

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**JANUARY 11, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of Montreal West held on January 11, 2010 at the Town Hall located at 50 Westminster Avenue South.

Present: Mr. Beny Masella, Mayor  
Ms. Julie Tasker-Brown, Councillor  
Mr. Dino Mazzone, Councillor  
Mr. Joseph McKenzie, Councillor

Absent: Ms. Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor

Also present: Mr. Stephan Dulude, Director General  
Mr. Claude Gilbert, Town Clerk  
Ms. Julie Mandeville, Treasurer

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

Ten (10) residents were in attendance.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

It was moved by Councillor Dino Mazzone, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

That the Meeting be declared open.

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-001

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown and resolved:

To adopt the Agenda of the Special Meeting of Monday, January 11, 2010, as presented.

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-002

**3. Presentation and adoption of the 2010 Budget for the Town of Montreal West**

It was moved by Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown, seconded by Councillor Dino Mazzone and resolved:

1) That the 2010 Budget for the Town of Montreal West, for an amount of \$13,403,465.00, be adopted.

2) To deposit a copy of the 2010 Budget in the Town of Montreal West Archives (file # Archives-20100111).

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-003

**4. Presentation and adoption of the 2010–2011–2012 Program of Capital Expenditures**

It was moved by Councillor Joseph McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown and resolved:

1) That the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Program of Capital Expenditures for the Town of Montreal West be adopted as follows:

a) For 2010, an amount of TWELVE million THREE hundred EIGHTEEN thousand and SEVEN hundred SIXTY dollars (\$12,318,760);

b) For 2011, an amount of ONE million EIGHT HUNDRED thousand dollars (\$1,800,000);

c) For 2012, an amount of ONE million TWO HUNDRED thousand dollars (\$1,200,000).

2) To deposit a copy of the program in the Town of Montreal West Archives (file # Archives-20100111).

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-004

Mayor Masella noted that the Agglomeration will table its own draft budget this Thursday, but approximate figures had already circulated before Christmas. Since it is financed through the contributions of municipalities on the island of Montreal, this has caused to delay the adoption of Montreal West budget as well. Then a detailed presentation was made by Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown of the Montreal West 2010 budget and of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Program of Capital Expenditures.

**5. Adoption of By-Law No. 2010-001 – By-Law Concerning Taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2010**

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

THEREFORE:

It was moved by Councillor Julie Tasker-Brown, seconded by Councillor Dino Mazzone and resolved:

That By-Law No. 2010-001 entitled "By-Law Concerning Taxes of the Town of Montreal West for the fiscal year 2010" be adopted.

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-005

**6. Public Question Period**

The Mayor announced the beginning of the Public Question Period at 7:20 p.m.

The residents were invited to ask their questions to the Mayor and Councillors, solely on matters related to the budget and program of capital expenditures.

Daniel Markuze of 446 Wolseley North noted that the capital projects which are planned for the next three years will result in an increase of the debt and asked how it will be paid. Mayor Masella explained that it will be reimbursed over a twenty-year period through a long-term loan. It will increase, then, if more infrastructure work is done this year and in the near future as planned. However, if this plan is followed at least for 2010, Council is confident that it will have taken care of the most needed part of a rehabilitation process which was delayed for too long. Also, one must keep in mind that the decision to undertake any work is contingent on the approval of subsidy applications to the Quebec Government. Councillor Tasker-Brown added that timing is important, as it is not known whether the existing grant programs will still be there in a few years from now. The Town must take advantage of them now. Councillor Mazzone noted that these expenses must be seen as investment, not just debt. The resident asked if it could be possible to sell some properties in order to alleviate the burden. Mayor Masella said that the Town is considering this option. The resident also asked if the subsidies will be paid in one installment. The Mayor explained that they would be applied annually to the loan reimbursements, thereby decreasing the fiscal charge.

Paul Kenton of 70 Brock North asked how much of the work done this year was covered by the subsidy which Montreal West received for its infrastructure projects in 2009. Mayor Masella answered it financed about two-thirds of the costs.

D. Forlini of 164 Northview asked if it is possible to know the main lines of the agglomeration budget. The Mayor said that no one knows for sure at this point because no documents have been filed yet, although it is possible to figure out what is coming. The situation at that level is difficult because of the iniquity of the governance rules, since the reconstituted municipalities are always in the minority even if they have valid reasons for contesting decisions made in the sole interest of the City of Montreal.

P.J. Pride of 48 Ballantyne North asked if there will be a 1% discount on taxes if paid in full by the date of the first installment, like it used to be in previous years. Mayor Masella noted that there is no provision to that effect in the 2010 budget, and there was none either in 2009. In the past, this facility has not been taken by many tax-payers. The resident also asked what could be done about the agglomeration's iniquity. The Mayor said that he and his colleagues are calling every contact they have and making the public outcry they can. The political reality is that the Montreal area will vote liberal anyway and the government knows that. The resident asked why the capital projects program concentrates most planned expenditures in the first year rather than spreading them over three years. The Mayor said the reason is the Town intends to secure the most government funding it can before there is no money left.

Daniel Markuze of 446 Wolseley North asked if the Town tried to reduce the operating expenses in the course of its budget preparation. Mayor Masella said it did a decent job at controlling them, if one considers that outside the debt (linked to infrastructure work) and the agglomeration costs (which the Town does not control), the increase is limited to 1%, even if salaries will also increase as a result of the collective agreements that have been settled. Council is interested in reconsidering the big figures in a more fundamental way, but this takes a plan with a long-term perspective and a serious preparation. Councillor Tasker-Brown added that this is not just a question of cutting costs, but also of increasing revenues other than taxes. Councillor Mazzone noted that there are not so many discretionary areas where the Town can exercise a decisive control. The resident asked if the Town is also penalized by the undue 30% charge which is allegedly paid in the construction sector in the Montreal area. The Mayor answered that a small town like Montreal West can only make sure that its contracts are awarded after a fair and public tender process to the lowest conform bidder. The larger context is beyond its control.

J. Kalff of 83 Brock North asked if it is possible to consider that with the rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure, the Town may at some point reduce its manpower at the Public Works Department, since there would no longer be so much need for road and water repairs. Mayor Masella said he was not sure this would be a good idea. If the new infrastructure is to be kept for the long term, preventive maintenance is required. Short-term savings would be costly if it will deteriorate before its time. In addition, if less emergency repairs are needed, it will allow the Public Work employees to catch up on other tasks which have been neglected.

## **7. Termination of the Meeting**

At 7:45 p.m., no other questions being asked,

It was moved by Councillor Dino Mazzone, seconded by Councillor Joseph McKenzie and resolved:

That the Meeting be terminated.

Carried unanimously  
# 20100111-006

---

Beny Masella  
Mayor

---

Claude Gilbert  
Town Clerk

The annexes mentioned above are deposited  
in the municipal archives in File *Archives-20100111*