

CITY COUNCIL #40-76

November 15, 1976.

A Special Meeting of Council was held this evening when the following members were present - His Worship Mayor G. Parisien, Aldermen M. Holden, J. Pescod, A. Lebano, K. Bough, G. Cameron, F. Guindon, L. Keen, B. Lynch, R. Pearson, G. Samson, A. LeBlanc and R. Aubry.

Proposed Fifth Street Extension

Council was in receipt of a report dated November 4, 1976 prepared by the Commissioner of Development, which report contains a number of schedules giving background information on the proposed extension.

Alderman Lebano stated that in 1968 some thought had been given to establishing a passive park on the lands which the City is considering acquiring and he still feels this would still be acceptable. He added that, in view of the representation made by the residents in the area who pay approximately \$50,000 in taxes, he is not in favour of the proposed extension. He felt there would be no great improvement in the traffic flow if the street was extended.

Alderman Cameron felt that the traffic system in the area should be analyzed and consideration given as to what decision will serve the best interests of the residents in the future and not only at present.

Alderman Lynch asked that other alternatives be explored and suggested that perhaps Fourth and Fifth Streets should revert to two-way traffic between McConnell and Marlborough Streets.

Mr. Knight advised that the Official Plan designates Fourth and Fifth Streets as arterial roads which should be extended beyond The Mall. He feels that these streets should end as arterial routes at McConnell and serve only as collector streets from that point. He feels it is necessary to extend Fifth Street into the built up area east of McConnell.

Replying to Alderman Lynch, Mr. Knight advised that the only portion subjected to more traffic should be McConnell and Guy and since Fifth Street would not be a good shortcut for anyone there should be no marked increase in traffic volume. He agreed that sidewalks are important for the safety of pedestrians.

Alderman Guindon felt strongly that traffic counts should be taken at Fourth & McConnell, especially to determine the number of left turns.

Alderman Keen felt that the quietness of the subdivision should not be disturbed; without too much inconvenience cars can travel a few extra blocks to reach their destination. He agreed that traffic counts should be made available. In connection with Fourth Street, it was his feeling that sidewalks should be constructed and perhaps speed limits restricted to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Alderman Aubry pointed out that the recommendations in Mr. Adams report had been approved in principle as far back as 1967; in 1972 Council had adopted a motion to purchase the properties in question; the last vote was 9 to 3 in favour of acquiring the land. Although the extension of Fifth will not be required in the very near future, it likely will be necessary at some undetermined time, when acquisition will undoubtedly be more costly. Should the City acquire the property in the meantime it could be given some park like treatment. He stated that he was prepared to make a motion to adopt Mr. Adams' report.

Alderman Pearson commented that there had been talk in the past of having a public meeting which to the best of his knowledge had never been held. He understands the concern of the people on Monaco Crescent, however, in his opinion there are other people in the area to be considered. Inquiring about subsidy on the cost of acquisition, Alderman Pearson was advised that if the land is acquired for other than road purposes, MTC subsidy would not be available.

Alderman LeBlanc stated that traffic is not the only problem. In his opinion, the major problem is spring runoff from the Medical Centre. He suggested widening McConnell at Fourth and instituting advanced green signals for left turn purposes. He did not feel that the extension of Fifth was needed.

Alderman Pescod congratulated the delegation for a well prepared brief. He added that no one likes to disturb people in their own area, however, other people also have to be considered. Taking the long term view, he felt that we should at least obtain the land and retain it for future possible use and not close the door on the matter at this time. He stated that he would be prepared to second Alderman Aubry's motion provided the mover would agree adding certain points to the motion. The mover was in agreement.

It was therefore moved by Alderman Aubry, seconded by Alderman Pescod, that Mr. Adams' report of November 4th be adopted; that in the interim the land be improved for a passive park in 1977 and 1978; that the drainage situation be improved in 1977; and that there would be a public hearing presenting a plan to the residents in the area to get their feelings when the street is to be constructed.

Alderman Holden stated he is against acquiring the property. There are four intersections at present on Guy within 300 yards of each other. In his opinion there are other streets which have more priority.

Alderman Samson felt that the price of the land in question is too high regardless of its ultimate use. He was not in favour of making Fourth Street one way east of Guy.

Alderman Bough feels that the property is an eyesore in its present state. He felt it should be acquired for future planning.

Alderman Lebano stated that the petition from the Fourth Street residents will be acted upon in due time. Unless we are acquiring the property for a passive park, he advised he would vote against the motion and asked for a recorded vote.

Alderman Lynch stated that he is not satisfied that there are not alternatives to relieve the traffic problem, and would like to see this aspect explored. Serious consideration should be given to a sidewalk on Fourth Street for the safety of pedestrians.

The results of the recorded vote were as follows -  
For the Motion - Aldermen Pescod, Bough, Pearson and Aubry.  
Against the Motion - Aldermen Holden, Lebano, Cameron, Guindon,  
Keen, Lynch, Samson, LeBlanc.

The motion was defeated, indicating that Council is against any extension of Fifth Street from Monaco Crescent to Guy and refuses to exercise its right to acquire the land.

Downtown Revitalization

Mayor Parisien advised that a member of the staff had today delivered the Cornwall Downtown Revitalization Program Preliminary Study dated November, 1976 to the Ministry of Housing. Copies were made available to the members of Council.

Some concern was expressed about the provision requiring 12 feet setbacks for all future development on Pitt Street downtown; about the removal of existing signs; and about allowing high density residential development only in the central area.

In connection with the 12 feet setbacks, the Planning Director advised that this provision applies to new development only and a principle has to be established for future planning.

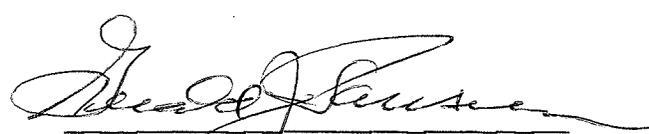
In connection with the signs, Mr. Ismaily advised that this had been agreed to by the merchants and would apply to existing "overhanging" signs.

Mr. Ismaily was of the opinion that without the proviso for high density residential development in the central area only, this type of development would never happen in the downtown.

Replying to Alderman Lebano, Mr. Assaly stated that over 80% of the people concerned are in agreement with the program.

Moved by Alderman Lebano, seconded by Alderman Pearson, that the Cornwall Downtown Revitalization Program Preliminary Study dated November, 1976 and the resolution contained therein be adopted in principle. Unanimously carried.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor