



VISION: We will be a vibrant, dependable and clean city where services are delivered innovatively and effectively.

MISSION: To provide effective operations of the city through collaboration of members, management and staff.

City Hall, Hamilton
Residents Advisory Committee
25 June 2015
4:00pm

- Present:** Councillor George Scott, JP (Chair)
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP
Councillor Henry Ming
John Holdipp, III
Sarah Thompson, Resident, Laffan Street
Tracy Marshall, Resident, North Street
Irvin Hendrickson, Resident, Union Street
Dr. Michael Bradshaw, Resident,
Sharon Godwin, Resident, King Street
- In Attendance:** Ed Benevides, Secretary
Danilee Trott, Event Project Manager
- Apologies:** Councillor Carlton Johnson

-
- 1. Confirmation of Notice** -the Secretary confirmed that the notices of the meeting and the agenda were sent out according to the guidelines.
 - 2. Role of the Chairman-** Councillor Edwards delegated Councillor G. Scott to be Chair of this meeting.
 - 3. Open Meeting** - Councillor G. Scott opened the meeting at 4:10pm.
 - 4. Apologies** - the Secretary confirmed that apologies were received for Councillor Carlton Johnson.
 - 5. Public Participation** - the Secretary confirmed that there were no public presentations.

S. Thompson joined the meeting at 4:05pm.

- 6. Correspondence:** the Secretary confirmed that no additional correspondence had been received.

7. Review of Previous Minutes dated 22 December 2014

Ms. Thompson gave comments to the Minutes:

Page 2 - Item 10 (i) Ewing Street - 3rd Paragraph: "Ms. Thompson made mention.....parking on the side of the street whereas cars had to wait until...."

Recommended to read: "parking on the side of the street as cars had to wait until...." (deleting "whereas" and "persons").

Last paragraph: Ms. Thompson commented.....refurbishment, it shows that there....."

Recommended to read: ".....refurbishment shows there.... (deleting "it" and "that")

The previous minutes were accepted as read with the recommended amendments.

Proposed: Councillor R. Edwards

Seconded: Tracy Marshall

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes of 22 December 2014

(i) Proper "No Parking" Signage on Ewing Street - Councillor Ming said to date the barricades are still up until such time as the signage is completed. The asphaltting will be completed by the middle of next week and all of the other ancillary signage would be installed at the same time. Currently the street is technically closed to traffic except for residents and those persons that work in the area.

(ii) Proper Signage re: Designated Area for Trash Collection - Ewing Street - action item addressed in the previous action item.

(iii) Draft Guidelines for the Residents Advisory Committee - this committee has not proposed a mandate to the Council. The mandates for the other committees were distributed to the members in an effort to assist them in coming up with a mandate for the committee.

Councillor Edwards and the then Councillor Holdipp were due to meet with the Secretary to draft some guidelines for the Residents Advisory Committee but this had not taken place because of the Minister taking over stewardship of the CoH. Action item deferred to the next Residents Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 21 July 2015.

Messrs. Hendrickson and Holdipp, joined the meeting at 4:15 pm.

The guidelines will be drafted and brought back to the committee for a recommendation to the Board. These guidelines would assist the committee in terms of its remit.

Ms. Sharon Godwin who is a resident on King Street was welcomed and formally introduced to the committee members as a new committee member.

9. Status Update:

(i) Post-Mortem on City Residents Luncheon - a report was provided but not distributed to the members because the committee meetings ceased to exist.

ACTION: The Secretary to forward the report on the City Residents' Luncheon to the committee members for review and to be discussed at the next Residents Advisory Committee meeting.

10. Recommendations for Review:

There are no recommendations.

11. Any Other Business

(i) **Trash Collection Schedules and Residential Parking Handouts** - still outstanding matters with the residents. It was suggested to include these two (2) items in the mail outs to residents. The next mail out is in July. The information is also available on the CoH's website. Telephone contacts would also have to be updated on the information handouts.

ACTION: The Secretary to ensure that the trash collection schedules and the residential parking handouts are included in the next mail out of residents' tax billings.

When the tax bills are sent out via email, the documents can be scanned and included in that email notification. Dr. Bradshaw queried as to whom the billings would get mailed to, i.e. tax payer, owner or resident because he has been receiving the bills but not any other notices. He referenced the notices for the Ewing Street refurbishment. Councillor Ming clarified that as a tenant the hand delivered notices were dropped by way of the mailbox. He commented that his wife as an owner would not have received any notices. He said the CoH needs to be aware that there are persons that own property but do not receive any notices other than the bill. The billings get mailed to whoever is listed in the tax database. Discussion continued on keeping the owners involved when information is disseminated.

(ii) **Residential Parking Permits** - Councillor Edwards commented on a property owner who has a parking permit but does not actually reside there. Persons should only get a parking permit if their car is registered to the house and they are a resident in the City. The CoH would not know who lives in the residence. TCD provides the license to the person who would have to provide proof of residency. It is also an offense to license a vehicle on a residence where the person does not reside. Further dialogue continued.

(iii) **Complaints from Businesses re: Parking** - J. Holdipp expressed his concern for the lack of parking particularly along Angle and Union Streets and the businesses' loss of trade. It was noted that currently the CoH is working with the Minister to get a new Parking Ordinance issued by the AG's Chambers to enable the CoH to police the streets properly. The CoH is hoping to receive a draft Ordinance to review and the hope is to have the Residents Committee review at the same time. Not having this Ordinance in place is costing the CoH a loss of revenue of over \$1M a year. There was a comment made that when walking through Bull's Head in the morning and afternoon, there are a lot of people who do not pay the Pay and Display. Presently the parking wardens and the police are not entering the CoH's car parks. .

There was still the query of any assistance given to businesses that were having trouble with trade because of the paid parking and not being able to accommodate customers.

The Mayor commented on the CoH backing a guarantee for a development project at Par-la-Ville car park. That guarantee has been called and it was thought that the guarantee would be kept at \$18M in terms of losses. This is essentially a year's worth of revenue gone and the CoH is also liable for the interest on the \$18M which is the equivalent to over \$3K a day. The CoH is not in a position to provide any assistance at this time. MIF are entitled to go after any of the CoH's assets and they are also entitled to garnish the revenue of the CoH. If this happens, the CoH would have to look at reducing the services and the staffing levels of the CoH. The Mayor also stated that he does not want to see the employees being punished for the repercussions and decisions of others. Discussion continued on the risk factor for the CoH.

From campaigning in that area there are a lot of issues where an owner of a business would love to have parking wardens come along their area to ensure that there is a continual turnover of traffic. There are also those who want to have the area outside their business left for themselves.

Councillor Ming said during the campaign it was obvious from mostly everybody that has a business in North East Hamilton that even short-term parking was an issue. It is very difficult to come up with a practical solution.

The Mayor said that in the next three (3) years he would like for the CoH to work on being more customer-orientated and being able to respond to the tax payer, the resident, the person that works within the City, the visitor, etc. more favourably.

I. Hendrickson commented that he has the same challenge because his customers will not pay for parking to use his laundromat. Further dialogue continued on the issue of parking. The Secretary said that when the members of the committee are considering their options understand that there are only two thousand car parking spaces and there are considerably hundreds of businesses. He has struggled for at least five (5) years to get the residents of the City to agree to some plan of alternate side parking. This would allow the CoH to use the mechanical sweepers to clean the streets. One of the biggest complaints particularly in the residential areas is that the streets are not cleaned to the extent that others are. Once a plan is agreed, the appropriate signage would be put in place.

S. Thompson commented that there are some streets that do not have alternate side, i.e. North Street, Laffan Street, etc. Dr. Bradshaw said that the CoH should make the decision of when the alternate side parking will take place and which streets and advise the residents accordingly. The members of the Residents Advisory Committee can assist with the advisement to the residents. T. Marshall said this matter was on the agenda for their first committee meeting and it is still being discussed. There was a general consensus from the residents on the committee that the CoH take the lead in this regard.

Councillor Edwards said that some of the residents are willing to pay for a parking spot outside of their residences. These residents have been there for more than thirty years. The Secretary said there is no policy allowing for the leasing of any car parking except for commercial and government. Mr. Holdipp said perhaps the CoH could revisit that policy.

Dr. Bradshaw expressed his objection because the workers always want to park right outside of their business and then the clients do not have anywhere to park. If there are persons that are handicapped then this could be an exception.

(iv) **Neighbourhood Watch** - T. Marshall said several years ago a number of residents tried to start a neighbourhood watch and suggested developing a relationship with the CAT team. S. Thompson said a neighbourhood watch was started on Laffan Street just last week and offered her assistance in this regard. They met with the representative from the CAT team who were more than willing to start the watch.

I. Hendrickson said that he spoke with one of the CAT team members. He said that the Resident Advisory Committee members need to get out in the community so that the residents know who the members are and ascertain how they can be of any assistance.

The Mayor said when they were canvassing they promised to do a report to the residents and tax payers in the first 90-day regarding the state of the City.

(v) **Ewing Street Refurbishment** - the Secretary commented on the completion of the project and is looking for the committee to recommend to the Council a budget for an event for the opening of the street. In this current year's budget there are funds set aside for the Residents Advisory Committee. This would come out of the budget allocated for 2015 which was confirmed to be \$10K.

The Senior Engineer had passed on a recommendation that the CoH do an official ribbon cutting ceremony costing about \$1K, keeping it simple. Dr. Bradshaw said before the opening to get some education and publicity out to the residents because there are still some very mixed feelings amongst them. Some residents think that the development is extravagant and there are some that do not understand the benefits of pedestrianisation, etc. Further discussion continued.

J. Holdipp commented on the budget allotment for 2015 and that his recollection from last December there was an agreement that \$20K was allotted for the Residents Advisory Committee. He does not recall any meetings held prior to the stewardship where that figure was adjusted down by 50%.

ACTION: The Secretary to send out copy of the budget for 2015.

I. Hendrickson commented on residents' concern that they are not able to drive vehicles through Ewing Street that it is for pedestrians only. Councillor Ming said the sign says it is a pedestrian zone but it does not mean that one cannot drive through. It is a caution sign and not a no-through road. There was discussion on the trash bins on the street and the collection of the trash on Ewing Street. Dr. Bradshaw commented on the bad image that is represented in that part of the City and when complaints are made to the CoH it hardly makes a difference. The Mayor said assistance has to be received from the public as well to try and determine who is actually doing the dumping. There also has to be a change in mindset with CoH staff and the public. Dialogue continued.

The Mayor left the meeting at 5:05pm.

The Secretary said things like plastic bread trays, milk crates, wood pallets, etc. are not collected by the CoH and the residents only have to make a call to the CoH and advise of any bulk items to be collected. Eventually the CoH would have to pull staff off whatever project they are working on and have them collect the trash that has been left on the side of the street. He reiterated that if residents see trash being dumped to call in to the CoH and let someone know.

I. Hendrickson asked whether the camera at the top of Till's Hill was operational.

The Event Project Manager left the meeting at 5:10pm.

The Secretary advised that all CCTV's in the City of Hamilton belong to the Bermuda Police Service (BPS). The police do not make public whether the cameras are working or not for security reasons. He referenced the Premier's comment regarding the cameras - **"it is costing us as tax payers \$160K a month for the system to run and it is their anticipation that all cameras will be operational as quickly as possible."**

Councillor Ming commented that it would not hurt for a citizen to call the BPS if they see issues with the trash, street cleaning, etc.

(vi) **North and Union Streets** - Councillor Edwards commented on the road markings on the corner of North and Union Streets near E&B Trading. She said the markings are creating an issue with the pedestrians and the traffic. When the public travel on North Street going east they cross over on North Street at the junction with Union Street to go into E&B Trading. The Secretary said Union Street is a one-way street and the markings are to stop people from coming down the street to turn right. Initially the street was a two-way with arrows at the bottom of Union Street to either turn left or right onto North Street.

ACTION: Councillor Ming will question the road markings on the corner of Union and North Streets at the next Infrastructure Committee.

Councillor Ming commented that he sees this road marking as a half-way measure preceding the blocking off physically.

There was no further business to be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.