

ST. JOHN'S

Minutes of Committee of the Whole - City Council

Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

November 12, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Danny Breen
Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary
Councillor Maggie Burton
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Debbie Hanlon
Councillor Deanne Stapleton
Councillor Jamie Korab
Councillor Ian Froude
Councillor Shawn Skinner

Regrets: Councillor Dave Lane
Councillor Wally Collins

Staff: Kevin Breen, City Manager
Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Administration
Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager of Community Services
Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor
Susan Bonnell, Manager - Communications & Office Services
Elaine Henley, City Clerk
Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner
Shanna Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant

Others Jennifer Langmead, Supervisor - Tourism and Events
Brian Head, Manager - Parks & Open Spaces
Victoria Etchegary, Manager - Organizational Performance & Strategy
Garrett Donaher, Manager - Transportation Engineering
Scott Winsor, Director of Engineering
Torrie George, Marketing Specialist

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Leary
Seconded By Councillor Froude

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

3. **Adoption of the Minutes**

3.1 Adoption of Minutes - October 28, 2020

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman
Seconded By Councillor Skinner

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 28, 2020 be adopted as presented.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

4. **Presentations/Delegations**

4.1 Downtown Pedestrian Mall Presentation

Addition to item in 8.1.

Council was presented with a report on the Downtown Pedestrian Mall project, including a series of findings in support of future Mall projects.

This presentation is available via the Office of the City Clerk and has been appended to the agenda. Further supporting information is included in section 8.1 of the agenda.

Next steps include using the information from the Downtown Pedestrian Mall Report, the What We Heard Document, the Continuous Improvement Yellow Belt Project and other forms of stakeholder feedback to develop a list of recommendations for Council's consideration in future mall projects. Those recommendations will come forward to Council in the new year.

Recommendations put forward from the Inclusion Advisory Committee to improve accessibility are under review and staff will work with the Inclusion Advisory Committee to address accessibility for future mall events. Businesses outside the footprint of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall will collaborate with staff to address their concerns and business owners will be engaged via Downtown St. John's.

There will be further engagement on the length of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall. Council was advised that the Water Street Infrastructure project will affect the timeline for the upcoming year. Members of Council recommended there be a committee dedicated to the Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

5. **Finance & Administration - Councillor Dave Lane**

6. **Public Works & Sustainability - Councillor Ian Froude**

6.1 **Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel Report - September 25, 2020**

1. **Storm Water Management Policy**

At the September 25, 2020 Environment and Sustainability Expert Panel (ESEP) meeting, the Panel reviewed and discussed the Draft Storm Water Management Policy. The Environment and Sustainability Experts Panel supports the holistic approach to the management of stormwater, which includes the water in the storm sewer system, streets, parking lots, watercourses, wetlands, as well as subjects like retention, floodplains, stream crossings, erosion and sediment control, and overall protection of the watersheds. The Panel provided comments with the intention of improving on the existing draft Storm Water Management Policy. Staff will review the recommendations and modify the policy accordingly and the revised policy will be brought back to Council for review. Council

requested that staff consult with developers on the proposed changes.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Froude

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Leary

That Council direct staff to prepare a revised Stormwater Management Policy that considers the recommendations provided. Further, that these recommendations are forwarded to developers for consideration and comment.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.2 Steps and Laneways Snow Clearing Operations Revision

Council was asked to consider reprioritizing the steps and laneways snow clearing responsibilities to increase service frequency and effectiveness. Councillor Korab expressed concern at the removal of 173 Topsail Road - St. Mary's School Steps as this is a heavily used area. Staff will reach out to St. Mary's School regarding the snow clearing of the path to the school.

Councillor Burton requested that signs be placed in the areas noted to notify the public of the change to snow clearing operations.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Froude

Seconded By Councillor Skinner

That Council approve the indicated changes to the Parks and Open Spaces Division snow clearing and ice control operations to enhance service level delivery.

For (8): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

Against (1): Councillor Korab

MOTION CARRIED (8 to 1)

7. **Community Services - Councillor Jamie Korab**
8. **Special Events - Councillor Shawn Skinner**
 - 8.1 **Downtown Pedestrian Mall Review**
9. **Housing - Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary**
10. **Economic Development - Mayor Danny Breen**
11. **Tourism and Culture - Councillor Debbie Hanlon**
12. **Governance & Strategic Priorities - Mayor Danny Breen**
13. **Planning & Development - Councillor Maggie Burton**

13.1 3 Park Place - REZ2000005

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Leary

That Council consider a text amendment to the St. John's Development Regulations to allow a Dwelling Unit in a designated Heritage Building (Carriage House) and advertise the proposed amendment for public review and comment.

Further, that Council advertise the Discretionary Use of a Heritage Use (Carriage House) at 3 Park Place as per Section 5.5 of the Development Regulations, and refer the application to the Built Heritage Experts Panel for review.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14. **Transportation and Regulatory Services - Councillor Sandy Hickman**
 - 14.1 **Rawlin's Cross Upgrade Options**

Council voted in March of this year to remove the Rawlin's Cross pilot configuration and return to the previous design including traffic signal control. The installation of Key2Access at the traffic signals to improve accessibility at the intersection was also approved as part of the decision. Key2Access was installed at the two signalized intersections and operational as of October 21, 2020.

In August 2020, Council requested staff to review the current layout of the Rawlin's Cross area and advise what improvements could be made to the area. Having considered alternative options, staff recommended standard practice improvements:

The roadways in the area of Rawlins Cross are due for routine rehabilitation. This reconstruction work will include improving curb ramps, minor adjustments to street alignment and traffic islands, and reviewing pavement markings. Benefits to accessibility and safety are expected with these changes. However, it is noted that the improvements to the safety performance of the area will not match the significant benefits realized through implementing the circulatory traffic control. These standard practice improvements are typical of routine road work across the city and are intended to coordinate small design changes with planned projects. The timelines for these changes are dependent on the road rehabilitation schedule.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Hanlon

That Council direct staff to proceed with standard practice improvements to roadway and sidewalk infrastructure in the area of Rawlin's Cross.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

14.2 Mode Share Targets

Council was presented with information on mode share targets and asked to consider adopting a sustainable mode share target.

Mode shares describe the proportion of people using different modes of travel. A mode of travel can be any way of getting around and are commonly grouped into:

- Vehicle driver, vehicle passenger
- Public Transit (Bus, Light Rail, etc, if available)
- Walking, Cycling
- Other (Taxi, motorcycle, etc)

Mode share targets are an expression of municipal policy priorities. By setting a target for how each mode will serve the overall transportation mix in a community, it is implied that other capital and operational decisions will follow these targets. As cities grow, they often see a transition to modes like walking, biking, and public transit. This is driven by factors such as increased congestion, increased cost for parking, and increased density bringing more daily activities within reach. In St. John's the projected population growth rates are relatively low. As such any change in mode shares that Council would like to target will require a concerted effort. Without purposeful intervention a shift in mode shares is unlikely to occur.

Typically, a mode share target would be informed by public engagement and baseline data with a basis in long range forecasting and discrete choice modelling and tested against alternative policy and infrastructure scenarios. This is a very cumbersome process and collecting the necessary data has been delayed multiple times over recent years. An opportunity exists to make an informed policy driven decision on whether, and to what extent, St. John's should prioritize mobility by sustainable modes. If this approach is taken, then a reasonable target could be based on the jurisdictional comparison outlined in the decision note and projections from the 2019 Transit Service Review.

Council members expressed that it would be valuable to set sub goals as to what is intended for each type of sustainable transportation to assist in targeting efforts. It would be useful to have geographic conversation to identify neighborhood projects to invest in that would drive the effort and assist in achieving sustainability goals.

The figures in the attached are based on the data from the journey to work census. A household traffic survey will be completed when the pandemic has been resolved.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Burton

That Council consider adopting a sustainable mode share target. If adopted and implemented through policy changes and investment an achievable target would be 16% by 2030 and 22% by 2050.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

15. **Other Business**

16. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

Mayor