



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
3 December 2015
4:00pm

Present: Councillor George Scott, JP (Chair)
Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Councillor Henry Ming
Sarah Thompson, Associate Member
Dr. Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member
Tracy Marshall, Associate Member

In Attendance: Ed Benevides, Secretary

Apologies: Danilee Trott, Event Project Manager
Elbert Richardson, Sanitation Superintendent

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1. **Confirmation of Notice** -the Secretary confirmed that the notices of the meeting and the agenda were sent out according to the meeting guidelines.
 2. **Role of the Chairman**- Councillor G. Scott was acknowledged as Chair for the meeting in the absence of Councillor C. Johnson.
 3. **Open Meeting** - Councillor G. Scott opened the meeting at 4:04pm.
 4. **Apologies** - the Secretary confirmed that apologies were received from the Event Project Manager and the Sanitation Superintendent.

5. Public Participation:

There is no public participation or presentation.

6. Correspondence:

There is no correspondence.

7. Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting dated 5 November 2015

Proposed: Mayor C. Gosling

Seconded: Dr. Michael Bradshaw

The Minutes were accepted as read.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes dated 5 November 2015

(i) Status of the Canal Road Roundabout - the Secretary did meet with the City Engineer.

The engineering team that is assigned to that project is on other duties at the moment and will resume after the Christmas holiday period. They are still finishing off putting up the lights, doing potholing, etc. The roundabout project will be done ad hoc in between other projects. The CoH is not planning to go back out to tender for any major projects, will use in-house until such time as there is more progress or additional funding.

The Mayor also spoke to the City Engineer because the project was not showing up in the budget, the reason being because it was all being funded in-house. The major part of the project for the contractor is done, i.e. the new pumping station and switch gear are in place. Left to be done is the paving, preparing the road and putting in a slight rise, e.g. a circle as is on St. John's Road near Arnold's.

Ms. Thompson commented on the traffic flow once the roundabout is in place. Her primary concern is the container trucks coming up and down from Canal Road and Woodlands Road. She requested if the CoH could monitor how the traffic flows with the container trucks coming on those roads and the sanitation trucks coming out of the Works Depot and into the roundabout.

Councillor R. Edwards joined the meeting at 4:10pm.

The Secretary said the design is such that if they tried to do that they would be slamming into pieces of sidewalk. They would have to slow down to make that turn. Ms. Thompson said instead of the right-of-way coming up Laffan Street, because historically the trucks coming down from Canal Road always had to go down towards Woodlands Road and could not go up Laffan Street. Discussion continued.

The traffic flow will be changed because the CoH is looking to have a one-way system at some point in the future around that block between Laffan Street and Elliott Street to eliminate the issue by the nursery center where there are two (2) sets of parking and one (1) lane with two (2) cars trying to pass.

(ii) Invite to the Engineering Department re: Conditions and Progress of the Canal Street Roundabout Project - discussed in Item 8(i).

(iii) Invite to Residents Advisory Committee Members to the Infrastructure Committee Meeting re: Review of Parking in the City - this is an agenda item for the Infrastructure Committee under Any Other Business.

ACTION: The Recording Secretary will forward an invite to the Residents Advisory Committee to attend the Infrastructure Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 10:00am.

9. Status Update

There were no updates to report.

10. Recommendations for Review:

There were no recommendations.

11. Any Other Business

(i) **Constable Arthur Dill, CAT Team** - the Mayor had asked PC Dill if he would attend the meeting today because there was an issue that came up in the Council meeting yesterday 2 December 2015. Immediately after that meeting, the CAT team was at City Hall. They were talking particularly about this issue and were making some requests for the CoH if they were so minded to take these actions. The main concern was the fact that they needed to be present at the corner of Dundonald and Court Streets for the stripping off of bottles and cans from the Christmas tree. The CoH has received some complaints from the public and the police have supposedly received numerous complaints. The CoH crew goes around on a daily basis to strip these bottles and cans off of the tree. A member of the CAT team was present to ensure that no threats were made to the CoH cleaning team. There is also one gentleman that hangs around the tree on the bench all of the time and sells illicit pharmaceuticals. A lot of the guys that hang around go to Court Street Liquors and get very boisterous during the day and are very rude, obscene and upsetting to parents bringing their children by. The tree makes a good "pissoir" for the gentlemen to urinate against. The Mayor drove by that location last evening on his bike and even with being about 30' away from the tree, the stench of urine was overpowering. PC Dill would be able to give a full presentation so that the committee would be fully aware of the issue. The CAT team is asking for the benches to be removed and the CoH is looking at this as being a temporary measure until cameras are installed and notices indicating that the area is under surveillance. There was also the understanding that the CAT team wanted the Christmas tree removed as well. The CoH was trying not to remove the tree if possible. There was continued dialogue.

Councillor Ming commented on how the lighting in North Hamilton outshines Front Street. He commented on encouraging more foot patrol in the area. He said if the tree was removed and if the activities in that area were not curtailed, that the tree could possibly not be installed next year. The Mayor said Mr. Harold Smith suggested maybe for next October to have a chat with the gentlemen that hang out in that area in this regard and to also have young children decorate the tree. He also said that if the tree was going to be removed that he would be willing to have the tree placed on his property on the corner of Victoria and Court Streets.

Dr. Bradshaw expressed his concern that they are allowing the small minority of bad behaviors taking the power away from the community, giving them credence.

He also commented on the CAT team and their avoidance in interacting with the community. He continued his discussion on the interaction with the persons that hang out in that area. It was suggested to commence conversation now and involve the community. The committee members committed to having the conversation with persons that they know in the area as well. The Secretary commented that the CoH is going to set up a meeting with Ms. Roxanne Christopher to have her and her team of merchants come up with some other solutions. Some of the CAT team have also committed to eating their lunch in the area to try and diminish the behaviour that currently exists. He further spoke to Dr. Bradshaw's comment on the CAT team avoiding interacting with the community. The CAT team is spending about three (3) hours a day there which is detracting them from taking care of other places that require attention. Community involvement is the only way to address this matter long-term in order to change the behavior. Also the committee needs to be more active in the community so that the residents, businesses would know who they are and what they represent. There was ongoing dialogue.

PC Dill joined the meeting at 4:36pm.

The Secretary summarised the previous discussion for PC Dill.

PC Dill commented on some possible solutions. He further commented on an operation that was carried out in that particular area that involved some arrests, seizure of a vehicle and drugs. He continued talking about preventing these gentlemen from sitting on the benches. The CAT team continually goes to that area, pouring out alcohol, taking items of the tree, searching individuals, do warrant checks, etc. and spending an inordinate amount of time on the corner of Dundonald and Court Streets. PC Dill continued the dialogue concerning the stench around the tree. People in the area were complaining about the CoH staff taking the bottles and cans off of the tree but no-one was complaining about the stench. The CAT team is willing to work with anybody and everybody in terms of attempting to fix the area. They are also willing to set dedicated times whereby they will sit on the benches and have their lunch simply to try and deter the negative element.

Councillor Ming said there is a conflict if the benches are going to be removed then persons will not be able to have their lunch there. The Secretary said the CoH could hold off with the removal of the benches if the CAT team and others were going to utilise them to eat lunch - which would achieve the same objective by pushing the bad behaviour out of the area. Removing the benches would have been an interim measure while the cameras were being installed. Dr. Bradshaw commented on the complaints and how the committee could address and turn things around using community resources. There was continued dialogue.

Councillor Ming suggested having dedicated time for a week, at least three (3) times a week to have their lunch on the benches. Also action has to be taken to get rid of the stench. PC Dill said the community has to take ownership and responsibility of what activity occurs in their area.

ACTION: The Secretary to discuss the matter of getting rid of the stench with the Engineering Department to see what could be done to eliminate the odour in the area, corner of Dundonald and Courts Streets.

It was commented that the CAT team needs to be made aware of the members of the Residents Advisory Committee. PC Dill commented that he will bring the members of the CAT team to meet the members of the Residents Advisory Committee so that everyone is familiar with all involved. The current CAT team will be long-term in terms of moving around the area. Patrols can be informed of what is going to be taking place as well for any assistance.

The Secretary commented that there is an event taking place in that area on 18 December 2015. PC Dill said the CAT team will be present at that event as well. Ms. Marshall asked about the times before and after the lunch period and the monitoring of the area to which PC Dill said that this is something that can be looked at and addressed. Councillor Edwards commented on cameras in the area. PC Dill said the cameras will be targeted to work on, putting up the appropriate signs, etc.

Councillor G. Scott commented that in some other jurisdictions, police officers are in place with flashing lights, e.g. sitting on a bike, etc. and are used to deter that type of behavior. There was continued discussion.

The committee thanked PC Dill for attending the meeting.

(ii) **Recognising Unsung Heroes** - Dr. Bradshaw commented on persons in the community that are doing positive things in the community. For next year he suggested acknowledging the work that people are doing for the City for themselves and each other as opposed to complaining to the CoH. Councillor Edwards commented on a gentleman that picks up the garbage around the City all of the time and suggested that he be acknowledged.

(iii) **GlobalArtTV** - Councillor Edwards said she has asked for a copy of the report regarding the proposal from GlobalArtTV. She stated that although there has been some resistance from the CoH, GlobalArtTV feels that they should still have the New Year's Eve celebration. The businesses and some of the residents in the area have agreed and GlobalArtTV have attained signatures from them. Mrs. Erica Smith, the Executive Director of BEDC has endorsed the event as well. Councillor Edwards continued to speak about the opposition of the CoH particularly regarding the timeline structure for events. Dr. Bradshaw said that he would be insulted and totally against further insulting people by having a party. If the group was interested in having an event that would potentially have a long-term impact, he would be supportive of that. The Event Project Manager has been waiting to receive a budget from them but has not received anything to date. Dialogue continued regarding the mandate for the committee.

Councillor Edwards said if the committee has any ideas for events, etc. for the coming year to please bring to the committee meetings for discussion.

Dr. Bradshaw gave Christmas Holiday greetings to the committee. Ms. Thompson commented that the CoH staff and other persons that are at the centre of organising the City to look beautiful at Christmas have done a fabulous job. Councillor Edwards commented on the job done at the corner of Dundonald and Court Streets.

The Mayor commented that the committee should have received an invite to the "Mayor's Christmas Party" scheduled for Thursday 17 December 2015 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm.

ACTION: The Secretary will follow-up with Z. Mulholland to ensure that the invites were sent out to the Associate Members of the Residents Advisory Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.