

- Present:** Rt. Wor. Charles R Gosling, JP, Chairman  
Alderman Glen C Smith, JP  
Alderman Pamela G Ferreira, JP  
Alderman John W Harvey, JP  
Councillor Walter F Cross, JP  
Councillor Marshall E Minors  
Councillor Pamela Quarterly  
Councillor Nicholas Swan  
Councillor Dennis G Tucker, JP
- Staff:** The Secretary - Ed Benevides  
The Treasurer - Gary Edwards  
City Engineer - Patrick Cooper  
Port Operations Manager - Kevin Hollis  
Human Resources Manager - Sakina Darrell  
Events Project Manager - Danilee Trott  
Communications Manager - Aderonke Bademosi
- Sasaki:** Varoujan Hagopian  
Manuel Sanchez  
Jon Wilson Allen

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The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Corporation's second open meeting and thanked the public for their attendance and interest. A couple of housekeeping points - the public are here to witness the proceedings. Any questions from the public would be addressed after the conclusion of the meeting. No recording devices are allowed during the meeting.

Due to time constraints, the agenda is set out so that the Waterfront Development Project is item 1 on the agenda.

**1. Waterfront Development Project - Update from Sasaki**

Mr Varoujan Hagopian introduced his colleagues and discussed the progress Sasaki has made since their last visit to the island. During their visit, they met with the Marine Board yesterday and also Government representatives (including Larry Jacobs). The scoping document has been developed and submitted to the Department of Planning. A copy of the document is available through the Corporation of Hamilton. Apparently The Government has also carried out a few tests of their own which included spiking in the content of mercury and arsenic. The Government results had varied from the findings of Sasaki and Mr Hagopian said he had presented the Sasaki results to the Government.

The Development Committee and Sasaki are trying to schedule a series of public meetings in the New Year, namely in January or February and again in April. This will then be the conclusion of the testing and it is hoped they will receive approval for the project. Sasaki can then start on the

detailed design phase. Constructions could then potentially start in a year's time. The foundations for the wharf will take approximately one to one and a half years to build and then the above water vertical building can commence. The entire Phase 1 could be completed within 5-7 years.

Mr Hagopian asked if anyone had any questions.

Alderman Harvey asked whether any testing had been carried out to study the impact of hurricane conditions on the Project. Mr Hagopian said his team had carried out a hydrodynamic study which included the impact of hurricanes and the results of this will be available in the next 6-7 weeks, so he will be able to report their findings on his next visit to Bermuda.

Mr Jon Wilson Allen said that the good news is that all the tests they have carried out so far have shown positive results. In addition to the sampling and testing in the water, they have undertaken land testing and the results of this will be produced in the form of a topographical survey. This should be fully completed by Christmas and will aid in the drawing and design phase of the project. In addition to that, Sasaki have also been analyzing the movement and direction of traffic along the waterfront area. The Department of Planning have identified traffic as a potential problem which needs to be studied carefully but Sasaki feel that this will not be an issue. There will not be substantial additional traffic generated, in fact traffic flow and congestion will be vastly improved as a large number of cars will be accommodated in underground car parking.

Traffic studies are still underway. Traffic counts were undertaken three weeks ago and also during this week at peak times in the morning and in the evening. This information has been fed back to the Sasaki team in Boston to collate and analyse.

Mr Wilson Allen said that overall, Sasaki had collected and collated an immense amount of information and all results had been positive which is good news. In the end, the Corporation will steer how quickly the project moves forward. One way of accelerating the process is to work out an early bid package.

Councillor Tucker referred to the cover of the scoping report which illustrates only one cruise ship at the new wharf and yet an illustration on the inside of the report shows two cruise ships. Mr Hagopian said that they intend to proceed with the two ship option and that Sasaki had wanted to present both options to show that it is feasible to have a single or double pier.

Alderman Harvey asked whether the limestone on the sea bed presents a problem in terms of construction. Mr Hagopian said that the limestone is a positive thing as it provides lateral stability to the piles which will carry the entire load of the development.

Councillor Swan asked what depth the piles would need to go in order to reach the volcanic rock in the harbour. Mr Hagopian said that the depth varies. The harbour bottom is approximately 20 feet below mean low water along the toe of the seawall but slopes to greater depths toward the navigation channel. There is approximately 18-35ft of water and then you reach anywhere between 2-10ft of sediment which lies above approximately 60-90ft of limestone. You then hit the volcanic rock. In summary, the volcanic rock lies approximately 100-125ft below the surface.

Councillor Minors asked whether Sasaki are aware that during one of the worst storms to hit Bermuda, the tide had reached street level. Mr Hagopian said that he was aware of this and he has

analysed the effects that a number of storms have had in Bermuda and how they have impacted the current Waterfront area.

The Mayor thanked the Sasaki team for their update.

## **2. Review of Corporation Minutes of 4 November 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2009 were accepted as amended.

**Proposed:** Councillor Tucker      **Seconded:** Alderman Smith      **Unanimous**

## **3. Matters Arising**

Municipalities Act - changes to Municipalities Act ongoing. The Mayor asked Members to submit their suggested changes to him by 8<sup>th</sup> December.

Waterfront Project Presentation - The Secretary reported that he had set up a presentation for Larry Jacobs to review the Waterfront Project and both The Secretary and The Mayor had attended. A further meeting had also been held this week at which Larry Jacobs and members of the Development committee met with Sasaki.

We Arrive - The Secretary confirmed that the unveiling of the statue would take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 instead of 10<sup>th</sup> December as previously reported and that an agenda for the event will be sent to the Members in due course.

## **4. Review of Committee Minutes**

### **a) Property Committee - 5 November 2009**

No recommendations

Alderman Smith suggested that the Property Committee and Infrastructure Committee meet to discuss ways to keep the Farmers Market in the City. The City Engineer reported that the Corporation seems to have been successful in doing this. A site on Canal Road at the back of Bulls Head Car Park has been prepared and the Farmers seem happy with this. Also improved lighting has been placed on the lower level of Bulls Head Car Park and this can be used in the event of inclement weather. Therefore when the public visit the market, they know that rain or shine, they will be able to find it within the same location. Storage has also been provided.

### **b) Staff, Legislative & Governance Committee - 17 November 2009**

No recommendations

Councillor Tucker said that the Corporation Drug Policy had been approved by the Committee and was being implemented. The policy was presented to the BIU and they have agreed to it in principle - there were a couple of items which need to be resolved but they are confident the policy will be accepted by the end of the year. The next steps are to present the policy to the BPSU early in the New Year.

Alderman Harvey raised the issue of Health & Safety and said that he had recently seen a photograph of a Corporation employee using a chain saw on the base of a Christmas tree

without the use of protective glasses. Councillor Tucker said there is a Health & Safety Committee who is very active. The City Engineer said that the Corporation provides appropriate protective glasses / equipment to its staff and that the supervisors have been told to remind everyone to wear them when necessary.

The Mayor mentioned that Mr Chesley Trott had joined the public audience. Mr Trott designed the "When Voices Rise" and "We Arrive" sculptures. The Mayor welcomed Mr Trott to the meeting.

**c) Infrastructure Committee - 20 November 2009**

Alderman Smith said that a few boat owners had approached the Corporation regarding its berthing fee and had requested a third tier of permit.

**RESOLUTION: That the Board approves a third tier of tour boat berthing fee for "Occasional Monthly" use of 1-4 times a month.**

**Proposed:** Alderman Smith **Seconded:** Alderman Harvey

**Motion carried.**

Alderman Smith then discussed a second recommendation from the Infrastructure Committee which was a request from LVs Piano Bar to add a cover to their existing al fresco dining area. It was acknowledged that the City Engineer will work closely with the developer to ensure that the shelter is compliant and also that the trees, which will be incorporated into the shelter, will be adequately cared for.

**RESOLUTION: That they approve, in principle, the request for an outdoor seating shelter at LVs Bar, provided guttering is included on the shelter and extra provision is made for the olive trees which will be included as part of the al fresco dining area.**

**Proposed:** Alderman Smith **Seconded:** Councillor Minors

**Motion carried.**

Alderman Smith mentioned a further recommendation from Breadbasket Limited for al fresco dining outside Café Continental on Burnaby Hill. The Corporation will be giving up 2 car parking spaces but Breadbasket Ltd will be charged for these spaces (which can range from \$11k to \$13k per year) so it will not mean any lose of revenue at all.

Councillor Swan asked whether this application would open the flood gates and would the Corporation be able to entertain similar applications from other merchants. The Secretary said that we do want to encourage al fresco dining and we are looking to make the city friendlier. Each application will be assessed on its own merits. Some sites are more challenging than others. Approval will be given when it is safe and practical to do so. Alderman Harvey said he supports al fresco dining but the Corporation also must take safety into consideration.

**RESOLUTION: That the Board approves, in principle, the request from Breadbasket Limited for an al fresco dining area outside Café Continental on Burnaby Hill. This approval is given subject to inspection by the City Engineer.**

**Proposed:** Alderman Smith **Seconded:** Councillor Minors

**Motion carried.**

Alderman Smith said he would also like to report that in the last Board meeting the Infrastructure Committee had said that they would be revisiting Reid Street



In relation to the Hamilton 2001 Plan, the Committee is working towards making recommendations to the Department of Planning in anticipation of their updating the city plan. The Corporation is working with Mr Brian Rowlinson who is helping the Development Team. Specifically, the Committee has tackled 9 major issues regarding development in the City such as:

Historic Preservation of Buildings - The Committee feels that the listing of buildings of architectural and historic importance should be extended to the City but emphasized the importance of introducing some sort of compensation regime for the benefit of the land owners including a possible reduced land tax scheme. The City itself owns three Grade I listed buildings which are Victoria Park Bandstand, Par la Ville Library and Perots Post Office. Also, City Hall is a Grade II listed building. The Development Committee will also recommend that we lead the way by example and agree to its four buildings being listed for historical preservation.

Encouraging Residential Development - The Committee agreed that it was important to continue to encourage residential development for the benefit of the vitality of the City and improved security. It was agreed that the one floor bonus provided in the current plan was an insufficient incentive. The Committee also supports the idea of allowing international companies to purchase apartments in the city.

Parking - for residences and incentives. Advantages for residential buildings without parking facilities.

Building Heights - The Committee continues to favour controls on building heights that retain the dominance of the Cathedral tower of 138 feet and the idea of introducing floor area ratio controls was supported subject to further investigation.

Design and Massing of new buildings on Front Street remains the subject of much discussion. The Committee favoured less prescriptive provisions that would give architects more flexibility, and to avoid repetitive, tiered "wedding cake" buildings. The Committee agreed to preserve the character and charm of Front Street. The Committee plans to invite a group of architects, and other interested parties, to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Traffic - The Corporation is in the process of commissioning a new traffic study which will be undertaken in 2010. The Committee is looking at the impact of school traffic in the City and is sending out a letter in January to city schools to open fresh dialogue for schools to re-consider a plan to bus children in from both ends of the island.

Retail Sector - the Committee is also reviewing the significant challenges facing the retail sector including a variety of issues that are out of this City's control. We are always looking for ways to partner with the Government to make Hamilton a more viable place to do business.

Alderman Harvey asked whether any further work had been done on cruise ships and Alderman Ferreira said she had no updates at this time although the Development Committee will be inviting Mr Larry Jacobs to their next meeting to specifically discuss this topic.

As far as the Waterfront Development Project is concerned:

- a) Sasaki have finalized scoping document for the EIS and submitted their findings to the Department of Planning.
- b) Work is being done on preparation of the draft EIA and Sasaki anticipate submitting their final draft including application by end February 2010.
- c) Public information meetings will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and further meetings on 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> April. All will take place in City Hall Theatre and will commence with lunchtime meetings for the general public and focus groups in the morning and afternoon. Followed by evening meetings.
- d) Geotechnical field investigation and the testing of the sediments have been completed.
- e) Preparation of the harbour hydrodynamic modeling has been completed and work is being done on preparation of the final report.
- f) Traffic flow assessments of Front Street at peak hours including all major intersections have been carried out.
- g) Performing more traffic circulation modeling for existing and proposed conditions to see if there will be any tangible impacts to the proposed design.
- h) Air quality modeling will be undertaken at the proposed underground parking exit to determine if there is any concern to warrant special mitigation.  
All testing should be completed by March 2010 and then detailed design can commence and eventually groundbreaking.

## 5. North Hamilton Development Update

The Mayor said that part of the Development Committee's review of the 2001 Plan, had been to review the current load on the infrastructure of North Hamilton. The City Engineer said that the sewerage system had been reviewed in December 2008 and is well within capacity for the next 30 years. One of the problems with North Hamilton is electricity availability. The Board had a meeting with Belco a couple of weeks ago where this was discussed yet again. The Corporation is in the process of identifying areas in North Hamilton where Belco could put, at some future point, a distribution point and we are working to try and get as much of the wiring as possible underground.

The Secretary said that the Corporation continues to work with the EEZ group and the utilities companies to develop a short term and long term strategy for the infrastructure of North Hamilton which involves the co-ordination of undergrounding cabling and utilization of trenching with all three utilities companies. The Corporation not only includes Telco, Belco and Cable Vision but also the water utilities company as well.

Councillor Cross asked whether any consideration can be given to informing the North Hamilton stakeholders of what the Corporation is working on. The Mayor said that Alderman Ferreira is planning an initiative to get all the Board Members back to knocking on doors again and she will be talking to the Members about this after the Christmas break. The Secretary said that Erika Smith and her EEZ team have been supplemented by some technical resource now and part of the Corporation's work with them includes the distribution of information to the North Hamilton stakeholders.

The Mayor said the Corporation is also reviewing its policy on underground cabling conduits. One possibility would be to instigate a policy similar to the current Government policy on cell phone towers, which must be shared by all cell phone suppliers. Maybe this is a process that we will look to deal with facilitating the more timely placement of wires underground.

## 6. Any Other Business

The Mayor asked each Member if they had any other business to discuss:

Councillor Swan said he had been approached by a constituent who complained that some people are abusing the loading zone areas in Hamilton ie: placing their own orange cones in the zones. The Secretary said that the Corporation can make people aware that they are not allowed to do this. We could resort to collecting the cones but the preference is to try and get people to abide by the rules. Traffic wardens are notified when someone is abusing the system and they ticket any offending vehicles. The Secretary said he will look into other ways in which this issue can be dealt with.

Alderman Harvey suggested that the Mayor send a note of congratulations to the newly elected Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of St. Georges. The Mayor agreed with this suggestion and went on to say that there was a great slate of candidates and it was a hard choice for constituents to choose from the group. The new team has a number of challenges ahead of them.

**ACTION:** For the Mayor to write a letter of congratulations to the newly elected team of the Corporation of St. Georges.

Alderman Smith said he is sure the Board is aware of the flooding in Hamilton, particularly on Dundonald Street, when it rains heavily and the tide rises. Alderman Smith, The Secretary and The City Engineer will be meeting with the principles of Masters Limited and their management team on 8<sup>th</sup> December to come up with a remedy and the Corporation plans to commence work to fix this problem during the second week of January.

Councillor Quarterly said she had been approached by a constituent who raised the issue of bike parking and apparently a lot of the larger sized bikes do not fit within the parameters of the bike parking bays and the constituent asked whether the Corporation would be addressing this. The Secretary said this affects cars as well and the Corporation is taking this into account when constructing new parking areas. The Secretary said he will review the older parking sites with Infrastructure Committee to develop a strategy to provide for the larger bikes and cars.

Councillor Cross said that it has been brought to his attention that in the Par La Ville parking lot there are quite a few potholes and he wondered if this could be addressed. Also, can anything be done to address the garbage collection on Reid Street to ask the drivers to pull to the curb to collect garbage instead of double-parking. The Secretary said this was addressed initially but a number of things have happened since the early days ie: the routes for the garbage trucks have changed and they should be off Reid Street by 8.00am which should alleviate the problem. The Mayor also said that each truck has a license number and we are looking at other means to identify all Corporation city vehicles to know who is either doing an extremely good job or who may need further instruction.

The Secretary gave Members an update on why part of Reid Street had to be closed off recently. There had been a blockage in the sewerage system due to the build up of a tremendous amount of grease from restaurants and catering outlets and the Infrastructure Committee will need to review this to look at the ordinance to deal with grease traps in restaurants.

The Mayor asked for an update from the Secretary on the new Reid Street no parking policy. The Secretary said that currently it seems to be working better. A few people were disgruntled initially but there have been no complaints more recently and traffic seems to be running more smoothly.

The Mayor said that the Corporation had agreed to hold a further Board meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am in the Mayor's Parlour to discuss the 2010 budget. The Mayor asked for the Member's agreement that this should be a public meeting and no one had any objections. It will be a fairly tight budget and the Members will have to make some difficult decisions.

The Mayor said that he would like a letter of thanks sent to the Parks Superintendant, Steve de Silva, and his team for the work they did for The Queen's visit. They did an extremely good job and made the Mayor very proud.

**ACTION:** The Secretary to arrange for a letter of thanks to be sent to Steven de Silva and his team thanking them for the work they did for The Queen's visit.

Alderman Ferreira wished all the Members, Staff of the Corporation and constituents a very Happy Christmas.

There was no further business to be discussed at the open meeting and the Mayor asked that the public leave at this time so the Members could continue to discuss staff issues etc.

The Recording Secretary and The Management Team left the meeting at 12.40pm.

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Date

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Mayor

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Secretary