

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2006, AT 5801 CAVENDISH BOULEVARD, CÔTE
SAINT-LUC, AT 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Mayor Anthony Housefather, B.C.L., L.L.B, M.B.A. presiding
Councillor Dida Berku, B.C.L.
Councillor Mitchell Brownstein, B. Comm., B.C.L., L.L.B.¹
Councillor Mike Cohen, B.A.
Councillor Steven Erdelyi, B.Sc., B.Ed.
Councillor Sam Goldbloom, B.A.
Councillor Ruth Kovac, B.A.
Councillor Allan J. Levine, B.Sc., M.A., DPLI
Councillor Glenn J. Nashen

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Ken Lerner, City Manager
Mr. Jonathan Shecter, Director of Legal Services and City Clerk,
acted as Secretary of the meeting

QUESTION PERIOD

The question period started at 7:30 p.m. and finished at 7:46 p.m. Two (2) people asked to speak and they were heard.

1) Aubey Laufer

The resident registered his objection regarding the Agglomeration Council and opined that the City should demerge from the Agglomeration. The resident then inquired as to what items were on tonight's council agenda for which Mayor Housefather clarified that at the first Special Meeting, the agenda is comprised of the adoption of the budget and three year Capital Expenditures Programme and at the second Special Meeting, the items to be discussed are the adoption of the tax rates for the City as well as a loan by-law and a contract to update its software system.

2) Avrum Shtern

The resident wished to personally thank the Mayor for sticking up for freedom of speech and then proceeded to give each member of council a Holiday Greeting card.

The resident then opined that there should be user fees for the Eleanor London Cote Saint-Luc Public library's computers incorporated into tonight's budget for which Mayor Housefather specified that no user fees were implemented into this year's budget.

The resident then suggested that the City should look into giving corporate tax credits for trusts to which Mayor Housefather explained that both Councillor Cohen and the City Treasurer have looked into various legal venues to issue tax credits for donors to the City.

¹ Arrived at 8:30 p.m.

The resident inquired as to the status of the review of the City's Tree by-law² to which Mayor Housefather responded that the matter is still pending.

**PRESENTATION – BUDGET AND THREE YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
PROGRAMME – COUNCILLOR BERKU AND DIRECTOR MARINO**

At 7:46 p.m., Councillor Berku and Director Marino gave a power point presentation on the budget. The presentation included the following themes: Guiding principles, Revenues, Expenditures and the Municipal Tax rates. The presentation also reviewed and explained the Three Year Capital Expenditures Programme.

Councillor Berku particularly highlighted that the average tax increase regarding the residential tax rates would only be approximately 1.15% over last year.

The presentation ended at 8:08 p.m.

Subsequent to the presentation, Mayor Housefather thanked various members of staff for their contribution to the adoption of the budget and explained that the City Treasurer, despite being new, has quickly assimilated his role and was able to significantly contribute to the preparation of this year's budget.

Councillor Levine then thanked the City Manager for his overall positive contribution to the City via his quick grasp and concept of municipal government as well as his versatility.

061242

ADOPTION OF THE 2007 CITY BUDGET

It was

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DIDA BERKU
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALLAN J. LEVINE

AND RESOLVED:

“THAT Council hereby adopts the 2007 City Budget as follows:

2007 Revenues	\$29,880,250
2007 Expenses	<u>\$29,880,250</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>0</u>

THAT said resolution shall be for immediate action.”
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

061243

**ADOPTION OF THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS FOR
2007-2008-2009**

It was

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DIDA BERKU
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALLAN J. LEVINE

² The resident is referring to the Chapter in the Zoning by-law governing trees.

AND RESOLVED

“THAT Council hereby accepts and adopts the Capital Expenditure Program for the years 2007-2008-2009, for a total of \$15,812,000;

THAT Treasurer’s certificate number TC06-0199 dated December 14, 2006 has been issued by the Treasurer, attesting to the availability of funds to cover the described expenses;

THAT said resolution shall be for immediate action.”
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SECOND QUESTION PERIOD³

The Second question period started at 8:15 p.m. and finished at 8:38 p.m. Four (4) people asked to speak and they were heard.

1) Dr. Bernard Tonchin

The resident wished to compliment this council on delivering a balanced budget.

The resident then inquired as to why there was an expenditure for the VCop program to which Mayor Housefather responded that the amount in question is merely a line item and that in fact, the amount received (under revenues) in donations actually exceeded the amount the City has spent.

The resident then inquired as to the interest rate the City is paying on its debt to which Mayor Housefather responded less than 5%.

The resident then inquired as to where the monies to pay attorneys for the Foster Wheeler litigation case currently pending are budgeted for, to which Mayor Housefather responded that they are allotted under ‘Undistributed Administrative Expenses.’

The resident then inquired as to costs to rent a photocopier to which Councillor Goldbloom clarified that each photocopier, depending on its features as well as the nature of the contract, will cost a different amount. Councillor Goldbloom then added that he would be happy to explain the matter further offline should the resident so choose.

The resident then reiterated his congratulations to this council regarding the balancing of the budget and called this endeavor a *job well done*.

2) Aubey Laufer

The resident inquired as to whether any monies saved on costs for snow removal this year would go to offset any potential City deficit to which Mayor Housefather responded that the City will look into this.

The resident then opined that the garbage trucks which were leased to collect the garbage in-House should eventually be purchased to which Mayor Housefather responded that all avenues are generally explored prior to incurring an expense and the most cost-effective one will ultimately be chosen.

³ Pertaining to the budget and three year Capital Expenditures Programme.

The resident then sought particulars regarding residential taxes for 2007 to which Mayor Housefather responded that the average residential increase will be about 1.1% but that the exact increase (or decrease) to each property can only be ascertained by looking at each one individually.

3) Avrum Shtern

The resident referred to the budget line item regarding salaries and opined that the increase over last year was prohibitive to which Mayor Housefather clarified that this line item also includes pension employer contributions which either increase or decrease based on a specific formula. He also specified that it was during the period that Côte Saint-Luc was part of the City of Montreal when salaries significantly increased. He then added that since Côte Saint-Luc is now its own City, it can determine its own union salaries via collective agreement negotiations. He also added that insofar as management is concerned, Côte Saint-Luc's management team will be *fairly compensated for what they deserve*.

The resident then inquired whether there would be savings incurred by collecting garbage in-House to which Mayor Housefather responded that there would be savings, but in the long-term.

4) Joel Goldenberg (the Suburban)

The journalist inquired as to why expenses for the gymnasium had increased so significantly to which Mayor Housefather responded that the City could get back to him with an answer as to the particulars of this line item.

AT 8:38 P.M. MAYOR HOUSEFATHER DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED.

ANTHONY HOUSEFATHER
MAYOR

JONATHAN SHECTER
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES
AND CITY CLERK