

ST. JOHN'S

Minutes of Committee of the Whole - City Council Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

May 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

Present:	Mayor Danny Breen Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary Councillor Maggie Burton Councillor Ron Ellsworth Councillor Sandy Hickman Councillor Debbie Hanlon Councillor Jill Bruce Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft Councillor Jamie Korab Councillor Ian Froude Councillor Carl Ridgeley
Staff:	Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Administration Jason Sinyard, Deputy City Manager of Planning, Engineering & Regulatory Services Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor Susan Bonnell, Manager - Communications & Office Services Karen Chafe, City Clerk Christine Carter, Legislative Assistant
Others	Lindsay Lyghtle Brushett, Supervisor of Planning & Development Ann-Marie Cashin, Planner III – Urban Design & Heritage Judy Powell, General Manager, Metrobus

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Breen called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Froude

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

3. Adoption of the Minutes

3.1 Adoption of Minutes - May 4, 2022

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hanlon

Seconded By Councillor Bruce

That the minutes of May 4, 2022, be adopted as presented.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

4. Presentations/Delegations

5. Finance & Administration - Councillor Ron Ellsworth

6. Public Works - Councillor Sandy Hickman

7. Community Services - Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

8. Special Events - Councillor Debbie Hanlon

9. Housing - Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft

9.1 Housing Catalyst Fund 2022 Recipients

Councillor Ravencroft presented Council with the recommendations for the 2022 Housing Catalyst Fund and gave some background on the fund.

The City of St. John's and the Community Housing Transformation Centre have selected five grants totaling \$110,000 to be awarded for 2022:

- **Anglican Homes - \$30,000**
- **John's Status of Women Council/Women's Centre - \$30,000**
- **Gathering Place - \$20,000**
- **Stella's Circle - \$20,000**
- **Hospitality NL - \$10,000**

Providing Housing Catalyst grants for affordable housing projects is a goal of the Affordable Housing Strategy 2019-2028, a ten-year plan to address our municipality's housing needs, developed with the vision of working in-step with partners, stakeholders, and residents to create and maintain safe, suitable, and affordable housing throughout the city.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Ravencroft

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That Council support the decision to award Housing Catalyst Fund grants to the applicants outlined above, as selected by the fund's review committee.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

10. Economic Development, Tourism & Immigration - Mayor Danny Breen

11. Arts & Culture - Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary

12. Governance & Strategic Priorities - Mayor Danny Breen

12.1 Regular, Special and CotW Meetings – 2021 Summer Schedule

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approve the proposed summer schedule for Regular, Special and Committee of the Whole (CotW) meetings.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

13. Planning - Councillor Ian Froude

13.1 Built Heritage Experts Panel (Councillor Maggie Burton)

Report of April 20th and 27th

1. **13 George Street, Second Storey Deck, INT2200008**

Councillor Burton recommended that the Heritage By-Law be amended to allow for consideration of new decks and balconies on facades facing George Street, and that the second storey deck and signage for 13 George Street be approved as proposed.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council, subject to Schedule D of the Heritage By-Law being amended to allow for consideration of new decks and balconies on facades facing George Street, approve a second storey deck and signage at 13 George Street, as proposed.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

2. George Street United Church, Heritage Designation of Annex, 25 Buchanan Street/130 George Street West, HAT2200004

Councillor Burton advised that the City has received an application to remove the Heritage Building designation from the annex portion of the George Street United Church. Should Council agree, the Heritage Building designation will remain on the original part of George Street United Church.

The applicants are preparing to subdivide the two properties as shown on the attached survey. If Heritage Building designation is removed and the sale and subdivision proceeds, the applicants propose in the interim to lease the annex property back to the church until a time when they seek to redevelop it. Once they determine a redevelopment approach, the long-term plan is to demolish the annex, return the back wall of the church to its former state, and redevelop the annex site with a new building.

The applicants and representatives from George Street United Church attended the May 20, 2022 BHEP Meeting as a delegation. The Panel discussed this item at that meeting and then made a recommendation following further discussion at the May 27, 2022 meeting.

It was also questioned if the congregation had been consulted in the process, and the response was that the congregation had given their permission to negotiate the sale of the parcel of land adjacent to the building. Reverend Maich informed the Panel that the original

structure of the church would remain unaltered, and any changes would only affect the extension.

Should Council agree with the staff recommendation, any redevelopment of the rear lot would require a Heritage Report and public consultation as the property is adjacent to a Heritage Building.

Councillor Burton added that this sale will greatly assist the financial position of the church.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That Council:

(1) as per Section 11(1)(b) of the St. John's Heritage By-Law, consider the removal of the Heritage Building designation on the annex portion of George Street United Church located at 25 Buchanan Street/130 George Street West and advertise the application in accordance with the provisions of the Development Regulation; and

(2) as per Section 8(3) of the St. John's Heritage By-Law accept the staff report in lieu of a Heritage Report.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

3. 265 LeMarchant Road, Heritage Report TOR, DEV2200040

Councillor Burton presented the Decision Note to approve the draft Heritage Report terms of reference for a proposed extension and renovation at 265 LeMarchant Road (former West Fire Station), a designated Heritage Building.

The City has received an application to convert the former West Fire Station or West End Fire Hall, located at 265 LeMarchant Road, to an Apartment Building. The applicant is proposing to add two floors, to increase the number of storeys from 2 to 4, and horizontal expansion at the rear of the building. The structure will house 16 residential units. The applicant is in the initial design stage and the proposed expansion is subject to change. The application arises from a Request for Proposals issued by the City for the sale and re-development of the site.

Councillor Burton added that it is not being recommended that a public hearing be held on this application.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approve the attached draft Heritage Report terms of reference to consider an expansion to the designated Heritage Building (the former West Fire Station) at 265 LeMarchant Road.

For (11): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, Councillor Korab, Councillor Froude, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (11 to 0)

14. Development - Councillor Jamie Korab

15. Transportation and Regulatory Services - Councillor Maggie Burton

15.1 St. John's Transportation Commission - Quarter 1 Report 2022

Councillor Froude presented highlights from the update from the St. John's Transportation Commission from the Quarter1 Report 2022.

Highlights included:

- Operations during the COVID surge in January, and the increase in ridership numbers to 2019 levels.
- Effects on the increasing price of diesel. This continues to be monitored and will be revisited to determine if changes are necessary.
- In March, the City's internal auditors began an audit on the GoBus service. This will be the first internal audit since Metrobus had an internal audit on cash handling completed in 2019.
- On March 18th, Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day was celebrated across Canada, Recognition of this day was shared through social media.
- Metrobus is working with Edmundo Fausto on an electrification plan. Funding from infrastructure Canada has been approved for development of the plan for 80% of the cost up to \$250,000. Plans are also in place to install four chargers for electric vehicles on site.

Councillor Ellsworth added that he is glad to see this report and the information circulated to Council. Regarding the Go Bus challenges, he sent his apologies to the users, but with the modifications made, we have

turned a corner on the software issues. Councillor Ellsworth urged users to feel more confident with the service and noted that there were challenges with the number of drivers which caused a capacity issue, but that also has been resolved. Councillor Ellsworth reiterated that the service is moving in the right direction, and if any paratransit users are facing any challenges they are asked to reach out for assistance.

Councillor Ellsworth also advised that discussions continue with the Province for application to be made to access Federal funding assistance for public transit. This is a great opportunity to work with both levels of government and meetings continue. The Metrobus service affects everyone that comes to the City, as students or visitors, as it is a very cost-effective way to get around the area. MHAs throughout the Province should be supporting the application as it affects all who use the service and those that come into the City for work, schooling, or visitors, from all areas.

Councillor Burton expressed her appreciation to Ms. Powell and the Staff of Metrobus who were very adaptable in keeping the staff safe during the pandemic and keeping the service running as needed throughout the pandemic. She asked that we all continue to work together as we continue to see our way out of the pandemic and give support for the relief funding for this vital service.

Councillor Burton also asked Ms. Powell to provide any updates on changes or improvements for the Zip network which is very popular. Ms. Powell advised that they would need to look at priorities and improvements that have been recommended to the system, such as later hours and feeder routes. It will be discussed in more detail in the Fall when setting priorities and looking at budget considerations.

Deputy Mayor O'Leary thanked Ms. Powell and Councillors Ellsworth, Froude, and Burton for bringing this update to Council. She also wanted to thank the front line Metrobus drivers. She added that she receives a great deal of communication from non-residents of the City that are looking to access the bus system and reiterated that the relief funding is not just a City issue and she looks forward to keeping the discussions going with the Province.

15.2 2022 Quidi Vidi Pedestrian Project

Councillor Burton presented the Information Note on the plans for the 2022 Quidi Vidi Pedestrian Project.

Planning for the 2022 Quidi Vidi Village Pedestrian Zone is underway. The proposed event plan is based on experience from the 2021 Pedestrian Zone, as well as feedback received from the engagement process conducted in the fall of 2021. The engagement process included feedback

from the public, area businesses both inside and outside the event footprint, and various other stakeholders.

This year it is suggested that the Quidi Vidi Pedestrian Zone would coincide with the dates of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

Mayor Breen added that it was a great success last year, and very popular. There was a great crowd in the area yesterday for the Royal Visit and many remarked on how much it was enjoyed last year and that they are looking forward to it again this year.

16. **Sustainability - Councillor Maggie Burton & Councillor Ian Froude**

17. **Other Business**

18. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Mayor