



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
2 June 2016
4:00pm

Present: Councillor Carlton Johnson (Chair)
Councillor Henry Ming
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Sarah Thompson, Associate Member
Dr. Michael Bradshaw, Associate Member

In Attendance: Ed Benevides, Secretary
Danilee Trott, Event Project Manager
Elbert "Apples" Richardson, Sanitation Superintendent

Apologies: Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP
Councillor George Scott, JP

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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 Carlton Johnson assumed the role of the Chairman.
 3. **Open Meeting** - Councillor Johnson opened the meeting at 4:05pm.
 4. **Apologies** - the Secretary confirmed apologies from Councillor G. Scott.
 5. **Public Participation:**

There is no public participation/presentation.
 6. **Correspondence:**

There is no correspondence.
 7. **Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting dated 7 April 2016**

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming

Seconded: Dr. Michael Bradshaw

The Minutes were accepted as read.

8. Matters arising from the Minutes dated 7 April 2016

(i) **Letter to Jehovah's Witnesses and the Revival Assembly Churches** - the Secretary confirmed that he communicated with the Jehovah's Witnesses. Mr. Emery of the Hamilton Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses claimed that a lot of the blame seems to fall on his attendees but there are other organisations in the area that are contributing as well. The Secretary asked Mr. Emery to remind his congregation that there is parking available at Dellwood Middle School.

(ii) **Contact Information for Revival Assembly** - the Secretary advised that he had not written to the Revival Assembly; was waiting on the contact information from Councillor Edwards. Councillor Ming advised that Councillor Edwards had spoken to someone who said that the bulk of the persons who are ignoring the regulations are the attendees to the Revival Assembly. This happens quite frequently, especially on Sundays and in the evenings. When Councillor Ming informed them that sometimes he cannot exit his property, the comment was "**well I am in a prayer right now, can you wait?**" He commented that something more has to be done in this regard and there is no support from the Bermuda Police Service. He has printed up polite signs with the suggestion that there is parking available elsewhere but this has not changed the mindset at all. Dialogue continued with reference to the non-support of the Bermuda Police Service.

Dr. Bradshaw said that he noticed that there is no parking on that side all the way up from Revival Assembly and queried why there was no parking on the northern side. The Secretary said that there are trees in the middle of the street and there cannot be two (2) lanes with a parking lane. The road was designed to have parking on the south side and no parking on the north side. Councillor Ming said it is not so much the design that is the issue; it is the attitude of persons in that area or lack of respect. Dr. Bradshaw said that when he had issues with people parking, he referred to the fact that this was meant to be for emergency access, etc. He even went out and put notices on a couple of cars and waited for the persons and had a conversation with them; now this is no longer an issue. The Secretary said there should be double yellow lines all the way on that side of the street and that design was done for safety, etc. Double yellow lines means that there is "**No Parking**" at any time.

Councillor Ming said the initial argument was that should there be a fire in that area, the emergency vehicle would have to have clear access. Dr. Bradshaw said this would become a stronger argument other than saying that is a design issue. Councillor Ming said a "**red line**" is lacking because with a "**red line**", there is no argument. The Secretary advised that the CoH may not be able to institute those red lines. He said the other challenge is that people should not even be driving through there because the signage clearly states, "**No Through Traffic**" but it is ignored. He reiterated Councillor Ming's remarks of the attitude of the people, i.e. an attitude of disrespect and selfishness and they just do not care. Dr. Bradshaw said the "**red line**" would give him some push to be able to tell people why they are not allowed to park. Dialogue continued.

Councillor Ming commented that every time he has a problem, he contacts the Bermuda Police Service and he takes the person's name and follows up in writing.

(iii) **Follow-up with the Bermuda Police Service (BPS) re: Observation of Appliances being dumped at the top of Till's Hill** - the Secretary has had a conversation with the central office of the BPS with regards to the concerns raised by this committee and others. He also asked whether the cameras are active and as has been reported already the BPS will not advise whether they are active or not. He had asked why persons who are tipping were not being prosecuted because tipping is against the law. He has not received an answer to date. He is due to meet with them soon and hopefully he will receive a response at that time.

ACTION: The Secretary will report back to the committee regarding whether the cameras are operational once he has had his meeting with the central office.

Councillor Ming commented that permission was granted for the cameras to be put up in the City on City property and he thinks that there should be a bit more cohesiveness or respect between the BPS and the CoH. This information could be kept confidential because he suspects the reason why the BPS does not want to give out that information is because they do not want the public to know what cameras are in operation.

Councillor Edwards joined the meeting at 4:20pm.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board agree for the Secretary to write an official letter to the Bermuda Police Service (BPS) as it relates to the dumping of household garbage on the streets within the City of Hamilton (tipping). Also when a request is made to ascertain what cameras are operational, the Corporation of Hamilton should receive a more courteous response from the BPS.

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor R. Edwards

Dr. Bradshaw commented further on the collaboration of the CoH and the BPS, e.g. having an offline conversation, etc. It was noted that the Secretary has already had those conversations with the BPS, hence the need for the formal recommendation. The Secretary said that he meets with the BPS monthly.

(iv) **Quote for 1000 Informational Material Magnets for the Residents within the City** - Councillor Edwards said that the committee had not had a chance to meet to review the proposal put forward by the Event Project Manager. The Event Project Manager advised that the brochure printing would be done in-house. She further commented that the Residents Advisory Committee wanted to have something prepared to send out to all the residents within the City. A recommendation would have to be given to the Finance Committee for a final approval from the Council.

Councillor Edwards commented on the Cityzen Newsletter and it would have been helpful if some of the information for the magnet was placed in the newsletter. The newsletter used to be printed quarterly but due to budget cuts, would now try to have it done twice a year.

Ms. Thompson suggested that when the next newsletter is done could the information be added regarding the Residents Advisory Committee, etc. There was continued discussion.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the expenditure of \$2,500.00 for 1000 informational material magnets for the residents within the City.

Proposed: Councillor R. Edwards
Unanimous

Seconded: Dr. Michael Bradshaw

(v) **Forwarding of Photographs of Container Truck coming down Canal Road** - the Secretary confirmed that the photographs were received from Ms. Thompson - action item completed.

(vi) **Forwarding of Photographs of Signs re: Container Trucks** - the Secretary confirmed that the photographs were received from Councillor Edwards - action item completed.

9. Status Update:

(i) **Laffan Street Roundabout** - the Secretary said the project continues to progress but there is no timeline for completion. It is actually functioning as a roundabout at the moment. There is still a considerable amount of work that has to be done. Further dialogue continued.

10. Recommendations for Review:

There are no recommendations.

11. Any Other Business

(i) **2 Hour Parking Limit Areas:** Councillor Edwards commented on the 2-hour parking limit on Canal Street and queried what the criteria is to qualify for 2-hour parking. The Secretary said that 2-hour parking would be for an area that does not have an expected high turnover; would not have a 2-hour parking limit in a retail area where you would want people to move on a regular basis. Parking throughout the City is an hour unless otherwise posted; there are very few places that have a 2-hour parking limit. He believes that the time limit was for access to Saltus' swimming pool. Councillor Edwards said there was an enquiry about 2-hour parking for King Street beyond the residential parking near the Sunshine League. The Secretary said that the request for parking in that area could be reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee but he does not know if there would be any justification for a 2-hour parking limit. There was further discussion.

(ii) **Parking Outside Ms. Sharon Godwin's House** - Councillor Edwards commented on issues that Ms. Godwin still has with people parking outside of her gate. It was discussed previously on how a planter, cones, etc. could be placed in front to stop people from blocking her gate. The Secretary said cones are used for temporary blocking off of areas for people with permits. Planters would cause a bigger issue. He further commented on issues with giving assistance to one resident and not being able to assist other or all residents. Councillor Johnson said that he has seen Ms. Godwin park her car, not inside her driveway, but would be the lead car from her gate going out so no-one could encroach in front of her gate.

Her driveway would actually be empty and the nose of the car would be poking out just a little. Dialogue continued with regards to planters being installed.

ACTION: Councillor Ming to bring the issues of parking within the City to be discussed at the next Infrastructure Committee scheduled for Wednesday 15 June 2016.

Councillor Edwards suggested concrete barriers as was placed on Princess Street near where Snowy's used to be to block off people from parking. The Secretary did not agree for blocks of concrete to be used for safety reasons and liability, etc.

(iii) **Residential Parking Permit Sign** - Councillor Edwards said a residential parking permit sign has to be replaced on Angle Street between the Youth Centre and Princess Street on the north side.

(iv) **Parking Sign on a Tree** - Dr. Bradshaw commented on a sign placed on a tree that is on the western side just down from Mrs. Brangman on Till's Hill. Unfortunately a gentleman got out of his car and got cut because it is placed too low on the tree.

ACTION: Dr. Bradshaw will drop the sign off to the CoH so that it can be placed correctly.

(v) **Comments made by the Secretary** - Dr. Bradshaw commented on the issue with Ms. Godwin and spoke of his interpretation of the Secretary's comments that if he, (the Secretary), cannot service everyone in the same way, he will not service no-one. Dr. Bradshaw said that he understands the need for policy and the need to try and treat everyone equally which realistically cannot be done. He commented that the CoH should serve people as they can, when they can and possibly could say to people that the service provided is a "one-off". There was continued discussion.

Councillor Johnson said that if Ms. Godwin feels that her situation warrants special attention, she can attend a Residents Advisory Committee meeting, bring documentation, etc. and speak to or appeal on whatever decision has or has not been made on her behalf so that the committee can receive first-hand her passion or attitude of whatever situation has to be dealt with. There has to be an understanding that this committee which represents the residents of the City, if seen to show favouritism to any one person, can open up a Pandora's Box. He noted both points brought forward by the Secretary and Dr. Bradshaw.

The Secretary clarified his comments by stating that with a policy it stops subjectiveness. Without a policy which says: "these conditions the CoH can favourably look at it and under these conditions the CoH cannot"... These conditions are not set by him but set by the Council who will take information from the individuals, fellow Council members or staff and set the specific guidelines. He did not want to imply that without a policy in place, nothing can be done. Dialogue continued.

(vi) **Benches on corner of Court and Dundonald Streets** - Dr. Bradshaw queried the return of the benches in that area. The Secretary confirmed that the benches had been put back but Councillor Edwards commented that they are broken. It was stated on the news that one of the legs was broken. The Secretary stated that the benches were not initially going to be returned until the CCTV cameras were installed.

There was an appeal from the MP's in the area, i.e. Walton Brown et al who are working with the group and who asked the CoH if the benches could be put back as a sign of good faith. They are well aware that if the behaviour returns then the benches will be removed again. There was continued dialogue.

ACTION: The Secretary will pass the information on regarding the broken leg on the bench to the appropriate department.

(vii) **Trees on Dundonald Street** - Councillor Johnson commented on the continual dropping of leaves from the trees in the City that are 15ft. - 20ft. above the roof line particularly after the white washing of his roof and others in the area. He requested that something be done to those trees on a regular basis so that the leaves do not fall into the gutters causing a tremendous amount of hardship and unhealthy conditions. The Secretary advised that all the CoH could do is cut the trees.

ACTION: The Secretary will raise the concern of Councillor Johnson to the Infrastructure Committee with regards to the cutting/trimming of the trees on Dundonald Street.

Councillor Johnson thanked a member of the public, Mr. Michael Markham for visiting the CoH to see how the "wheels of justice" work, i.e. how the CoH works.

12. Motion to move to Restricted Session.

Proposed: Councillor C. Johnson

Seconded: Councillor R. Edwards

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.