**Minutes of the Council of Beaconsfield**

Minutes of the City of Beaconsfield's special Municipal Council meeting, held at City Hall, 303 Beaconsfield Boulevard, Beaconsfield, Québec, on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7:15 p.m.

WERE PRESENT:
His Honour the Mayor Georges Bourelle and Councillors Dominique Godin, Martin St-Jean, Robert Mercuri, David Newell, Roger Moss, Peggy Alexopoulos

ALSO PRESENT:
Patrice Boileau, Director General, Nathalie Libersan-Laniel, City Clerk and Director of Public Affairs, Dominique Quirk, Assistant City Clerk Robert Lacroix, Director and Treasurer, Finance and Treasury

1. OPENING OF MEETING

His Honour the Mayor calls the meeting to order.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of the agenda of the City of Beaconsfield's special Council meeting of December 16, 2024, 7:15 p.m.

2024-12-425 It is moved by Councillor Martin St-Jean, seconded by Councillor Peggy Alexopoulos and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to adopt the agenda of the City of Beaconsfield's special Council meeting of December 16, 2024, 7:15 p.m., as presented.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

The City Clerk announces the beginning of the public question period.

A resident has questions on the 3-year Capital Expenditure Program (CEP). He asks what amount is expected to be borrowed or financed for the total three-year program. He then indicates that if taking into account principal repayment or other debt retirement, what is the expected net increase in long-term debt the City will need to carry by end of 2027. He asks to indicate what is the projected tax increase for the average Beaconsfield household. Finally, he asks why the City does not provide itemized details in the Capital Expenditure Program.

M. Patrice Boileau, director general, indicates that the amount that is expected to be borrowed depends on the approved contracts by Council, the moment of their realization, the available grants to be confirmed, and other available financial sources such as reserves. The net increase for the long-term debt depends on the available grants. The tax increase depends, to some extent, on the above answers but also on operational costs of services and means to finance those costs other than taxation. Mr. Boileau indicates that since 2018, the City provides more details, in the CONTACT of February, once the CEP is approved. The information is presented in a way to maintain a healthy competition amongst bidders during the bidding process.

A resident mentions that it would be interesting to see the details of the breakdown of the proposed 3.28% tax increase. She asks if there is a mitigation plans for vulnerable populations and senior citizens on a fixed income. She would like an elaboration on any new programs or equipment or initiatives to justify the public security budget increase. She would like to know also, how the budget supports programs for youth, seniors and vulnerable populations. She suggests that, in the future, the City gives a better idea of the services offered to residents by indicating which ones are directly associated with the payment of their taxes.

His Honour the Mayor suggest that residents go to the Agglomeration meetings to ask questions about the agglomeration budget as it has a huge impact on residents' taxes. In 2025, close to 70% of the real estate taxes will go to the agglomeration.

Mr. Boileau explains that the Public Security increase is related to the agglomeration services which include police and fire departments. He indicates that the City's budget was increased for community services to hire summer students to work on the "Connectons Beaconsfield" project and to better cleanup the green spaces and parks.

A resident asks if Beaconsfield has considered, in addition to the traditional police services, an alternative public safety initiative with volunteers to help. She suggests "de-tasking" the police force and using, for example, a volunteer citizen who would be specially trained to become first responders in a situation where the person is not armed but is having a mental health crisis or a neurological crisis. She also suggests that the City invest more in the dog pound.

His Honour the Mayor indicates that police services are managed by the agglomeration, Beaconsfield has no control. He suggests she asks the question at the Agglomeration meeting.His Honour the Mayor thanks the resident and asks Director general to complete the answer.

Patrice Boileau indicates that the City of Beaconsfield does not have a dog pound, but rather a small shelter for the occasionally found dog. Typically, dogs are returned to their owners within a few hours. He adds that there is nothing in the budget for any improvement of this facility.

The question period ends at 7:40 p.m.

30. FINANCE AND TREASURY

30.1 Adoption of the three-year Capital Expenditure Program for 2025-2026-2027

2024-12-426 It is moved by Councillor David Newell, seconded by Councillor Dominique Godin and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the three-year Capital Expenditure Programme for 2025-2026-2027.

30.2 Adoption of the 2025 budget of the City of Beaconsfield

2024-12-427 It is moved by Councillor Robert Mercuri, seconded by Councillor Peggy Alexopoulos and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the 2025 budget in the amount of $63,225,602 for revenues and expenses.

95. CLOSING OF MEETING

It is moved by Councillor Roger Moss, seconded by Councillor Martin St-Jean and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to close the special meeting at 7:42 p.m.

**MAYOR** **CITY CLERK**