

CITY COUNCIL NO. 29-73

December 27, 1973.
7:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of City Council was held this evening with the following members present - His Worship Mayor E.C. Lumley, Aldermen G. Leger, A. LeBlanc, G. Samson, A. Clement, D. Webster, D. Fawthrop, F. Guindon, G. Camernn, K. Bough, A. Lebano, J. Pescod and M. Holden.

Rule '48'

Moved by Alderman Guindon, seconded by Alderman Lebano, that Rule 48 be suspended in order to hear representatives from the Downtown Merchants Association and the East Cornwall Businessmen's Association. Carried.

Mr. R. Pearson spoke on behalf of the Downtown Merchants Association regarding the poor condition of the streets during the last two weeks, such as slippery sidewalks and roads and large snowbanks which resulted in cars being backed up for blocks. He suggested that snow emergency routes be established or parking on alternate sides of the street, as long as something is done so that this type of mess does not reoccur.

Mr. R. Bergeron spoke on behalf of the East Cornwall Businessmen's Association and stated that he concurred with Mr. Pearson's comments and added that he had expected the snow crews out earlier than they were. He hoped there would be better and faster action in the event of future storms.

Alderman Guindon stated that he had never seen the streets in such a deplorable condition since he has been on Council. In his opinion there was a safety factor involved and an emergency meeting should have been called. He felt that the Public Works Department should not wait until after a storm is over to begin clearing away snow.

Mr. Adams stated that 24 inches of snow fell from Thursday to Saturday with a total of 36 inches during the week in question. The storms were so close together that to keep the business areas clear of snow would have meant neglecting the side streets thereby preventing the public from reaching the business areas anyway. The Public Works Department also experienced a number of problems which further hampered snow clearing operations - there were 4 major watermain breaks and 4 minor ones, one main plow broke down twice, both blowers broke down and 1 inch of rain caused icing. Salt is effective only as long as the temperature remains above 15° F. Cornwall does not usually have such a heavy snowfall at one time. We only have so much in the way of resources; it is not feasible for the City to have available resources required to combat storms such as we have just experienced when they occur so seldom. About 5 years ago, the City had attempted clearing business areas during the day by blocking off part of streets but this method had proved unfavourable to the merchants.

Alderman Lebano felt that conditions were no doubt aggravated by the fact that it was the Christmas Season, however, an emergency meeting should have been called and something done earlier. In his opinion cars parked beside the road should have been towed away. He also seemed to think that there was a lack of trained personnel to operate the equipment.

Alderman Cameron agreed that it was impossible to maintain resources such as would have been required during the last storm. It seems that some men worked over 24 hours without rest.

Alderman Webster asked that if possible sheets be made available to the merchants showing where manholes are located to eliminate wasted time in trying to find them.

Alderman Bough stated that the decision not to begin snow clearing operations until the storm was over was based on past experience. However, he advised that the Public Works Committee will certainly make plans for emergency removal of snow even if it means blocking off streets.

Alderman Pescod agreed that the only way to do it properly was to block off streets one side at a time, one block at a time.

Mr. Pearson stated that if Public Works wishes to proceed in this fashion, the merchants would not object. He thanked Council for giving him the opportunity of expressing the merchants' views.

Alderman Pescod also pointed out that property owners added to our problems by clearing snow from their properties and throwing it in the streets.

Mr. Adams advised that he had people looking for such offenders but it is too difficult to do without help from other departments. He also felt that driving conditions had been hampered by people parking their cars on the street instead of in their driveways.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Alderman Pescod, seconded by Alderman Leger, that the Council minutes of meeting held December 10th be adopted as received. Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Knights of Columbus, Council 755 - Permission for Annual Charity Draw

On motion of Alderman Cameron, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc, permission was granted to the Knights of Columbus, Council 755, for the sale of tickets in the City of Cornwall for their annual Charity Draw. Carried.

2. Golden Eagle Canada Limited - Dust Problem Tollgate & McConnell

On motion of Alderman Cameron, seconded by Alderman Guindon, the letter was ordered filed. Carried.

REPORTS

Citizens Committee on Post Secondary & Adult Education #2-73

Moved by Alderman Leger, seconded by Alderman Pescod, that the report be adopted as received. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee #11-73

Moved by Alderman Lebano, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc, that the report be adopted. Carried.

With respect to the recommendation pertaining to the construction of a pool in Horovitz Park, Mayor Lumley remarked that perhaps Horovitz Pool had the largest participation because of its central location. He asked if it would not be more advisable to build a pool on a more easterly site if it can be determined that a majority of the people using the pool reside in the area between Race and Second and Gloucester and McConnell. In all probability another pool will be erected in the next couple of years and could possibly be located further west near Cumberland.

Alderman Webster felt that a lot of matters have to be taken into consideration before a location for the next proposed pool is decided upon.

Alderman Lebano stated that as far as his Committee is concerned the pool will be located in Horovitz unless conditions warrant a change in location.

With respect to putting a wading pool in Mattice Park, Alderman Clement stated that that the park had been given to the City to be used as a passive park and if so we would not be able to erect a pool. The Clerk was asked to check into this matter. He is also to check the deed for Horovitz Park to ascertain if there are any restrictions on this land in the event the City should wish to use the land for purposes other than a park.

Moved by Alderman Guindon, seconded by Alderman Samson, that the Parks and Recreation Committee consider Horovitz park only as a possible location for the construction of a new pool until such time as other facts become known which might warrant a change of site. Carried.

Report on Development of Off-Street Parking, Former Capitol Theatre - Misc. #8-73

Moved by Alderman Bough, seconded by Alderman Samson, that the report be referred to the Community Transportation and Power Committee. Carried.

Report on Commemorative Plaque, Dept. Indian & Northern Affairs - #8-73

Moved by Alderman Lebano, seconded by Alderman Pescod, that the report be received. Carried.

RESOLUTIONSRE #92-73 - City of Belleville - Fee of Witnesses in Criminal and Civil Matters

Moved by Alderman Guindon, seconded by Alderman Lebano, that the resolution from the City of Belleville be endorsed. Carried.

Mayor Lumley offered a word of caution in that Council endorse only those resolutions about which it has strong feelings otherwise our endorsement means nothing.

Alderman Guindon suggested the formation of a resolutions committee.

Alderman Lebano asked that comments or recommendations from Administration be attached to the resolutions presented to Council.

RE #93-73 - City of Stratford - Installation of lights, horn or bell & reflective tape on new bicycles prior to sale

Moved by Alderman Samson, seconded by Alderman Cameron, that the resolution from the City of Stratford be endorsed. Carried.

RE #94-73 - Town of Oakville - Voting Proxy

Moved by Alderman Webster, seconded by Alderman Bough, that the resolution from the Town of Oakville not be endorsed. Carried.

BY-LAWS

By-law No. 1554 - Temporary Loan re By-law No. 1519/73 - \$181,700.00 (Phase One Canal Lands)

1555 - To authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute and Offer to Purchase between the City and L.J. Flaro (Pt. Lot 47, Glebe Subdivision, east side of Pitt between Ninth and Eleventh)

1556 - To amend the Zoning By-law (uniformity in standards of multiple-family dwellings in RES 40 and in Special Uses 20 Zones)

- By-law No. 1557 - To amend By-law No. 808/69 (water meters)
- 1558 - To authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Grant of Easement between the City and the Cornwall Regional School of Nursing
- 1559 - To authorize the issuing of a permit to build a Senior Citizens Complex south of First and west of Augustus (waiving 65 ft. height restriction)
- 1560 - Minimum Standards By-law
- 1561 - To extend the franchise agreements with Cornwall Electric and St. Lawrence Power Company from January 1, 1974 to December 31, 1974 and to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute said agreements on behalf of the Corporation of the City of Cornwall

Moved by Alderman Samson, seconded by Alderman Clement, that the by-laws be read a first and second time. Carried.

Aldermen Bough and Leger declared their interest and refrained from any discussion or voting on the motion.

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Moved by Alderman LeBlanc, seconded by Alderman Guindon, that the by-laws be read a third time, passed, signed and sealed. Carried.

NEW BUSINESSTransit

Alderman Leger complained about the operation of the transit system and was assured that the Chairman of the Community Transportation Committee has been meeting regularly with the transit operator and that all problems should be eliminated.

He also expressed concern over the fact that buses do not always go into the Eastcourt parking lot to pick up or discharge passengers and was advised that the owner and the merchants are to blame for not keeping the bus route clear after repeated warnings.

Parking Signs

Alderman LeBlanc asked that signs be erected on Third Street between St. Felix and the Mall prohibiting parking on one side. Cars are not using the parking lots adjoining the apartment buildings and the street is very narrow.

Negotiations with Power Companies

It was moved by Alderman Samson, seconded by Alderman Lebano, that negotiations with both power companies be handled by Council as a whole in future. Carried.

Garbage

Alderman Bough advised that uncollected garbage will be picked up tonight. The contractor has had problems with snow, equipment and personnel.

Capitol Theatre

The Arts Development Committee has been advised that the City does not have the authority to enter into a type of proposal as submitted by Mr. Markell. Alderman Bough advised that the City will therefore continue to rent the property as at present. It has been recommended that the building not be left unoccupied.

Police Constable

Alderman Lebano inquired about a recent decision made about a Cornwall police constable and was advised that the Cornwall Police Commission had not held a hearing but

that the Ontario Police Commission had held a hearing in Cornwall and had confirmed the decision of the Cornwall Police Commission. The Constable appealed to the Ontario Supreme Court (Divisional) which had ruled in his favour.

Ski Hill

Alderman Lebano passed around pictures of the ski hill and advised of plans for a ski chalet, ski tow and ski instructions.

Grants

Alderman Lebano was informed that news about infrastructure grants are expected at the beginning year.

Planning Board

Moved by Alderman Lebano, seconded by Alderman Clement, that the Planning Board members be reappointed for the year 1974.

Mayor Lumley suggested that before any appointments are made, the whole committee structure should be reviewed.

Alderman Lebano stated that as far as he was concerned the present members have done a good job and that the membership should not be changed just for the sake of change.

Alderman Clement agreed with Alderman Lebano and added that he thought that more aldermen had been appointed to the Planning Board to ensure continuity. If changes are going to be made again, we might better have left all the lay people on the Board.

Mayor Lumley explained that he had recommended chairmen of certain committees as members of the Planning Board and if chairmen of committees change then membership on the Planning Board should change. In his opinion, Administration should be concerned with continuity. He assured Alderman Cameron that he would submit his recommendations early in 1974.

The mover and seconder then withdrew their motion.

Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Lumley complimented Council for expediting the Minimum Standards By-law and thanked the News Media for their co-operation during the past year.

Adjournment

On motion of Alderman Pescod, seconded by Alderman Webster, Council adjourned into Committee of the Whole at 9:20 p.m.

M. W. Boyer

Clerk

Mayor