

Corporation of Hamilton Board Meeting, City Hall, Hamilton - 10 July 2013 - 12:30 pm

Present: Rt. Wor. Graeme Outerbridge, JP, Chairman
Alderman Donal Smith, JP
Alderman Gwyneth Rawlins, JP
Councillor Keith Davis
Councillor Lawrence Scott
Councillor George Scott, JP
Councillor Troy Symonds

Apologies: Alderman Carlton Simons, JP
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Events Project Manager - Danilee Trott

Staff: The Secretary - Ed Benevides, JP
The Treasurer - Gary Edwards
City Engineer - Patrick Cooper
Human Resources Manager - Lindell Foster
Communications Manager - Aderonke Bademosi Wilson
Assistant Treasurer - Tanya Iris

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

1. Public Presentations

Presentation by Mr. Robin Gilbert - Pirates Port (Children's & Ladies Clothes Store)

Mr. Gilbert commenced by talking about his concerns of the infrastructure and the smell of sewerage on Reid Street. He presented a copy of his rent bill for the 2 stores in the Washington Mall which indicated that he paid \$13K per month in rent. With customers complaining of the smells in the store it contributed to them walking out, hence loss of potential sales. His understanding was that part of the problem was the concern of the number of new businesses in the City that were overloading the system. He implored the City to get the system working. He also spoke about the restaurateurs spilling grease outside on the sidewalks, etc.

The City Engineer said that the City was aware of the sewerage odour issues on some of the legs of the sewer system. There was an active study being carried out, looking at an expert coming in around September to actually review the issue of where these events were occurring and the cause. In conjunction with that study, there was a second study being done, a hydraulic assessment of the Pitts Bay Road sewer as it leads down Pitts Bay Road into the Front Street sewer to ascertain the capacity. This is the leg which has had the big properties join into and in addition talks about modifications at the Hamilton Princess. There would probably be some overlap of the 2 studies with what was happening with the odour events

with the loading of that sewer. He had not heard of complaints on Reid Street, most of them being on Front Street, i.e. in and around the Ferry Terminal. Mr. Gilbert suggested the City Engineer speak to the management of the Washington Properties for further feedback. He said there was an issue of a Belco vault underneath the Washington Mall between the 2 entrances on Reid Street and the feeling was that the smell was coming up through there. The City Engineer said he would contact Mr. Paul Slaughter in this regard. He further suggested that persons with these complaints about odour issues should email him with the locations so that the events could be addressed.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Gilbert for his presentation.

2. Review of Corporation Minutes of 12 June 2013

The minutes were accepted as read.

Proposed: Councillor K. Davis
Passed

Seconded: Alderman G. Rawlins

3. Matters Arising

ACTION: The City Engineer to speak with the designer regarding the modification of the plans for Court and Dundonald Streets.

The City Engineer confirmed that this was done and they had been retained to produce the alternate design. The Mayor said this item would next go the Property Committee.

ACTION: The Secretary to contact the Ministry of Works regarding the potential leasing of the property on 23 North Street.

The Secretary said the Ministry of Works had asked for this matter to be deferred until after the property had been cleared and then have a discussion in that regard.

4. Review of Committee Minutes

(a) Infrastructure, Development & Future - 21 June 2013

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve Global Construction for the repairing of the sink hole on Church Street.

Proposed: Alderman D. Smith
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor K. Davis

(b) Property & Safety - 14 June 2013

There were no recommendations from the Minutes. Councillor Symonds spoke about an event - Tales of Cocktails that was put on with the idea of entertaining visitors, etc. but had not been received very well. In addition, the bars and entertainment centres in Hamilton felt they had competition with that event. Tales of Cocktails was a cocktail party set out in front of City Hall for people in Hamilton specifically industries, to give people an outlet with something special and different. Immediately there was negative feedback from a few bars/restaurants and their perception was that it was another Happy Hour in the City. This has invoked CoH to look at the criteria for holding these events. Fashion Week was successful because it brought in retailers and local designers and tax payers in the City benefited directly.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board not move forward with the last two events of Tales of Cocktails based on the lack of response and re-allocate the funds.

Proposed: Councillor T. Symonds
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor K. Davis

Update on the Twinning of the City with Black River

Councillor Symonds spoke about 3 areas that took root as a result of the twinning:

Sports - the Bermuda Cricket Control Board has started the communication to get Bermuda's under 19's into Black River and St. Elizabeth's brand new cricket pitch to participate in an international cricket match. Councillor Symonds also met with the Olympic Association who invited him to speak with other sports directly. Black River was also very interested in using Bermuda's swimming facilities, continuing discussions with Bermuda's Swimming Association.

Agriculture - communications from Mayor Everton Fisher has left a number of options for working with agriculture. They are willing to provide a free-zone area and take on investors specifically for the water treatment plant that would be required. Councillor Symonds also had been invited to a meeting with the local Agriculture & Fisheries as they had been planning a food strategy over the last several years. They would like to include this option of importing fruit from Jamaica into Bermuda as the cost would be dramatically lower once the USDA requirements were satisfied. Bermuda currently imports most of the foods through a very slim belt in the US and had always looked to diversify.

Entertainment - the internal team that would assist with facilitating the Jamaican team had been very busy with local activities over the last couple of weeks and would be working on this matter to bring information to the next meeting.

(c) Staff, Legislative & Governance - 11 June 2013

Updates regarding employment matters to be discussed in the Restricted Session.

(d) Finance - 19 June 2013

Matter to be discussed in the Restricted Session.

(e) Business Advisory - 13 June 2013

There were no recommendations from the Minutes. Councillor Symonds queried if other persons wanted to join the committee who would be the contact person to which the Mayor directed him to contact himself or the Secretary.

(f) Residents Advisory

There was no meeting held in June.

6. Any Other Business

Homeless/Vagrancy Meetings

Alderman Smith commented on the concerns of the vagrancy in and around the City of Hamilton and the City Hall building where undesirables were hanging out and living in the parks, etc. A task force of approx. 30 persons had been pulled together consisting of persons from many different areas, i.e. Bishop Nicholas Dill, Chaplain Kevin Santucci who has been working diligently in this regard. A steering committee was created from the group and they met last week and had made recommendations on how to move forward. The next meeting would be held on Monday. The steering committee consists of Major Shawn Critch, Jamel Bean and Beverly Daniels of the Salvation Army, Suzanne Wilson of Amnesty Bermuda, Carys Caisey of Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute, Gina Hurst-Maybury of Bermuda Government (Social Services) and Pat Lang of Loads of Love, Christ Church, Warwick.

The initial meeting was attended by the Minister of Health, Patricia Gordon-Pamplin; there was also representation from the Bermuda Police Service, Mid-Atlantic Wellness Institute, mental health and other Government agencies whereby all would have to play a part in this regard.

Chaplain Santucci spoke about the members of the steering committee being given specific duties to carry out to bring forth in the next meeting. The steering committee was to formalise a plan first before bringing it to the overall committee as it was discovered that there was a great deal of overlapping happening within the various organisations that assist with the under-privileged. The committee wanted to move towards making them productive citizens in Bermuda. There was a place that had been located that some partners were looking toward establishing to house approx. 150 persons, a rehabilitation centre and would be looking at all of the dynamics, i.e. mental issues, etc. There were currently about 4 different churches that went around feeding and would like to coordinate this into a one place of ministering to those needs whereby the churches could be brought into providing foods from the major distribution place. There was also a major concern for those persons that were under-privileged and lived in caves and other places outside of the City which now

would become a national issue and would have to look at this on a broader span. Outside of 4 years ago, the former Minister Dale Butler started something but did not get the proper lift and the committee would use some of those ideas to revamp the wheel.

Councillor L. Scott queried if the Minister of Health had committed any funding so that this would become a reality. Alderman Smith commented that there was a previous committee of which he was not a part. Since which, he had seen the need, a resolution was passed for persons to travel to London, Ontario and Toronto to take a look at what the Salvation Army was doing and a report was submitted in that regard. Councillor Davis advised that the Minister anecdotally committed the purse strings of Government to this problem and to address funds being spent in multiple ministries relating to the same or similar issues within Government. The Minister had committed to cut that part of the process out and would be able to allocate real money to a centre that would assess the needs and direct the clients to the proper place for treating their specific needs.

Councillor L. Scott requested a written report be prepared and placed on the agenda of the Board meeting for discussion.

The Mayor thanked Alderman Smith and Chaplain Santucci for the verbal updates.

Planning Applications

#26 Crow Lane - Queen of the East site (outside of the City boundary) - application to develop the site. The only impact would be sewerage and with this site as it was discussed in Infrastructure would be to ask that this application which is in principle be favoured by CoH but permission could not be given to connect to the sewerage system until the report was completed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve this application in principle with that condition.

Proposed: Alderman D. Smith
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor K. Davis

123 Front Street - property adjacent to the Supermart - this is going to be turned into a bakery and they are requesting to enclose the porch top and bottom with a similar rail system that is currently on the Supermart building.

Proposed: Alderman D. Smith
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor K. Davis

Tourism Appreciation Campaign

The Secretary spoke about the request from the Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Tourism Board's appreciation efforts and they were asking CoH to support the campaign by agreeing to waive the restrictions in policy concerning Signage Ordinance to allow us to

mount up to 200 umbrellas over Washington Lane. Also to use the filter on the current white light to light City Hall up in hot pink from July 21st to August 3rd, 2013 and use a filter or install spots at the Longtail statue outside Number 8 dock.

Proposed: Alderman D. Smith
Unanimous

Seconded: Alderman G. Rawlins

The public part of the meeting closed at 1:25 pm.

Date

Mayor

Secretary