

April 13, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the St. John's Municipal Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall at 4:30 p.m. today.

Deputy Mayor Ron Ellsworth presided.

There were present also Councillors Hann, Hickman, Lane, Puddister, Breen, Galgay, Davis, Tilley, and Collins.

Regrets: Mayor O'Keefe

The Acting City Manager; Deputy City Manager of Public Works; Deputy City Manager of Planning, Development & Engineering; Deputy City Manager of Community Services; City Solicitor; Chief Municipal Planner; City Clerk, and Supervisor of Legislative Services were also in attendance.

Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

SJMC2015-04-13/155R

**It was decided on motion of Councillor Collins; seconded by Councillor Davis:
That the agenda be adopted as presented.**

Adoption of Minutes

SJMC2015-04-13/156R

**It was decided on motion of Councillor Tilley; seconded by Councillor Galgay:
That the minutes of April 6, 2015 be adopted as presented.**

Notices Published

Council considered the following Notices Published:

- A Discretionary Use Application has been submitted to the City of St. John's by Rogers Communications Inc. seeking approval of a site design in relation to a telecommunications rooftop site at 80 The Boulevard.
- A Discretionary Use Application has been submitted by RJC Services requesting permission to construct three townhouses located at 49-53 Harvey Road. The subject property is located in the CCM Zone where a dwelling unit on the 2nd or higher floors is a permitted use, and a dwelling unit on the 1st floor of a building is a Discretionary Use. Parking will be provided via in-house garage and accessed from Long's Hill.

SJMC2015-04-13/157R

It was decided on motion of Councillor Hann; seconded by Councillor Galgay: That the above noted applications be approved subject to all applicable City requirements.

Police & Traffic Committee Report of March 26, 2015

Council considered the above noted report:

In Attendance: Councillor Art Puddister, Chairperson
Councillor Bruce Tilley
Councillor Bernard Davis (12:50 pm)
Councillor Sandy Hickman
Councillor Danny Breen
Councillor Jonathan Galgay
Paul Mackey, Deputy City Manager – Public Works
Don Brennan, Director of Roads and Traffic
Brendan O’Connell, Director of Engineering
Garret Donaher, Transportation Engineer
Dawn Corner, Manager of Traffic
Stephen Fagan, Supervisor Traffic & Parking
Blair Bradbury, Development Engineer - Traffic
Bill MacDonald, Supervisor Traffic Signals
Janine Halliday, Manager of Citizen’s Service Centre & Parking Services
Linda Bishop, Senior Legal Counsel
Superintendent Joe Boland, RNC
Chris Whelan, Metrobus
Percy Rideout, Citizen Representative
Maureen Harvey, Senior Legislative Assistant

1. Blackhead Road @ Linegar – Concern about safety of intersection

While the Committee, at its last meeting, recommended status quo on this matter, a subsequent Council Directive requested that consideration be given to a traffic calming measure (i.e. speed cushion) for motorists travelling north on Blackhead Road leading up to the intersection, even though it does not meet the warrants as required by the TAC Guidelines.

Discussion took place with staff suggesting it is time for a review of the policy for traffic calming. Staff believes this intersection should be considered. It was also suggested that a reconfiguration of the intersection be explored.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends as follows:

- a. Staff to consider the placement of Blackhead Road @ Linegar Avenue intersection on the traffic calming list;**

- b. Staff undertake a review of the traffic calming criteria for consideration of the Committee;**
- c. The Engineering Department be requested to prepare a cost estimate for a redesign of the intersection for improved function.**

2. Request for Residential Permit Parking 111-117 Carter's Hill

The Manager of Traffic made reference to an email from the resident of 111 Carter's Hill for permit parking for which staff have conducted a survey on neighboring residents, all of whom are in agreement of this arrangement.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that residential permit parking be installed on the west side of Carter's Hill at Civic #111-117.

3. Letter from Cathy Bennett, MHA re: Speeding on Airport Heights

The Manager of Traffic noted that speeding is a matter of enforcement provided by the RNC. Airport Heights has already been assessed and prioritized for traffic calming and a deferral of further action is recommended based on the implementation of the already approved reduced school zone speed limit this fall. Therefore, staff recommends referral of speeding to the RNC for enforcement.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends referral of speeding on Airport Heights to the RNC pending implementation of the reduced school zone speed limit in the fall of 2015 and that the MHA be advised of Council's decision and the process/criteria for traffic calming.

Discussion took place on feedback signs and the RNC and staff reporting that data collected from these signs can be used in determining the effectiveness of the sign. The signs default to "stealth" mode when power is low but will still collect and store data.

Recommendation

That staff provide the Committee with summary statistics from the traffic feedback signs.

Superintendent Boland informed the Committee that the RNC's Operation Ringtone has concluded and it has resulted in approximately 1,000 tickets being issued in the metro region. Another operation is scheduled to commence within the next two weeks which is intended to address speeding and aggressive driving. The Committee commended the RNC on these initiatives.

4. **Pedestrian Safety Suggestions re: Thorburn Road @ Mount Scio**

The Committee considered an email from the resident of 88 Seaborn Street which suggests a review of the synchronization of the pedestrian and traffic lights and also brighter paint on the pedestrian walkway.

The Director of Roads and Traffic advised that a leading pedestrian phase at the signal on Thorburn @ Mount Scio has been installed. The Committee was also informed that staff will be using thermoplastic pavement markings at some crosswalks this year to assess its durability. The use of “zebra” marking will also be explored for intersections such as this one with a history of motorist non-compliance with pedestrian crosswalk use.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Manager of Traffic provide the Committee with a list of proposed locations where thermoplastic markings will be used on City crosswalks.

5. **Rotary Drive/Welland Street – speeding**

The Committee considered correspondence from a resident of Rotary Drive advising of her concerns about speeding. Additional correspondence from a resident of Welland Street puts forth the concern of increased traffic that is now using Welland because of the “No Left Turn” restrictions on Blackmarsh Road at Empire Avenue and at Jensen Camp Road. Both restrictions were installed to address the issue of short-cutting traffic through the neighborhood including Rotary Drive.

While the Traffic Division has not conducted a traffic count on Welland Street, it is likely that volumes have increased as motorists have likely found their way onto the street to bypass the turn restrictions. It was originally anticipated that the restrictions would be lifted when/if traffic volumes in the area diverted onto the new Bypass or when traffic calming was installed on Rotary Drive. A recent update of the traffic calming score for Rotary Drive has moved it up the list to number three in the rankings, and with the current funding availability we could proceed with the development of a traffic calming plan for the street. Diver feedback signs were installed on Rotary Drive in early February, and this should have an impact on driver speeds.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends the following:

- a. **Considering ongoing concerns about speeding and the high ranking on the traffic calming priority list, the Traffic Division proceed with the development of a traffic calming plan for Rotary Drive for this coming year; and if approved,**
- b. **Considering ongoing concerns about higher traffic volumes and speeding on Welland Street, and ongoing complaints from area residents about the inconvenience of the “No Left Turn” restrictions on Blackmarsh Road and with the recent installation of driver feedback signs on Rotary Drive, approval be given for the removal of the restriction on Blackmarsh Road.**

6. Request for Residential Parking 61-73 Signal Hill Road

The Committee reviewed a request from a resident on Signal Hill Road requesting the installation of permit parking at 61-73 Signal Hill Road. The request was supported by a petition signed by area residents.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that residential permit parking be installed on the east side of Signal Hill Road at Civic numbers 61-73.

7. Request for Feedback Sign – Birmingham Street

Councillor Tilley requested a feedback sign on Birmingham Street in the area of the park, particularly during the months of June to October when the park is frequented by children playing ball.

Recommendation

As Birmingham Street does not meet the warrant for traffic calming, the Committee recommends referral to the RNC for use of its sign and concurs with the RNC suggestion that the RNC undertake a safety awareness campaign (including distribution of pamphlets) with the St. John's Minor Baseball.

8. Traffic Congestion – Tim Hortons/Kidcorp Learning Centre – Torbay Road

Councillor Breen informed the Committee of complaints being received from the owners of Kidcorp Learning Centre on Torbay Road. This business has shared parking at the Tim Horton's lot and parents of the learning centre claim they are often unable to safely drop off/pick up their children and in so doing are experiencing extreme delays. It was also reported that the volume of traffic at this Tim Horton's location is causing major congestion on Torbay Road. It was noted by staff that this arrangement is likely part of a development agreement for which it may be difficult to impose restrictions on either party.

Reference was also made to the traffic congestion at the Tim Horton's site on Portugal Cove Road in spite of a double lane that was installed to collect customers.

Some Councillors fear that the proposed Tim Horton's on Blackmarsh Road will result in the same traffic congestion.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends that staff initiate a discussion with the owners of Tim Horton's in an effort to address traffic congestion in the above-noted locations.

9. Inventory of Speed Cushions

Councillor Galgay questioned the inventory of speed cushions and asked if they can be rotated throughout the City in areas of concern. The Manager of Traffic reported there is no rotating program for speed cushions and it is very labour intensive. Given the intent of these cushions to slow traffic, they have to be strategically placed in groups.

Recommendation

The Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to install speed cushions as a traffic calming measure on roads where staff deems appropriate with Rotary Drive and Mundy Pond Road as potential locations.

Councillor Art Puddister
Chairperson
Police & Traffic Committee

SJMC2015-04-13/158R

It was moved by Councillor Puddister; seconded by Councillor Breen: That the Police & Traffic Committee report of March 26, 2015 be approved as presented.

Various members of Council spoke in support of the report. Councillor Galgay referenced item # 9 of the report and requested that the issue of speed cushions be referred to the Audit & Accountability Standing Committee for review, particularly in relation to the number of speed cushions in the City's inventory and the percentage of them that are regularly in use. His concern was to ensure that speed cushions are used to their maximum capacity and not laying idle in storage. Councillor Collins also questioned if speed bumps could be installed for downhill traffic rather than across the entire road, particularly for areas with steep inclines which encourage some drivers to speed downhill.

The motion being put was carried unanimously.

Development Committee Report – April 7, 2015

Council considered the above noted report:

- 1. Department of Planning, Development & Engineering
File No. INT1500012
Proposed Relocation of Foundation
100 Paradise Road
Town of Paradise
Broad Cove River Watershed (W) Zone**
-

It is recommended by the Development Committee that Council approve the relocation of the foundation and sub-sequential dwelling pursuant to the Watershed Agreement between The City of St. John's and the Town of Paradise as the proposed concurs with Section 2 of the agreement which states that a replacement shall not cause any detrimental effect on water quality of the watershed and shall remain subject to the provision of the Section 104 of the City of St. John's Act. As per Section 104 (c), a building to replace an existing building destroyed by fire or an existing building dilapidated 50% or more may be permitted by Council.

2. **Department of Planning, Development & Engineering**
File No. DEV1500060
Proposed Parking Relief for Dental Clinic
Civic No. 484-490 Main Road – Ward 5
Commercial Neighbourhood (CN) Zone
-

It is the recommendation of the Development Committee that the existing thirty-eight (38) parking spaces will be sufficient for the proposed clinic as well as the existing businesses, and that parking relief be granted.

Dave Blackmore
Deputy City Manager – Planning, Development and Engineering
Chairperson

SJMC2015-04-13/159R

It was decided on motion of moved by Councillor Hann; seconded by Councillor Lane: That the Development Committee Report of April 7, 2015 be approved as presented.

Development Permits List

Council considered as information the Development Permits List for the period April 2 – 8, 2015.

**DEVELOPMENT PERMITS LIST
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING
FOR THE PERIOD OF April 2 TO April 8**

Code	Applicant	Application	Location	Ward	Development Officer's Decision	Date
COM	Stantect Architecture	Proposed Generators/Condensers in Existing Parking Lot	48 Allandale Road	4	Approved	15-04-07
COM	Plaza Group Management LTD.	Proposed Bank of Montreal	430 Topsail Road	3	Approved	15-04-07
OT	Salmon Association of Eastern NL	Proposed Installation of Temporary Salmon Smolt Counting Fence	Quidi Vidi River (between Lake and Gut)	2	Approved	15-04-08

<p>* Code Classification: RES- Residential COM- Commercial AG - Agriculture OT - Other</p>	<p>INST - Institutional IND - Industrial</p>	
<p>** This list is issued for information purposes only. Applicants have been advised in writing of the Development Officer's decision and of their right to appeal any decision to the St. John's Local Board of Appeal.</p>		

**Gerard Doran
Development Supervisor
Department of Planning**

Building Permits List

Council considered the Building Permits list for the period of April 1 – April 8, 2015.

SJMC2015-04-13/160R

It was decided on motion of Councillor Hickman; seconded by Councillor Puddister: That the building permits list for the period April 1 – April 8, 2015 be approved as presented.

Requisitions, Payrolls and Accounts

Council considered the requisitions, payrolls and accounts for the week ending March 31, 2015.

**Weekly Payment Vouchers
For The
Week Ending March 25, 2015**

Payroll

Public Works	\$ 655,386.07
Bi-Weekly Administration	\$ 799,311.20
Bi-Weekly Management	\$ 806,991.95
Bi-Weekly Fire Department	\$ 660,834.58
Accounts Payable	\$4,993,635.20

Total: \$ 7,916,159.00

SJMC2015-04-13/161R

It was decided on motion of Councillor Hickman; seconded by Councillor Puddister: That the Payrolls and Accounts for the week ending April 8, 2015 be approved.

Tenders

Council considered the following tenders:

- a. Tender 2015021 Craig Snow Plow Parts
- b. Tender 2015024 Trackless Parts
- c. Tender 2015025 Bombardier, Camoplast and Prinoth Parts

SJMC2015-04-13/162R

It was decided on motion of Councillor Hickman; seconded by Councillor Puddister: That the Tenders be awarded as follows:

Craig Snow Plow Parts	
TENDER #2015021 – March 10/15 - 1:00 PM	
Nortrax Canada Inc.	\$26, 187.83
Toromont Industries Ltd.	\$1, 972.57

Trackless Parts	
TENDER #2015024 – March 19/15 - 1:30 PM	
Saunders Equipment Ltd.	\$70, 207.52
Colonial Garage & Distributors Limited	\$1, 539.28

Bombardier, Camoplast and Prinoth Parts	
TENDER #2015025 – March 18/15 - 1:00 PM	
S & S Supply Ltd.	\$44, 814.64
Colonial Garage & Distributors Limited	\$3, 863.39

Economic Update – April 2015

Council considered as information the Economic Update for April 2015. Councillor Tilley referenced some highlights in the document.

Conflict of Interest Legislation

Council considered a memorandum dated April 9, 2015 from the City Clerk regard Conflict of Interest Legislation.

SJMC2015-04-13/163R

It was decided on motion of Councillor Hann; seconded by Councillor Lane: That the City of St. John’s retain the services of Mr. Clyde Wells to conduct the review of the City’s conflict of interest legislation.

Council enquired about the budget component for this work to be done and was advised by the Acting City Manager that once a Terms of Reference has been formulated, a budget will be developed for Council's approval.

Councillor Puddister

- Councillor Puddister requested that a review of the ward boundaries would be in order given that the last review took place ten years ago. The matter was referred to the Acting City Manager and City Clerk for response.

Acting Mayor Ellsworth

- Deputy Mayor Ellsworth referenced concerns brought forth to him from the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities related to the requirements for blue zone spaces in major commercial developments and whether or not there is any mechanism in place to ensure these are kept snow cleared for accessibility purposes. Some locations appear to be using these spaces for snow storage purposes. The Deputy City Manager of Planning, Development & Engineering advised that this is an area under provincial government legislation. Deputy Mayor Ellsworth requested that this be investigated.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK