

ST. JOHN'S

Minutes of Committee of the Whole - City Council

Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

November 25, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

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

Staff: Kevin Breen, City Manager
Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Administration
Tanya Haywood, Deputy City Manager of Community Services
Jason Sinyard, Deputy City Manager of Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services
Lynnann Winsor, Deputy City Manager of Public Works
Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor
Elaine Henley, City Clerk
Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner
Shanna Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant
Kelly Maguire, Communications & PR Officer
Judy Tobin, Manager - Housing
Andrew Niblock, Director - Environment Services

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Stapleton

Seconded By Deputy Mayor O'Leary

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

For (10): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, Councillor Collins, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (10 to 0)

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of Minutes - November 12, 2020

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Collins

Seconded By Councillor Skinner

That the minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2020 be adopted as presented.

For (10): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, Councillor Collins, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (10 to 0)

4. Presentations/Delegations

5. Finance & Administration - Councillor Dave Lane

6. Public Works & Sustainability - Councillor Ian Froude

6.1 Sanitation Regulations Implementation Plan

Council was advised of the update to the current Sanitation Regulations as per the attached information note.

The current Sanitation Regulations have been updated to include current collection methods such as the automated cart system and to incorporate garbage covering regulations and be more descriptive in all curbside collection programs. Included within this bylaw are rules for households provided an automated cart and for households that will continue to be collected manually. For equity, and to support and advance Councils strategic goal to divert more wastes from landfill, households with carts are limited to what the cart can hold and houses without carts will be limited to four bags of garbage per week.

In addition to the above, the bylaw requires households to use clear bags when placing wastes at the curb. The clear bags will allow collectors to easily identify wastes that should not be directed to landfill such as recyclables and household hazardous wastes. This will improve worker safety and will ensure residents are taking advantage of available waste diversion programs.

The four-bag limit and the clear bags are a change that will require an effective communication plan so households can be aware and adjust to the change. The clear bags will also require communications with local suppliers to ensure adequate inventory is available when the clear bag requirement comes into effect.

There will be two timelines involved with the complete implementation of the Sanitation Regulations. Most of the sanitary regulations will come in effect immediately after the sanitation regulations are advertised and gazetted. It is expected that this will be completed by January 2021. The four-bag limit for manually collected households will come into effect at this time. The clear bag requirement will come into effect starting January 1, 2022. The extended timeline on this implementation date will allow residents time to use the green or black bags they have already purchased and will allow suppliers to ensure adequate inventories of clear bags are available to the public when the implementation date comes in effect.

During discussion, the following was noted:

- Council raised a question of clarity for residents on the use of kitchen catchers. Staff advised that kitchen catchers are of an acceptable size and are available in clear plastic as required.
- Concern was raised about the significant reduction from ten bags to four bags and the challenge of storage space and the possible

negative impact on families. Council were advised that members of the community in that situation can call 311 and ask to set up a case and a staff member from Waste and Recycling will contact them to find a solution.

- It was recommended that future waste audits could be offered for residents and grocery stores in partnership with other organizations which will provide insight for staff. Consideration must be made to include direct contact with individuals who do not have access to technology for education purposes.
- Concern was also raised about the tight timelines with efforts to have support in place for residents who have concerns and questions.

Once the finalized Sanitation Regulations are adopted by Council, then the Communications Division and Waste and Recycling Division will start preparing all necessary communications to ensure the effective implementation of the updated Sanitation Regulations.

7. Community Services - Councillor Jamie Korab

8. Special Events - Councillor Shawn Skinner

9. Housing - Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

9.1 Affordable Housing Strategy Annual Update

This matter was moved to the first item of business on the agenda for attendance purposes. Council was provided with an annual update on the City of St. John's Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028. Planning has begun for 2021 to progress initiatives in the Affordable Housing Strategy. The annual update is available via the Office of the City Clerk and has been appended to the agenda.

Staff have been working to fill vacant units. The current waitlists are requesting 1 or 2 bedroom units and not the available 3 or 4 bedroom. There is currently a pilot project for energy efficiency on Forest Road.

10. Economic Development - Mayor Danny Breen

11. Tourism and Culture - Councillor Debbie Hanlon

11.1 Art Procurement 2020

Following a four-year suspension of the City's Art Procurement program (from 2016-2019 inclusive), the program was reinstated during the budget process for 2020. The Art Procurement program considers submissions by

individual artists and commercial art galleries for purchase by the City and subsequent inclusion in the Civic Art Collection. Pieces in the Civic Art Collection are on display throughout City Hall and other City buildings, in offices, boardrooms, public spaces, etc. These artworks are also regularly displayed in Wyatt Hall as a part of seasonal or themed exhibitions intended to share the collection with the general public and encourage engagement with the visual arts.

This year in response to the call for submissions, there were 217 pieces submitted for consideration, from 79 artists. Each artist can submit up to three pieces for consideration.

The jury for the Art Procurement program is comprised of subject matter experts in the area of visual art: practicing artists, art teachers, art writers, curators, and/or other persons knowledgeable in the area of visual art. This year's jury was made up of three such members, and also included non-voting City staff representation (Arts and Cultural Development Coordinator and City Archivist). The jury met virtually on November 19, 2020 and selected twenty (20) pieces for purchase, as per the list appended to the agenda, totaling \$19,170. The annual budget for Art Procurement is \$20,000.

Upon approval, agreements will be signed between the City and the selected artists and/or the commercial gallery representing them, and the selected artworks will be delivered to the City Archives for cataloguing and inclusion in the Civic Art Collection.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hanlon

Seconded By Councillor Burton

That Council approve the Art Procurement Jury's recommendation as attached.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Lane, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, Councillor Collins, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

12. Governance & Strategic Priorities - Mayor Danny Breen

13. Planning & Development - Councillor Maggie Burton**14. Transportation and Regulatory Services - Councillor Sandy Hickman****14.1 Pedestrian Recall**

Direction is required on whether the pedestrian recall signal timing established at the outset of the COVID-19 response should be altered or discontinued. Council was presented with the following options:

1. Business as usual

This strategy attempts to provide the least delay to all users of the intersection regardless of mode. This is the standard practice that has been employed by the City historically. Pedestrian recall is used only where required based on pedestrian volumes or infrastructure needs. Note that individual signals are often placed on pedestrian recall temporarily during the winter if the pushbuttons are inaccessible due to snow accumulation.

2. Select locations

One approach would be to identify geographic areas of the City, or select locations, where pedestrian recall is used. (Or, conversely, identify areas to return to business as usual.) For example, one suggestion that was received was that areas “inside” Elizabeth Avenue toward downtown would be placed on pedestrian recall and areas outside this limit would be returned to business as usual operation.

A determination at each intersection based on pedestrian volumes or other quality is the most subjective strategy and therefore most difficult to implement without clear direction from Council. The business as usual case has a technical evaluation for when pedestrian recall is justified. If a different threshold or set of characteristics is to be used to determine what intersections remain on pedestrian recall, then it is necessary to define those criteria. This has the potential to be inconsistent and/or inequitable in how it is rolled out. Given that the City does not have the data needed to make a pedestrian-volume based determination at every intersection it would be a potentially large undertaking to collect this information.

If this strategy were implemented, either based on geography or defined characteristics, it would eliminate the additional delay users experience at the locations selected to return to business as usual at the cost of requiring the pushbutton be pressed.

3. Time of day

Another option would be to apply pedestrian recall during the periods of the day most likely to see pedestrian traffic. For example, from 6AM to 8PM have pedestrian recall on, and overnight turn it off.

To accomplish this, signs would need to be changed to communicate need for button to be pressed during the overnight period. Technical work required to implement is about 2 hours per intersection if no programming issues are identified. For 108 signals, this type of changeover could easily take 1 to 2 months to implement. (Plus, a similar amount of work to roll back change at end of program.)

This would eliminate the additional delay users experience overnight when volumes are lowest and conflicting vehicles/pedestrians are less frequent at the cost of requiring the button be pressed.

4. Full time pedestrian recall

The City is currently operating with pedestrian recall operated full time at all intersections. This has the largest impact to vehicle traffic and user delay but requires no pedestrian buttons to be pushed. (This approach does not apply to pedestrian only signals and exceptions were made for accessibility as noted above)

The City currently has 108 full traffic signals operating and another 31 pedestrian signals (overhead flashers, RRFBs or pedestrian signal). The pedestrian recall approach only works at full traffic signals. Pedestrian recall at all 108 intersections was approved by Council in May of 2020. Following implementation a few signals were reverted to normal operations to accommodate a person in the area with a visual impairment. Small signs advising people that they should no longer use the pushbutton were posted at each push button location as part of this implementation.

Councillor Burton requested that Council express priority for pedestrians and keep pedestrian recall in operation full time at intersections for the winter months. Multiple members of Council agreed with this position. Following the loss of Councillor Hickman's motion it was agreed to maintain the current status quo until the Spring when this matter can be reviewed again.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Hanlon

That Council direct staff to implement Option 2 by returning operation of signals outside the City “core” to business as usual operation. Signals on the boundary or inside the “core” would remain on pedestrian recall. The “core” would be defined by a line starting at Springdale Street and Water Street then following Springdale Street, Lemarchant Road, St. Clare Avenue, Campbell Avenue, Ropewalk Lane, Empire Avenue, Stamps Lane, Freshwater Road, Elizabeth Avenue, Rennie’s River, Portugal Cove Road, Rennie’s Mill Road, Military Road, Cavendish Square, and ending at Cavendish Square and Duckworth Street.

For (2): Councillor Hickman, and Councillor Korab

Against (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O’Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Lane, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Froude, Councillor Collins, and Councillor Skinner

MOTION LOST (2 to 9)

15. Other Business

16. In Camera

Council took a short break at 10:36 am, reconvening at 10:47 am for the In Camera Session.

16.1 In Camera Session

17. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

Mayor