

ST. JOHN'S

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

February 8, 2023, 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 Carl Ridgeley
Regrets:	Councillor Jamie Korab Councillor Ian Froude
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 Cheryl Mullett, City Solicitor Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner Karen Chafe, City Clerk Erin Skinner, Supervisor of Tourism and Culture Christine Carter, Legislative Assistant
Others	Kelly Maguire, Communications and Public Relations

1. Travel Per Diems

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Ellsworth

Seconded By Councillor Hanlon

That Council approve an increase in the meal per diem from \$53.50 to \$100 per day.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

2.0 Downtown Pedestrian Mall and Parklet Program

Councillor Hanlon reviewed with Council the recommendations for consideration regarding the Downtown Pedestrian Mall and the Parklet Program.

Council agreed to split the motion as presented and will deal with the recommendation to reduce the size of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall separately from the six remaining recommendations.

The reasoning behind the recommended change to reduce the existing footprint for the Downtown Pedestrian Mall was discussed by Council.

Staff outlined in the Decision Note that:

- this modification will alleviate safety concerns with vehicles and pedestrians sharing the same road space
- Continued vehicle access is required to the Courthouse, Colliers Parking lot and private residential parking
- A modified footprint will allow unimpeded access to the Atlantic Place parking garage.
- Allow for improved accessible parking along Water Street.
- Working with GoBus, in conjunction with their safety supervisor and CSJ traffic services division, to identify an accessible drop off area on Water Street west of Clift's Baird's Cove
- Previous attempts to eliminate interactions between pedestrians and vehicles in this area have not been successful.

Members of Council held a very in-depth discussion on the pros and cons of the recommendation to reduce the current footprint of the Downtown Pedestrian Mall.

Some of the points raised by individual members of Council included:

- The potential negative impacts on the businesses that will be removed from the Pedestrian Mall
- The loss of enjoyment by the residents and visitors to the City with a reduced Pedestrian Mall
- The need to seek alternate solutions to address the safety concerns raised and to achieve greater accessibility versus reducing the footprint
- A review could be conducted each year to assess the safety and accessibility issues presented

- Concern for the possible continual reduction of the Pedestrian Mall in the future
- Concert location site could be moved to a different location as to reduce safety issues of vehicles and pedestrians in the Courthouse area, and consider using the George Street stage
- Accessibility is a major concern with the current footprint, try the modification for this coming year to help those who need greater supports for accessing the area. Reassess after this summer and discuss any needed modifications
- The challenges for those with mobility issues who use aids to get around find the current footprint difficult as it is a long walk
- Consider adding more drop-off and pick-up points in the area, in-person wayfinding support and signage for accessible parking locations could also be used
- Consider Harbour Drive as a drop off and pick up location, as it is level and good for rerouting
- Make use of more personnel such as the Commissionaires and barricades to improve safety and accessibility concerns
- Safety is the main reason for this recommendation, and something that should not be disregarded
- Suggest that Staff determine if the challenges can be managed before reducing the size of the footprint.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hanlon

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council approve recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 noted with the exception of # 2 which will be dealt with separately for the 2023-2025 Downtown Pedestrian Mall and Parklet program.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hanlon

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

Regarding Recommendation # 2

1. Staff recommend a modified footprint for DPM, to include Water Street from Adelaide Street to Cliff's Baird's Cove. This modification will alleviate safety concerns with vehicles and pedestrians sharing the same road space.

- Continued vehicle access is required to the Courthouse, Colliers Parking lot and private residential parking.
- A modified footprint will allow unimpeded access to the Atlantic Place parking garage.
- Allow for improved accessible parking along Water Street.
- Working with GoBus, in conjunction with their safety supervisor and CSJ traffic services division, to identify an accessible drop off area on Water Street west of Cliff's Baird's Cove
- Previous attempts to eliminate interactions between pedestrians and vehicles in this area have not been successful.

Tourism and Event staff recommendation to modify the footprint of the DPM to Adelaide Street to Cliff's Baird's Cove is based on safety and accessibility for all. Safety remains our key priority, and the vehicular access in the area of Cliff's Baird's Cove to Prescott Street has been a concern in previous years. Transportation staff have identified a concern around traffic congestion in the area of Cliff's Baird's Cove. This will have to be monitored and adjustments made where necessary.

For (3): Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, and Councillor Hanlon

Against (6): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION LOST (3 to 6)

3.0 Amendment to Heritage By-Law – Exemption for Registered Charities or Institutions

Councillor Burton provided a brief overview for Council on the amendment to the Heritage By-Law which provides an exemption for Registered Charities or Institutions.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Hickman

That Council agree to adopt the Heritage (Amendment No. 2-2023) By-Law and that a Notice of Motion be given at a future Regular Meeting of Council to commence the amendment process.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

4.0 366-374 Empire Avenue, REZ2100013

Councillor Burton reviewed the information previously circulated to Council on the rezoning request for 366-374 Empire Avenue which would allow for a townhouse development.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council consider rezoning 366-374 Empire Avenue from the Apartment 1 (A1) Zone to the Residential 3 (R3) to allow a Townhouse development, and that the application be advertised and referred to a public meeting chaired by an independent facilitator.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

5.0 40 Quidi Vidi Road, REZ2200010

The rezoning request for 40 Quidi Vidi Road was presented by Councillor Burton, noting that this application has been discussed previously by Council.

Councillor Burton added that First Light has held some consultations and communication on this as well.

Members of Council agreed that this a good project and has great potential for the use of the space in this neighbourhood and will be of great benefit to those they serve.

It was also noted that a public meeting will be held on the rezoning application.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council consider a rezoning from the Residential 3 (R3) Zone to the Residential Mixed (RM) Zone at 40 Quidi Vidi Road and approve the attached draft terms of reference for a land use report (LUR).

Further, upon receiving a satisfactory land use report, that Council refer the application to a public meeting chaired by an independent facilitator for public input and feedback.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6.0 Intersection of City Committees and the Youth Engagement Working Group

Councillor Bruce gave an overview of the background of the recommendation coming before Council which will amend City Committee Terms of References by removing the youth representative label. This will also see Staff ensuring that the Terms of Reference for all Committees will reflect the need for age diversity.

These changes will also see greater communication between the Youth Engagement Working Group and City Committees.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Bruce

Seconded By Councillor Hanlon

That Council approve the proposed amendment to remove the Youth Representative label from the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committees, to direct staff to ensure all terms of reference for committees reflect the need to have age diversity and to further direct staff to ensure ongoing communication between the YEWG and City Committees.

For (9): Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, Councillor Burton, Councillor Ellsworth, Councillor Hickman, Councillor Hanlon, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ravencroft, and Councillor Ridgeley

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

Mayor