

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2009

8:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held on January 27, 2009 at the Town Hall located at 50 Westminster Avenue South.

Present: Mr. Campbell Stuart, Mayor
Ms. Colleen Feeney, Councillor
Mr. Beny Masella, Councillor
Mr. Joseph McKenzie, Councillor
Ms. Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor

Also present: Mr. Stéphane Dulude, Director General
Mr. Claude Gilbert, Town Clerk

Mayor Campbell Stuart acted as chairperson of the meeting.
Mr. Claude Gilbert, Town Clerk, acted as secretary of the meeting.

Twelve (12) residents and visitors were in attendance.

1. Opening of the Meeting

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

That the Meeting be declared open.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-001

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

2. Acknowledgement of Visitors

Mayor Stuart greeted and welcomed Commandant Sylvain Bissonnette, from Montréal Police Service (Neighbourhood Police Station 9), and Lieutenant Martin Bertrand, street gang detective for the Western region of Montreal.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

To adopt the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 27, 2009, with the following modification:

- deferring item under heading 10 p): **Purchase of vehicle – Public Security.**

Carried unanimously
#20090127-002

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Council

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

To adopt the Minutes of the following Council Meetings:

- a) First Special Council Meeting held on December 16, 2008;
- b) Second Special Council Meeting held on December 16, 2008;
- c) Regular Council Meeting held on December 16, 2008;
- d) Special Council Meeting held on December 22, 2008;
- e) Special Council Meeting held on January 12, 2009;
- f) Special Council Meeting held on January 13, 2009;
- g) Special Council Meeting held on January 16, 2009.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-003

5. **Correspondence**

a) **Commission municipale du Québec (objection to Agglomeration's by-law concerning the allocation of debt regarding arterial road works)**

On January 16, 2009, the Secretary of the Commission acknowledged receipt of Resolution # 20090113-003 by which the Town of Montreal West objected to Agglomeration by-law RCG 08-048 concerning the aliquot share of all debts relating to road works carried out on the arterial network of the Agglomeration between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008. This letter was noted and filed.

b) **Town of Kirkland (objection to Agglomeration's by-law concerning the allocation of debt regarding arterial road works)**

On January 15, 2009, the Town Clerk of Kirkland sent a certified copy of Resolution No. CM 09-020 by which Kirkland objected to Agglomeration by-law RCG 08-048, quoted above. This letter was noted and filed.

c) **City of Sainte-Anne-De-Bellevue (request to the Agglomeration Council to delay the purchase of land in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue)**

On December 18, 2008, the City Clerk of Sainte-Anne-De-Bellevue sent a certified copy of Resolution No. 12-399-08 by which Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue requested the Agglomeration Council of Montreal to postpone the purchase of land in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue until an agreement is reached about a compensation for loss of tax revenues. This letter was noted and filed.

6. **Report of the Mayor**

Mayor Stuart noted that the main reason for the local tax increase is the unexpected failure of Bill 22 to provide the promised savings at the Agglomeration level. Bill 22 was based on the agreement signed in June 2008 by the Minister of Municipal Affairs with all the mayors on the Island of Montreal. At that time, the Minister said that it would result in savings of approximately \$30 million for the demerged towns, which should have saved between \$500,000 and \$700,000 yearly for Montreal West. This amount would have almost covered the yearly carrying costs of the debt the Town incurred in its 2008 infrastructure program. The savings disappeared because the City of Montreal increased the agglomeration budget by the same amount, thereby again keeping its taxes flat and increasing the costs for the demerged towns. The Association of Suburban Municipalities is petitioning the Minister for redress, and Montreal west is formally complaining as well.

Regarding the level crossing on Westminster, the Mayor said that he, the Director General and the Director of Public Security met with the parties responsible for the crossing (AMT, CPR, Transport Canada and Transport Quebec) before Christmas. He noted that the focus of the Town's concern is firstly pedestrian safety, and there was agreement to improve this. One option would be to have a traffic officer in place at rush hours. Montreal Police may need funding in order to provide this service, and Transport Canada could be a source. Another solution being pushed by the Town is the extension of the platform tunnel both north to Sherbrooke and south to Broughton, thereby creating a safe passage under all the tracks. In addition, the Town is trying very hard to have the northernmost of the three tracks merge west of the Town instead of to the east as it currently does. This would reduce the number of tracks to two, and remove the northern one which is the most dangerous.

The Mayor also noted that one of the benefits actually realized through Bill 22 is a Secretariat has been set up expressly to facilitate getting information from Montreal on Agglomeration matters. It remains to be seen how big a difference this new structure will make to Agglomeration governance.

7. **Contracts and Town Clerk's Office**

a) **Canada Day Grant**

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

That the Town of Montreal West apply for a subsidy to the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage through the "Celebrate Canada!" Program, and authorizes its Director of Recreation and Cultural Services to sign any necessary documents for this purpose.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-004

b) **National Holiday Grant**

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

That the Town of Montreal West apply for a subsidy to the "Mouvement national des Québécoises et Québécois" through the "Fête nationale du Québec 2009" program of the Provincial Government, and authorizes its Director of Recreation and Cultural Services to sign any necessary documents for this purpose.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-005

c) Awarding of a group insurance contract to SSQ Groupe financier

WHEREAS on January 20, 2009, Groupe financier AGA submitted its bid analysis report regarding a group insurance to be provided to all municipalities part of "Regroupement des villes de l'agglomération de Montréal" and which had been received by the City of Beaconsfield on December 18, 2008;

WHEREAS, in view of the first twenty-four (24) months of the contract, Groupe financier SSQ's bid is the lowest;

WHEREAS Groupe financier SSQ offers the best administration cost and coverage throughout the entire sixty (60) months of the contract;

WHEREAS the lowest insurance cost for a period of sixty (60) months extrapolated from all bids received by AGA was that of Groupe financier SSQ;

WHEREAS the insurer having scored the highest tally on the evaluation grid is Groupe financier SSQ;

WHEREAS Groupe financier SSQ's bid is in conformity with each participating municipality's specifications, taking in account certain precisions for group;

THEREFORE:

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

1) That the contract for a group insurance be awarded to Groupe financier SSQ as of April 1, 2009 at the annual cost of \$90,645.18 (all taxes included) for the first twenty-four (24) months of the contract.

2) That the total duration of this contract as of April 1, 2009 be of no more than five (5) years, renewable in April 2011.

3) That the Mayor and the Town Clerk be authorized to sign all necessary documents to put into force the contract.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-006

8. Administration and finances

a) Approval of disbursements – December 11, 2008 to January 23, 2009

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

THAT the list of accounts payable from December 11, 2008 to January 23, 2009 totaling \$1,336,260.40 be approved and paid as listed.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-007

b) Delegation of powers for the months of December 2008 and January 2009

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

To approve the report by the Director General concerning the exercise of powers delegated under By-Law No. 2005-002 for the months of December 2008 and January 2009.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-008

c) Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ) conference in Gatineau

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

- 1) That the Mayor be authorized to attend this conference that will take place between May 13 and May 16, 2009 and to incur expenses in the maximum amount of \$2,000 on behalf of the Town of Montreal West for this purpose, including registration costs and the reimbursement of travel expenses upon invoicing.
- 2) That this expenditure be charged to budget account 02-110-00-699.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-009

9. Urban Department

a) Site Planning Projects and Architectural Integration Programs

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

- 1) To acknowledge receipt of the minutes of a meeting held through electronic mail by the members of the Planning Advisory Committee on January 23, 2009, and to accept its recommendations.
- 2) To approve under the SPAIP the following plans submitted to this meeting, subject to the conditions set forth by the Committee as outlined in the minutes, as the case may be:
 - a) 211 Brock North;
 - b) 60 Strathearn North.

Carried unanimously
20090127-010

b) Service offer – review of Urban Planning regulations (Apur)

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

- 1) That the service offer of the firm Apur, Urbanistes-Conseils (file number 0812-206), dated December 17, 2008, be accepted for the provision of services relating to the complete revision of Montreal West urban planning regulations and the drafting of new ones, and for a lump sum price of \$19,150 (plus taxes).
- 2) That this expense be charged to budget account 02-610-00-419.

Carried unanimously
20090127-011

10. Public Works

a) Service offer – Groupe Séguin (Sherbrooke)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Sherbrooke (between Ballantyne and Westminster);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

- 1) That the lowest service offer made by Groupe Séguin (file number OS-1700-387) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 20, 2009 for a price of \$28,890 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.
- 2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-012

b) Service offer – Genivar (Courtney)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Courtney (between Ballantyne and Brock);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

- 1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115596) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$30,280 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.
- 2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-013

c) Service offer – Genivar (Broughton)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Broughton (between Easton and Fenwick);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

- 1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115598) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$37,547 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.
- 2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-014

d) Service offer – Genivar (Strathearn)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Strathearn (between Northview and Nelson);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

- 1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115601) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$84,824.57 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.
- 2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-015

e) Service offer – Genivar (Easton)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Easton (between Rennie and the CP);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

- 1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115597) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$51,023 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.

2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-016

f) Service offer – Genivar (Curzon)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Curzon (between Strathearn and Wolseley);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

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

1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115600) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$24,807 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.

2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-017

g) Service offer – Genivar (Ballantyne)

WHEREAS quotations have been requested and received from two engineering firms for the preparation of plans and specifications regarding a municipal infrastructure project on Ballantyne (between Carnavon and Courtney);

IN CONSEQUENCE:

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

1) That the lowest service offer made by Genivar (file number P 115599) be accepted, as per its letter dated January 16, 2009 for a price of \$23,346 (plus taxes) concerning the mandate described above.

2) That this expenditure be charged to the next loan by-law for the carrying out of infrastructure projects in 2009, in accordance with section 544.1 of the Cities and Towns Act.

Carried unanimously
20090127-018

h) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Sherbrooke

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Groupe Séguin be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number OS-1700-387) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-019

i) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Courtney

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Colleen Feeney and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115596) to

the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-020

j) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Broughton

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115598) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-021

k) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Strathearn

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115601) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-022

l) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Easton

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115597) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-023

m) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Curzon

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

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115600) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal

for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-024

n) Forwarding of plans and specifications for the project on Ballantyne

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

1) That the engineering firm Genivar be authorized to submit the plans and specifications for municipal works on the road mentioned in title (file number P 115599) to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, for the purpose of obtaining a certificate of authorization, and to the Water Section of the City of Montreal for approval purposes, regarding the aqueduct, sewer system and road works involved in this project.

2) That the Town of Montreal West undertake to send the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, upon completion of the work referred to above, an attestation signed by an engineer to certify their compliance with the authorization issued.

Carried unanimously
20090127-025

o) Payment of invoice – Entreprises Canbec Construction Inc. (water break repair)

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

1) To approve the payment of \$10,340.92 (taxes included) to Entreprises Canbec Construction Inc. as per its Invoice No. 30269 (dated December 19, 2008) for the repairs of a water break on Ballantyne between Broughton and Avon .

2) To charge this expenditure to budget code 02-413-00-419.

Carried unanimously
20090127-026

p) Purchase of vehicle – Public Security

This item was deferred to another meeting.

11. Human Resources

a) Permanent appointment – Cash Flow analyst

It was moved by Councillor Colleen Feeney, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

That Ms. Ann Otis, Office Clerk, be appointed Cash Flow Analyst (Group 10) for the Treasury Department as of February 2, 2009.

Carried unanimously
20090127-027

12. Appointments

There was nothing under this item.

13. Commissioners' Reports

a) Public Security

Councillor Beny Masella reported on activities pertaining to the Public Security Commission for the month of January 2009.

b) Recreation and Cultural Services

Councillor Elizabeth Ulin reported on activities pertaining to the Recreation and Cultural Services Commission for the month of January 2009.

c) Administration and Buildings

Councillor Colleen Feeney reported on activities pertaining to the Administration and Buildings Commission for the month of January 2009.

d) Public Works

Councillor Joseph McKenzie reported on activities pertaining to the Public Works Commission for the month of January 2009.

14. Deposit of Documents

There was nothing under this item.

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

a) Adoption of By-Law No. 456-2 Amending By-Law No. 456 Concerning Nuisance, Noise and Public Security

WHEREAS Council has previously requested that the reading of this By-Law be dispensed with;

THEREFORE:

It was moved by Councillor Beny Masella, seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin and resolved:

That By-Law No. 456-2 entitled "By-Law Amending By-Law No. 456 Concerning Nuisance, Noise and Public Security" be adopted.

Carried unanimously
20090127-028

b) Notice of Motion and dispensation from reading for a By-Law To Authorize the Refinancing of a Loan in the Amount of \$987,160 in Connection with Facilities Used to Produce and Supply Drinking Water

Mayor Stuart gave notice of motion that it is intended at a subsequent Meeting of Council to submit for adoption a "By-Law To Authorize the Refinancing of a Loan in the Amount of \$987,160 in Connection with Facilities Used to Produce and Supply Drinking Water".

The said By-Law will be made available to the public, in draft version, two juridical days before the meeting to be scheduled is held to adopt the By-Law.

Mayor Stuart requested that the reading of "By-Law To Authorize the Refinancing of a Loan in the Amount of \$987,160 in Connection with Facilities Used to Produce and Supply Drinking Water" be dispensed with.

c) Notice of Motion and dispensation from reading for a By-Law concerning the conversion of immovables into condominiums

Mayor Stuart gave notice of motion that it is intended at a subsequent Meeting of Council to submit for adoption a "By-Law concerning the conversion of immovables into condominiums".

The said By-Law will be made available to the public, in draft version, two juridical days before the meeting to be scheduled is held to adopt the By-Law.

Mayor Stuart requested that the reading of "By-Law concerning the conversion of immovables into condominiums" be dispensed with.

d) Notice of Motion and dispensation from reading for a By-Law amending By-Law No. 2007-005 Relating to Tariffs

Mayor Stuart gave notice of motion that it is intended at a subsequent Meeting of Council to submit for adoption a "By-Law amending By-Law No. 2007-005 Relating to Tariffs".

The said By-Law will be made available to the public, in draft version, two juridical days before the meeting to be scheduled is held to adopt the By-Law.

Mayor Stuart requested that the reading of "By-Law amending By-Law No. 2007-005 Relating to Tariffs" be dispensed with.

16. Public Question Period

The Mayor announced the beginning of the Public Question Period at 9:05 p.m.

Residents were invited to ask their questions to the Mayor and Councillors.

Gordon Schecter of 134 Brock North said he called a long time ago to get a street light fixed by the Public Works Department. It was done, but it broke and it had to be fixed again, repeatedly. The real cause of the problem seems to be eluding the Town, but the fact is that this is a safety issue, especially at night for pedestrians during winter. The problem has lasted for two and a half years and has still not been resolved. Mayor Stuart agreed that this is not acceptable. That being said, it cannot be remedied while the ground is frozen. The problem was been exacerbated by some repairs done on Curzon near the intersection with Ballantyne last year, and Councillor Masella noted that excavation work should be minimal.

Jacob Kalff of 83 Brock North asked if the Town could choose smaller vehicles for Public Security and pickups for Public Works when it comes time to replace them. He also said that he had asked last year to assess heating costs of the greenhouse over the winter, for which a 24-hour meter would be a very economical diagnostic tool. Councillor Masella answered that Public Security Officers are driving a full-size mini-van which has proved useful in more than a few cases. The resident said the Mayor was right to attend UMQ congress. He also wondered if it could be possible to contract out tasks performed by the blue collars, for efficiency purposes, and asked about the status of labor negotiations. The Mayor answered that side agreements were signed with the union last year which allow the Town to simplify the organization of daily work and which have improved the relationship with the blues. As for labor negotiations, they are progressing well, at about the same rate as in other reconstituted municipalities although some of them have already signed new collective agreements.

D. Markuze of 446 Wolseley North asked if it is possible to pay taxes on line. Councillor Feeney invited Treasurer Lucie Tousignant to answer. She said it is possible through financial institutions like the Royal Bank and Desjardins, but not directly with the Town. The resident also asked for a physical barrier to be erected at the corner of Sherbrooke and Westminster for the sake of pedestrian safety. Mayor Stuart said that, while it is impossible to protect pedestrians who insist on dangerous practices, the best option for them would be a pedestrian subway from Broughton to Sherbrooke at the train station. The resident also stated that some vehicles park on his street night and day and never get ticketed. Councillor Masella explained that coverage by Public Security is not 24 hours a day and so there are periods of time when a car can be parked in the wrong place with impunity. Hopefully the hiring of a new officer and the reorganization of work shifts will improve enforcement. The resident also asked why only two bids were requested for the purpose of awarding engineering contracts. Mayor Stuart invited Director General Stéphane Dulude to answer. He said that individual mandates given by Council permit two suppliers to be invited for the preparation of plans and specifications, but that when it comes to the contract for supervision of the up-coming work, there will be a public call for tenders.

Peter Kerr of 342 Ballantyne North suggested that Special Council meetings for the adoption of future budgets be held in November instead of December, as it would be better for public participation given the holiday season. Also, perhaps a Finance Committee made up of citizens could look through the budget proposals. The resident also specifically questioned the addition of personnel to the Public Security Department, as he believed the Town should have made savings and cut positions. Mayor Stuart answered that holding the budget meeting in November would indeed be a good idea, but that the Town does not receive financial information from the Agglomeration until December, which dictates the schedule. He also agreed that a Finance Committee involving residents is a worthy suggestion, and noted that the addition to Public Security staff will pay for itself. The Mayor also stressed that he will do his utmost to have the Ministry of Municipal Affairs compensate Montreal West for the Agglomeration's failure to deliver the approximately \$500,000 per year in savings that the Town was entitled to as its share of the \$30 Million that she had announced would benefit the demerged towns under Bill 22. The resident also expressed his concern that increased taxes will end up in decreasing property values, which the Mayor agreed was a major worry. He noted that the Agglomeration had increased the tax burden on the demerged towns every year since demerger, and that other municipalities are in the same situation as ours although some of them have a stronger commercial tax base to offset the costs, or have raided their surpluses to limit tax increases, but this cannot be sustainable even for them.

Jacob Kalff of 83 Brock North noted that Montreal West always used to subsidize recreation programs and maybe it cannot afford this any more, and that users should pay 100% of program costs. Councilor Ulin noted that all programs run out of the Community Center must break even or will not be offered, and they have to demonstrate financing before starting. The resident also suggested a "zero-based budgeting process" next time. Councillor Feeney said this approach was discussed, but the exercise was not undertaken this year though it could be done for 2010. She assured the resident that every budget line had indeed been closely scrutinized this year.

A. Manitus of 260 Brock North said he was concerned about traffic direction changes on his street, as was discussed at the public meeting. Mayor Stuart noted that there were many people at that meeting who made objections, varying as might correspond to their individual interest. The Mayor added that any changes will be first tested on a trial basis. A few experiments will be needed before conclusions are reached and final decisions are made.

17. Termination of the Meeting

At 10:10 p.m., no other questions being asked,

It was moved by Councillor Elizabeth Ulin, seconded by Councillor Beny Masella and resolved:

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously
#20090127-029

Campbell Stuart
Mayor

Claude Gilbert
Town Clerk

*The annexes mentioned above are deposited
in the municipal archives in File Archives-20090127*