

Council Chambers
City Hall
Moncton, N.B.
November 1, 2021
4 p.m.

MINUTES – REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Dawn Arnold, in the Chair
Councillor Marty Kingston
Councillor Monique LeBlanc
Councillor Paulette Thériault
Councillor Shawn Crossman
Councillor Daniel Bourgeois

Deputy Mayor Charles Léger
Councillor Bryan Butler
Councillor Dave Steeves
Councillor Susan Edgett
Councillor Paul Richard, via WebEx

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

M. Landry, City Manager
B. Quigley, City Clerk and Director, Legislative Services
J. Doucet, CFO, General Manager, Finance Services
N. Robichaud, General Manager Legal and Legislative Services
J. MacDonald, General Manager Sustainable Growth and Development Services
A. Binette, General Manager Operations Services
J. Cohoon, Acting General Manager, Recreation, Culture and Events
L. Hanson, General Manager, Corporate Services
C. Savoie, Manager, OCC/PSAP
I. LeBlanc, Director, Corporate Communications
Fire Chief C. Landry
T. Carter, Purchasing Manager

**1.
CALL TO ORDER**

**2.
ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion: That the agenda for the regular public Council meeting dated November 1, 2021, be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Councillor Edgett
Seconded by: Councillor Butler

MOTION CARRIED

**3.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

None declared

**4.
ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Motion: That the minutes of the October 18, 2021, Regular Public Council minutes be adopted as circulated.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Léger
Seconded by: Councillor Kingston

MOTION CARRIED

**5.
CONSENT AGENDA**

**6.
PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
5 minutes

- 6.1.1 **Presentation** – Factors impacting citizen participation in municipal affairs – Frank Vandenburg
Mr. Vandenburg spoke to the factors that impact citizens from participating in municipal affairs. He indicated that he has been chair of the Enhancing Democracy Committee for the past 8 years. The committee was asked to take on an advisory role regarding Council issues. He spoke about a recent committee meeting held on October 21, where committee members felt uncomfortable providing their opinions as they felt that they would be attacked by a member on the committee.

Councillor Butler interjected that this item should be discussed in an in-camera session.

Motion: That Council recess to an in-camera session @ 4:10 p.m.

Moved by: Councillor Thériault
Seconded by: Councillor Butler

MOTION CARRIED

Motion: That the meeting reconvene in public @ 4:33p.m.

Moved by: Councillor Crossman
Seconded by: Councillor Steeves

MOTION CARRIED

The City Manager advised the presenters and those in attendance that items 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 will not be heard at this time. Administration will circulate to the presenters a copy of By-law A-1218 – Code of Conduct.

- 6.1.2 **Presentation** – Participation in Municipal Affairs: A Citizen’s View – Carole Chan
Item was not heard at this meeting.
- 6.1.3 **Presentation** – Overdose Prevention Site – Debby Warren, Executive Director ENSEMBLE Greater Moncton

Ms. Warren came before Council to provide an update on the Overdose Prevention Site. This service will provide a safe place for people to administer substances under supervision by qualified staff, with the goal to prevent overdose situations. The site will also provide those who are homeless or living precariously, a safe place to administer substances versus using in public places. The service is a harm reduction approach to preventing overdose reactions. She noted that no substance will be provided to clients – they are to supply their own.

Research around the world using this practice has shown that neighbourhoods have seen a decrease in drug paraphernalia and crime rates. The site will be open from Monday-Friday during working hours – and will expire on March 31. An extension has been submitted to the Provincial government and ENSEMBLE will be asking for additional funding for the next fiscal year. It is the hope that additional funding will be used to cover additional operational hours – not only working hours.

- 6.1.4 **Presentation** – The Light Project – Second Chance Workshop – Jean-Claude Cormier & Léo Johnson, Founder of the Second Chance Workshop and Chairman of the Board

Mr. Cormier thanked the City of Moncton for the \$15,000 in grant funding for the project over the next three years. The original ask was for \$30,000 over the next three years. They have requested the other 2 community to help pay for the purchase of van to shuttle clients to work, appointments, etc. The upkeep of the van will be done by Enviro Plus. Mr. Cormier indicated that if the City of Moncton provides the entire \$30,000, the other two municipalities (Dieppe and Riverview) will provide full funding to the project as well during their budget deliberations. Both the Provincial and Federal Governments are on board with the project.

Councillor Richard requested that details of the request be provided to Council. Mr. Doucet indicated that Council will receive a package containing all grants information that has been received by the City of Moncton. It was also noted that Council can provide additional funding for the project during budget deliberations later this week.

Other Presentation

2 minutes

Presentation – Protesting the Police Station – Hafsa Mohammad
Ms. Mohammad came before Council to protest the costs, business affiliations, and process of approving the request for construction tender of the RCMP police facility. It is her opinion that

the RCMP has a toxic environment, especially towards women. She encouraged women on Council to vote against the building of a new RCMP building.

6.2 ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATIONS

15 minutes

- 6.2.1 **Update – RCMP** – Codiac RCMP Acting Officer in Charge Ron DeSilva
Acting Officer in Charge Ron DeSilva unable to attend the meeting this evening to provide an update. The Clerk indicated that should Council have questions, that Mr. Charles Savoie, Manager, Policing Support Services, is on the line for questions. Council had no questions for Mr. Savoie.
- 6.2.2 **Presentation** – 2022-2024 Budget Overview – Jacques Doucet, CFO – General Manager, Financial Services & Marc Landry, City Manager

Mr. Landry and Mr. Doucet provided Council an overview of the 2022-2024 Budget for the City of Moncton.

Key Objectives:

- Incorporate the Strategic Plan Actions
- Focus on long term sustainability
- Prioritization based on criteria.
- Continues service level
- Incorporate asset management
- Mitigate major property tax increase for taxpayers

Municipalities only receive 10 cents on the dollar to provide services to citizens.

Key Facts:

- Progressing on downtown development target of \$108M by 2023
- Projected full assessment - \$128M to \$146M
- Realize assessment - \$68.2M
- Year-to-date in 2021 more than 9560 building permits issued with values in excess of \$221M
- City of Moncton offers in excess of 85 services
- Overall assessment growth 10.895

2022 Corporate Budget Overview

General Operating Budget - \$176.3M
Utility Operating Budget \$40.5M

Capital Budget

General Capital –

- \$96.3M Gross Spend – this includes the \$54.3M for the police facility
- \$71.5M Borrowing

Utility Capital

- \$12.6M Cross Spend
- \$9.9M Borrowing

General Operating Budget

Highlights

- Presenting balanced budget
 - 10.89% in 2022
 - 4% in 2023 (projected)
 - 2% in 2024 (projected)
- Decreased property tax rate from \$1.6497 to \$1.5472
- Maintain service levels and strategic investments in key areas
- Fiscal position is healthy and manageable
- Impacts of COVID-19 impacts
- Debt management – annual borrowing is limited to \$17M in 2022 and future years based on affordability (excluding the new police facility)

Where 2022 tax dollars will be spent:

- Ages and benefits – 33.49%
- Other (Maintenance and repairs, utilities, fuel, grants, etc.) – 19.44%
- CRPA contract costs – 15.73%
- Fiscal costs – 11.40%
- Contract – 7.79%
- Deposit to reserves – 7.39%
- Capital from Operating – 4.76%

Utility Operating Budget – Water and Wastewater

Highlights

- Stable rate increase
- Maintain and service levels
- Fiscal position is healthy and manageable

Rate increase

- To avoid major rate fluctuation
 - Contribution to capital form operating to reduce future debt
 - Rate stabilization reserve

Rate Supported Services

- Fiscal services – 34.01%
- Sanitary sewer – 28.52%
- Administration – 13.59%
- Transmission and distribution – 11.95%
- Purification- 8.91%
- Power and pumping – 1.76%
- Source of supply – 1.26%

Summary

- Considering rate freeze in 2021, rates are stable
- Fiscal situation is sustainable
- Continue monitoring potential future impacts
- Strategic prioritization is key

General Operating Budget

Highlights

- Maximum net debt at
 - \$71.5M for 2022 (Police facility)
 - \$17.0M for 2023
 - \$15.8M for 2024
 - \$17.1M for 2025
 - \$15.3M for 2026
- Asset management recapitalization target 75%
- Prioritization based on criteria

General Capital Budget Overview

- Police facility - \$54,300,000
- Transportation services - \$35,392,757
- Recreation services - \$2,782,000
- Economic Development and Events - \$2,300,000
- Tourism and Culture - \$619,192
- Protective services - \$169,130
- General Government - \$700,000

Grand Total - \$96,263,070

Utility Capital Budget

Highlights

- Sanitary sewer upgrades - \$6.9M
- Street Reconstruction – Water Component - \$5.4M
- Other - \$0.3M

Grand total – 2022 Utility Capital Budget - \$12.6M

On-going consideration

- Revenue sources vs costs
- Climate change impacts
- Increased pressure on services levels
- External funding from other levels of government
- Unknown short and long-term impacts relating to COVID-19

Mr. Doucet indicated that Administration will continue to be strategic in their approach and continue to monitor potential future impacts that could occur. The City of Moncton's fiscal position is positive.

7.
PLANNING MATTERS

8.
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

9.1 Recommendation(s) – Special Committee of Whole – October 18, 2021

The City Manager, Mr. Landry, advised Council the Strategic Plan is now ready to approve. All the recommendations received at the October 21, 2021; Committee of the Whole from Council have been incorporated within the plan. These have been included in your agenda package.

Motion: That Moncton City Council approve the City of Moncton 2022 Strategic Plan in principle.

*Moved by: Councillor Thériault
Seconded by: Councillor Butler*

MOTION CARRIED

9.2 Recommendation(s) – Committee of Whole – October 25, 2021

Motion: That administration be directed to implement the proposed modifications to the Sidewalk Clearing Plan for the 2021/2022 season, presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 25, 2021.

*Moved by: Councillor Richard
Seconded by: Councillor Steeves*

MOTION CARRIED

10. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

10.1 Presentation – 2022 BIA Budget – Anne Poirier-Basque, Executive Director

Ms. Poirier-Basque provided an overview of the role of the Downtown Moncton Centre-ville in the City of Moncton. Once again, this year a fixed rate of \$0.16 per \$100 assessment. The BIA property assessment base for 2022 is \$528,692,400.

The annual procedure prescribed by the Business Improvement Areas Act, R.S.N.B. 2014, c.102 (Act) regarding the Special Business Improvement Levy to generate the funding for the 2022 DMCI Operating Budget includes the budget submission of the DMCI's Board. The proposed 2022 DMCI budget is attached hereto. The 2022 DMCI budget was presented to its membership and accepted on September 21, 2021 and was subsequently amended upon receipt of BIA assessment numbers on October 7, 2021 from the province.

Motion: That Moncton City Council authorize the City Clerk to give notice which is to be published in accordance with the requirements contained in the Business Improvement Areas Act, R.S.N.B. 2014, c.102, on the 2022 budget submitted by Downtown Moncton Centre-ville Inc.

*Moved by: Councillor Bourgeois
Seconded by: Councillor Thériault*

Councillor Thériault recommended that perhaps natural decoration, such as wreathes, Christmas trees, etc. be used in the downtown BIA core area as opposed to plastic or non-environmentally friendly ornaments.

Councillor Edgett left the meeting

MOTION CARRIED

10.2 Request for Proposal RFP21-071 – Valve and Valve Chamber Condition Assessment and Master Plan

Motion: That Moncton City Council approve Administration's recommendation to award Request for Proposal #RFP21-071 – Valve, Valve Chamber Condition Assessment and Master Plan to the Proponent having received the highest total score, being Pure Technologies Ltd. for the Total Bid Price of \$1,122,413.80 including H.S.T. @ 15% and Estimated Disbursements.

It is also recommended that a Five Percent (5%) Contingency Allowance in the amount of \$56,120.70, including H.S.T. @ 15% be established for this project, should any additional costs be required to address unforeseen or unknown site conditions.

*Moved by: Deputy Mayor Léger
Seconded by: Councillor LeBlanc*

Deputy Mayor Léger requested that the City's Communication Department provide an overview of this project on the City's website, including some of the information found within the CRF provided to Council.

Councillor Edgett returned to the meeting

MOTION CARRIED

- 10.3 **Tender TCS21-058** – Snow Clearing – Avenir Centre Parking Lot, Plaza, Walkways and Exit Doors

Motion: That Moncton City Council approve Administration's recommendation to award Tender #TCS21-058 – Snow Clearing – Avenir Centre Parking Lot, Plaza, Walkways and Exit Doors to the lowest Bidder meeting the Terms and Conditions and General Specifications set out in the Tender, being LSR Enterprise Ltd., for the Total Tendered Price of \$80,500.02, including H.S.T. @ 15%, for a twelve (12) month period with options to extend the agreement up to a maximum of four (4) additional twelve (12) month periods, if it is in the City's best interests to do so.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Léger

Seconded by: Councillor Steeves

MOTION CARRIED

- 10.4 **Motion** To Review Policing Services – Councillor Daniel Bourgeois

Whereas policing is the only service the City of Moncton is legally obligated to provide;

Whereas policing services represent a significant portion of the City's annual operating budget, and will represent a significant portion of the City's capital budget if a new police station is constructed;

Whereas the recent collective bargaining exercise between the provider of policing services in the City of Moncton, namely the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and their employer, the Government of Canada, resulted in a significant increase to salaries and benefits awarded to RCMP members retroactive to 2016, as well as a significant increase for the foreseeable future;

Whereas salaries and benefits represent the majority of the City's investments in policing services;

Whereas the City of Moncton has no control over RCMP members' compensation package and does not participate in the RCMP's collective bargaining process, yet must respect the results;

Whereas the Parliament of Canada's Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security recently recommended that the RCMP cease to provide its policing services to municipalities and that the Government of Canada work with Provinces and municipalities that presently receive their policing services from the RCMP establish their own police forces in the future;

Whereas the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities recently adopted a resolution calling for a review of policing services provided in the Province of New Brunswick, including in Moncton;

Whereas City Council has struggled since 2019 to improve policing services in the City, notably its downtown, by failing to convince the Codiac Regional Policing Authority to reduce the property crime wave in the City and by hiring Community Officers that have limited enforcement authority;

And whereas the proposed police station is to be constructed according to national RCMP standards that will be irrelevant if the RCMP no longer provides policing services in the future, and its size and costs are driven mostly by the number of Staff working within the building, which makes its size and costs impossible to predict until the fate of policing services is determined more definitively;

It is resolved that the City of Moncton pause the construction of the police station until the fate of the RCMP as a municipal policing services provider is determined more definitively.

It is further resolved that the City of Moncton hire an impartial expert on policing services in 2022 to update the 2010 policing services study in light of the aforementioned increases to RCMP salaries and benefits and the possibility the RCMP will no longer provide policing services to municipalities, as well as recent research on 'right-sizing' police forces and alternative public safety measures.

Moved by: Councillor Bourgeois

Seconded by: Councillor Richard

Councillor Bourgeois advised that as he was the mover of the motion, he requested that the following portion of his original motion be removed:

It is resolved that the City of Moncton pause the construction of the police station until the fate of the RCMP as a municipal policing services provider is determined more definitively.

As the seconder of the motion, Councillor Richard indicated that he agreed.

On a question, to Councillor Bourgeois, on undertaking a study on policing in the region – be it municipal, regional, etc., he responded that he sees that a study would be needed and that collaboration with the other 2 municipalities could be included. He also indicated that cost sharing of the study could be explored.

Councillor Kingston questioned the number of studies that will be done, federally, provincially, associations, etc. The City Manager indicated that administration would involve all stakeholders prior to undertaking a study.

MOTION CARRIED

10.5 Proof of Vaccination in Council Chambers

Motion: That Moncton City Council adopt a requirement for proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and a valid government identification for in-person attendance by elected officials, administration, the media and the general public at all City Council and Committee of the Whole meetings in Council Chambers where an option for virtual attendance can be provided, effective as of the next such meeting, subject only to valid medical exemptions. This requirement will be subject to change depending upon public health measures imposed or lifted by the Province of New Brunswick.

*Moved by: Councillor Edgett
Seconded by: Councillor Richard*

Councillor Butler indicated that he wishes to extend this rule to all City of Moncton committees. If you cannot show proof of vaccination, you should attend virtually. City Solicitor Robichaud indicated that it may be difficult, however, it will be discussed at the administration level, and it will be brought back to a future Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

**11.
READING OF BY-LAWS**

**12.
NOTICES MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**13.
APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

**14.
ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: Councillor Kingston

MOTION CARRIED

.....
Dawn Arnold
MAYOR

.....
Barbara A. Quigley
CITY CLERK & DIRECTOR OF
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

/7:30 p.m.

/smm