

ST. JOHN'S

Minutes of Committee of the Whole - City Council

Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall

March 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Danny Breen
Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary
Councillor Maggie Burton
Councillor Ron Ellsworth
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Jill Bruce
Councillor Greg Noseworthy
Councillor Tom Davis
Councillor Carl Ridgeley

Regrets: Councillor Ophelia Ravencroft

Staff: Kevin Breen, City Manager
Derek Coffey, Deputy City Manager of Finance & Corporate Services
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
Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner
Andrew Niblock, Director of Environmental Services
Theresa Walsh, City Clerk
Jackie O'Brien, Manager of Corporate Communications
Stacey Baird, Legislative Assistant

1. Review of Social Media Channels

Councillor Noseworthy asked staff to allow time to notify X followers that the City will no longer be using the social media platform.

Recommendation

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Leary

Seconded By Councillor Ridgeley

That Council:

1. Deactivate the City's corporate X account and rely on Facebook and Instagram as the primary communication tools.
2. Deactivate the What's Happening St. John's X account and continue promoting event-related news through Facebook and Instagram.
3. Deactivate the Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) X account and integrate newcomer and immigration-related updates into the City's corporate Facebook and Instagram accounts.
4. Monitor Bluesky's growth and reconsider adoption at a later date when more data on its effectiveness and user engagement in Canada becomes available.

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

2. 75 Lady Anderson Street – REZ2500006

Deputy Mayor O'Leary asked staff to clarify where the outdoor space for the childcare centre will be located. The Chief Municipal Planner advised that it would be behind the building, facing the south side of the lot.

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Burton

Seconded By Councillor Davis

That Council consider rezoning 75 Lady Anderson Street from the Residential Reduced Lot (RRL) Zone to the Residential 1 (R1) Zone.

Further, that the application be publicly advertised (public notice only) in accordance with the Envision St. John's Development Regulations.

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

3. Amendment to Building By-Law

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Ellsworth

That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Building By-law.

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

4. Amendment to Commercial Maintenance By-Law

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Bruce

That Council adopt the proposed amendments to the Commercial Maintenance By-Law

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

5. Amendment to Residential Property Standards By-Law

Recommendation

Moved By Councillor Hickman

Seconded By Councillor Davis

That Council adopt the proposed amendments

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)

6. Earth Day 2025

Councillor Burton suggested taking before and after photos of trees that have been planted as part of the urban forest initiative.

Recommendation

Moved By Deputy Mayor O'Leary

Seconded By Councillor Davis

That Council approve the proposed plan detailed to commemorate Earth Day 2025

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

MOTION CARRIED (9 to 0)