calls from the Town be visibly identified as such, otherwise people may not answer them. The last one she received was to notify of a water shutdown.

14. Virginie Beck

Asked the Town to agree with Meadowbrook golf owners to let citizens walk and ski on their property in the winter. Even if it was only during the pandemic and for a fee it would be a nice reprieve.

15. Daniel Budd

Noting that he moved to Montreal West only five years ago, he said the garbage collectors have destroyed his garbage bin. He asked the Town or the company to provide a new one.

16. Ellen Moore

Asked if clean plastic bags can be put into the recycling bin get recycled. Asked the same question for containers like those for Comet cleanser (metal top and bottom, cardboard middle).

17. Donna McLaughlin

Regretted that the colorful lights in the park besides the dog park, since they were very uplifting and added an element of safety in the area for women walking alone at night. Also asked that the little rink at community center be lifted up as it is too dark at night.

18. John Buckles

Having heard of a potential passageway being considered that would be running along the power lines from Westminster overpass to Ville Saint-Laurent, asked if it would be a bike /running path and if there are plans to share.

19. Dominique Daoust

Thanked the Town Council and employees for the many colorful lights that were used to decorate Montreal West, as well as for the addition of ice rinks, and said she hoped both things will come back in the future, even after the pandemic is over.

20. Sherri McGurnaghan

Asked if it is the landlord or the municipality that is responsible for non-drinkable tap water, and if it is possible to have the water tested to make sure it is safe. Also asked if the Town would provide water pitchers to people whose water is not safe to drink, like the City of Montreal does. Finally, she asked what can be done if a fence is too far out in the laneway, causing issues with snow pilling up and accessing the driveway safely.

21. Norbert Bedoucha

Asked if the problem with garbage pickup on the East side of Wolseley (North of the hump bridge) has been addressed by the Public Works Department.

22. Harold Knowles

Thanked Council for the ice rink in Strathearn park, and said that it should be done again next year. In fact, all Montreal West parks that have the space should have a rink.

23. Stan Carny

Said that the prohibition of tempo car shelters goes against the stated concerns in the new Age-Friendly policy. Asked for a public discussion about abolishing it.

24. Stan Carny

Asked the Mayor how he could change his mind on Bill 21 concerning the State and religions, which he strongly opposed before.

25. Diane Colizza

Was concerned with the provincial government's new policy of distribution of two disposable masks per student per day in high schools, which will result in thousands of masks distributed each week. Wondered what measures could be taken to avoid disposal of masks on streets and sidewalks, or for additional safe cleanup if needed.

26. Yelena Roy

Asked if it would be possible to offer a subsidy for families using cloth diapers. She said that the Borough of Côte-des-Neiges – Notre-Dame-de-Grâce already offers this subsidy.

27. Louise Chenevert

Asked for the Covid signage over the hump bridge to be corrected as all four corner signs say sidewalk is one-way. There should be two one-way and two no-enter signs. The signage needs to be clarified as the west side walk cannot be one way both north and south bound. Also complained about the snow removal operations in the rear parking of 30-60-90 Sheraton. The snow should be pushed onto the adjacent field instead of the forest.

The First Question Period ended at 8:55 p.m.

8. Councillors' Reports

a) Seat Number 2

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

b) Seat Number 3

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

c) Seat Number 4

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

d) Seat Number 1

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

9. Contracts and Town Clerk's Office

a) Declaration of commitment on democracy and respect

WHEREAS in several Quebec municipalities, it is noted that 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 officials;

WHEREAS this phenomenon has grown since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020;

WHEREAS intimidation, threat and verbal violence have no place in a democracy and do not promote public confidence in democratic institutions;

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

WHEREAS a respectful democracy values the office of elected people and enhances the quality and authority of the institutions;

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

WHEREAS the members of the Board of Directors of the UMQ adopted on December 4, 2020 a declaration of commitment to promote both;

THEREFORE:

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

- 1) That the Town Council of Montreal West endorse the Declaration of Commitment entitled "La démocratie dans le respect, par respect pour la démocratie".
- 2) That the Town undertake to support elected officials acting in all the various bodies that play a role at the municipal level to enhance municipal democracy and build trust in democratic institutions.
- 3) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the UMQ.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-004

10. Administration and finances

a) Approval of disbursements – December 12, 2020 to January 21, 2021

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

That the list of accounts payable from December 12, 2020 to January 21, 2021 totaling \$550,766.02 be approved and paid as listed.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-005

b) Delegation of powers for the month of January 2021

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

To approve the report of the Director General concerning the exercise of powers delegated under By-Law No. 2005-002 for the month of January 2021.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-006

11. 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 January 20, 2021.
- 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
95-97 Ronald	Replacement of twelve windows;
5 Crestwood	Replacement of six windows;
30 Sheraton	Replacement of the front door;
60 Sheraton	Replacement of the front door;
90 Sheraton	Replacement of the front door;
147 Percival	Replacement of four basement windows;
21 Curzon	Replacement of twenty-two windows;
224 Percival	Replacement of fifteen windows and a patio door;
111 Brock N.	Replacement of twenty windows;
127 Percival	Replacement of eight windows;
354 Brock N.	Reconstruction of a side deck.

- 3) To approve with conditions 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
47 Ainslie	Replacement of the front door.

- 4) 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
29 Fenwick	Construction of an extension on the back of the existing house and replacement of cladding material on the dormers;
18 Rennie	Construction of a two-storey extension in the back, replacement of windows and front door, modifications to existing openings, replacement of the fascia, soffits and shutters;
57 Ballantyne N.	Demolition of the back yard mudroom, construction of a two-storey extension on the side, replacement of stucco, modification to openings.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-007

b) Minor exemption request – 37 Curzon

NOTE Councillor Colleen Feeney summarized the issues involved in the following matter. She also noted that it had been advertised in the newspaper and on the website. No comments were received since the publication.

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved, Councillor Dino Mazzone having voted against, and Councillor Maria Torres in favour:

That the plans and request submitted to the November 25, 2020 meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee be approved, in accordance with By-Laws 2020-002 and G-18-0005, for the following minor exemption from paragraph 16 of section 4.1.10 of the Zoning By-Law, regarding the immovable located at 37 Curzon in zone RB-2 to:

- Allow the construction of a garden shed located four (4) feet from the rear property line and eighteen (18) inches from the lateral property line (East side), despite the fact that such an accessory construction is not authorized, the consequence being to disregard this prohibition.

Carried by a majority
#20210125-008

12. Public Works

a) Removal contract of public ash trees

WHEREAS the Public Works Department has identified fifty (50) ash trees that need to be felled and uprooted because of Emerald Ash Borer;

WHEREAS two companies have been invited to perform this work and both responded;

WHEREAS the Department recommends to retain the lowest bid;

THEREFORE:

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

- 1) That the contract for the felling and stump removal of fifty public ash trees be awarded to Hometree Service Inc., based on a price of \$51,145.00 (plus taxes) following its offer submitted on December 9, 2020.
- 2) That this expense be charged to budget code 02-750-03-419.
- 3) That the Director or the Assistant Director of Public Works be authorized to sign any necessary documents required to implement this resolution.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-009

13. Human Resources

There was nothing under this item.

14. Appointments

There was nothing under this item.

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. 2021-001 – By-Law amending By-Law No. 2020-008 concerning taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2021**

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 Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

That By-Law No. 2021-001 entitled “By-Law amending By-Law No. 2020-008 concerning taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2021” be adopted.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-010

17. **Second Public Question Period**

The Mayor announced the beginning of the Second Public Question Period at 9:29 p.m.

Given the circumstances, residents had been invited to send by internet their questions concerning matters on the agenda of this meeting to the Mayor and Councillors.

18. **Termination of the Meeting**

At 9:30 p.m., no questions being asked,

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

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously
#20210125-011

Beny Masella
Mayor

Claude Gilbert
Town Clerk

*The annexes mentioned above are deposited
in the municipal archives in File Archives-20210125*