

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 26, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held on April 26, 2021 at the Town Hall located at 50 Westminster Avenue South.

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 2020-074 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 Dino Mazzone and resolved:

That the Meeting be declared open.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-001

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Visitors

There was nothing under this item.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

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

To adopt the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Monday, April 26, 2021 as presented.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-002

4. Approval of the Minutes

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

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

- Regular Meeting of March 22, 2021;
- Special Meeting of April 8, 2021;
- Special Meeting of April 22, 2021.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-003

5. Correspondence

There was nothing under this item.

6. Report of the Mayor

Mayor Masella said he received interventions from residents on both sides of the issue about opening recreational installations during the third wave of the pandemic. Although valid points have been raised on both sides, the Town will continue to follow the recommendations and obligations of the public health authorities. To the users, the Mayor urged them to follow the rules as laid out by the government when using these outdoor facilities. To those who have expressed concerns about users not following the rules, he reminded them that the Montreal Police Department is mandated to enforce those rules and citizens can report any flagrant on-compliance directly. Concerning another file on which Council and administration have been working, he provided an update. As part of the continuing upgrade of Davies Park, the Town is considering the installation of a gazebo. It would act as a place rest in the shade and also as a permanent stage for the park in lieu of the plywood stage that has been installed in the past. To this end, a firm has been mandated to design a structure that represents the Town and respects its architectural heritage. In fact, the lead architect is a Town resident. The plans are being finalized so a call for tender can be issued to see if it can be built while respecting budgets. It would be a great addition to the park and to the Town and will act as a focal point of recreational facilities on Westminster.

7. 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.

8. First Public Question Period

The Mayor announced the beginning of the First Public Question Period at 8:25 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. Jennifer Budd

Asked if the Town is planning on re-paving Wolseley North as part of this year's roadworks projects, or at least on patching up the many gaps.

2. Jennifer Melnick

Said there was an article in the news recently about a conservation project that mentioned Meadowbrook being designated as a green space by the City of Montréal. Wanted to know what the Council can share about the future of this land.

3. Ian Robinson

Asked if Council will be passing a resolution allowing citizens to vote via mail in the upcoming municipal election. Also asked if Council will be making a public statement concerning the proposed "kilometer tax" as suggested by Mayor Valérie Plante.

4. Ellen Moore

Asked for an explanation concerning certain guidelines that are set out in the recently adopted Residual Materials Management Policy

5. Julian Mazzone

Remarked that the water fountain pressure in Strathearn park is very low, and asked if the Town could increase it to prevent people from putting their mouth close to the faucet.

Also raised the idea that the Town should give plaques for houses that are over 100 years old. Finally, asked that the light that goes on and off in the path through Elizabeth Ballantyne School be fixed.

6. Steven Mohn

Since the Easton development project is slated to break ground soon, and continue for eighteen months, traffic at this very busy intersection will undoubtedly be strongly affected. Asked the Town to share its plans for how it will deal with the inevitable congestion.

7. Aubri Marchand

Wanted to understand why Fenwick Avenue repairs were planned for this year, instead of the disintegrating strip of Brock North. Asked if the Town has actively looked for any other government grants to help offset costs associated with roadwork. Also asked if the Town would be interested in participating in or organizing a community outdoor clean-up event.

8. Kevin McDonnell

Suggested that a booking on-line system be set up to register at the Hodgson basketball court, in order to solve the problem of unruly activity with too many people at a time.

9. Frank Denis

Having noticed that many trees have been cut down, asked if the Town has a plan for planting others. Also, within the scope of climate changes, asked if the Town has a plan for increasing green cover.

10. Mary S T

Asked why there are no traffic lights at the corner of Sherbrooke and Westminster. Also expressed concern over pedestrian safety, especially for students from Royal West Academy.

11. Mike Elie

Asked the Town to follow up with the City of Montreal concerning the apartment complex on Brock South in Montreal, which has bricked up the garage entrance closest to Sainte Anne de Bellevue Boulevard, meaning that all cars/residents of the two apartment buildings must use Ronald for access. This is unacceptable as the traffic and speeding has increased on Ronald substantially.

12. Janice Hamilton

Asked if the Town will pledge to work with the City of Montreal, provincial government and citizens to protect the St. Pierre River before it is too late, since the City has indicated it will begin work soon to divert all water that flows onto Meadowbrook from the Toe Blake Collector, as it must follow the Court of Appeal ruling.

13. Daniel Boulerice

Asked if any studies have been done to find out what impact there could be on the storm sewer system of Montreal West in the event of intense rainstorms or sudden spring thaws, if the City of Montreal construct a water line to carry all of the water from the Toe Blake sewer from the northern boundary of Meadowbrook Golf Course to its southern boundary.

14. Stan Carny

Asked for a detailed description, a cost estimate and the normal duration of the maintenance work being done at the dog run.

15. Farah Issa

Asked if a permit is required to change old basement windows for new similar ones. Also complained that there are days when strong odors are emanating from a commercial building on Ronald Drive.

16. Stan Carny

Questioned the prohibition of leaf blowers that was incorporated in the Nuisance By-Law several years ago, now that with newer technology, such as electric, battery powered and noise reduction improvements, it could be limited to gas powered leaf blowers.

17. Anthony Seminara

Asked for traffic calming measures on Ballantyne North, noting that many cars use this street to bypass Westminster, and the speed limit is not respected. The current speed bumps are ineffective.

18. Elisabeth Chartier

Asked for an explanation of the cancellation fees for recreation programs that seem unjustified when the activity will not start until several months later. In comparison, private camps and most municipal camps follow the consumer protection laws which state that a consumer should be fully reimbursed if the service has not yet been provided.

19. Ann McLaughlin

In reference to the annual \$10 tree giveaway, made a suggestion to add the red sugar maple as an option among the species.

20. Sheila Kramer

Questioned the justification, especially in this time of pandemic, of a summer day camp that will be operating out of the Presbyterian Church on Ballantyne. It will bring a lot of children, noise, garbage and cars to an otherwise peaceful corner of the Town.

21. Lynn Doyle

Asked if there is still time to order a tree and if could it be another one than those listed. Also asked if the no-parking overnight is enforced during the this time of pandemic.

22. Peter Catalano

Complained that he received a ticket for repair work on his property after having been told by the Public Works Department that he was allowed to do so without a permit.

23. Louise Chenevert

Wanted to know the extent of the maintenance work that will be done by the Public Works employees in the Hydro-Québec green corridor. Also asked for a follow-up meeting on the collective gardening project that was submitted to the Town in March 2020. Finally, asked for an inventory of the Town's tree ashes, how many were treated in 2020, how many were felled, and if the remainder will be treated this fall.

24. Guylaine Gervais

Asked if garage sales are allowed (despite Covid) and if a permit is needed.

The First Question Period ended at 9:13 p.m.

9. Contracts and Town Clerk's Office

a) Withdrawal of two cadastral lots from the public domain

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

That lots 5 904 292 and 5 904 296 be withdrawn from the public domain of the municipality for any and all legal intents and purposes.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-004

b) Mandatory training of municipal employees in cyber-conduct safety for insurance purposes

WHEREAS the Town of Montreal West has joined a group of municipalities presided by the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) for the purpose of purchasing an insurance coverage of cyber-risks, in accordance with section 29.9.1 of the Cities and Towns Act;

WHEREAS the current insurance policy contracted for the benefit of this group will expire on July 1, 2021;

WHEREAS insurance claims under this policy have increased in the last year;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the group to take all possible steps that may allow it to renew this coverage under the best conditions and to keep the insurer interested to act as broker for the group;

WHEREAS it will be mandatory, in order to remain a member of this group, to enroll every municipal employee having access to a computer connected to the municipality's network in a training course on cyber-conduct, no matter if working at home or in a municipal office;

THEREFORE:

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

1) That the Town of Montreal West agree to enroll every municipal employee who has access to a computer, laptop or other device connected to the Town's network, or who works on a computer or other device connected to the said network, be it at home or in a municipal office, on a training course in cyber-security called « Cybercomportements à risque : La sécurité de vos informations dépend d'abord de vos comportements en ligne », provided by the Académie de transformation numérique from Université Laval, in partnership with the UMQ, at a cost of \$12.00 per employee.

2) That the Town agree that the concerned employees must follow the said training between May 1 and July 31, 2021.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-005

c) Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism

WHEREAS on November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, as the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust;

WHEREAS a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism was adopted on May 26, 2016, by the thirty-one member states of the IHRA, of which Canada is a member;

THEREFORE:

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

That the Town of Montreal West adopt the working definition of antisemitism adopted by the 31 member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on May 26, 2016:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-006

10. Administration and finances

a) Approval of disbursements – March 18 to April 23, 2021

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

That the list of accounts payable from March 18 to April 23, 2021 totaling \$664,009.98 be approved and paid as listed.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-007

b) Delegation of powers for the month of April 2021

It was moved by Councillor Maria Torres, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin 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 April 2021.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-008

c) Withdrawal of Loan By-Law No. 2021-002

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

That Council withdraw By-Law No. 2021-002 entitled “By-Law Authorizing a Loan of \$2,154,100 for the Carrying out of Repair Work on Road, Sidewalks, Aqueduct and Sanitary and Storm Sewer, and Replacement of Street Lights on Fenwick Avenue”, in accordance with section 564 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-009

d) Budget transfers to allocated surplus

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

1) To approve the following budget transfer as per the recommendation of the Treasurer, from the unallocated surplus (55-991-00-000) to the allocated surplus (55-992-00-000):

- \$1,600,000.00 (infrastructure work).

2) To replace the account name of the following appropriation in the allocated surplus:

- weather contingencies instead of winter contingencies by virtue of resolutions #20190527-009 and #20201214-006 (2) in the total amount of \$75,000.00 as of December 31, 2020.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-010

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 April 21, 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
67 Strathearn N.	Readjustment of the front stairs and installation of railings;
99-101 Bedbrook	Replacement of a basement window in the front façade;
58 Westland	Replacement of a window by a patio door in the back façade;
33 Campbell	Replacement of the front door;
116 Easton	Replacement of the asphalt shingles, fascia, soffits, gutters, flashing and dormers' side walls;
19 Fenwick	Replacement of seven storm windows;
220-222 Westminster N.	Replacement of four basement windows.

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
143 Strathearn N.	Replacement of garage roof, doors, windows, painting of stucco;
64 Nelson	Replacement of the front door and transom above.

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
57 Ballantyne N.	Replacement of the front door and the window above the front door, reconstruction of the canopy over the front entrance, replacement of the front stairs, landing and railings, and addition of two new skylights to the roof;
17 Ballantyne S.	Demolition of a 3-season structure in the back and construction of a one-storey extension.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-011

12. Public Works

There was nothing under this item.

13. Human Resources

There was nothing under this item.

14. **Appointments**

There was nothing under this item.

15. **Deposit of Documents**

a) **Auditor's report**

The financial statements for the fiscal year 2020 were tabled with Council. Councillor Colleen Feeney summed up the main points of this report.

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

a) **Notice of Motion and Deposit of Draft By-Law for a By-Law Authorizing a Loan of \$2,718,570 for the Carrying out of Repair Work on Road, Sidewalks, Aqueduct and Sanitary and Storm Sewer, and Replacement of Street Lights on Fenwick Avenue**

Mayor Masella gave notice of motion that it is intended at a subsequent Meeting of Council to submit for adoption a "By-Law Authorizing a Loan of \$2,718,570 for the Carrying out of Repair Work on Road, Sidewalks, Aqueduct and Sanitary and Storm Sewer, and Replacement of Street Lights on Fenwick Avenue".

The said By-Law, in draft version, was tabled with Council and made available to the public.

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 other questions being asked,

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

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously
#20210426-012

Beny Masella
Mayor

Claude Gilbert
Town Clerk

*The annexes mentioned above are deposited
in the municipal archives in File Archives-20210426*