CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 03/27/2024

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Time: 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Members Present:

Councillors
Ward 2 - Councillor Fabio Costante (Chairperson)
Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie
Ward 8 - Councillor Gary Kaschak
Ward 9 - Councillor Kieran McKenzie

PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Mark Winterton, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer
Tyson Cragg, Executive Director, Transit Windsor
James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks & Facilities
Matthew Johnson, Executive Director, Economic Development
Mark Spizzirri, Manager, Performance Measurement & Business Case Development
Karina Richters, Supervisor, Environment Sustainability & Climate Change
Michelle Moxley-Peltier, Coordinator, Energy Plan Administrator
Bill Kralovensky, Coordinator, Parking Services
Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson calls the meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee to order at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ETPS STANDING COMMITTEE

3.1. Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held January 31, 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Gary Kaschak
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting held January 31, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 24/2024

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Adoption of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSA) Regular Board of its meeting held December 5, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Mark McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **ETPS 989**
THAT the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSA) Regular Board meeting held December 5, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 37/2024

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 - City Wide

Councillor Kieran McKenzie requests that Administration provide a high-level overview of what is included in the report.

Karina Richters, Supervisor, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 - City Wide" and provides a brief overview of the report and indicates that the Greenhouse Gas reports will be provided annually. Ms. Richters adds that based on a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) study, 50% of all community emissions are under the indirect control of the municipality. Administration is seeing a reduction of GHG emissions on the community side due to the decarbonisation of the electricity system, as well as individual actions such as electric vehicles. On the Corporate side, they are seeing an increase in GHG emissions due to bringing in some corporate assets that are run on natural gas.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether Administration believes the Municipality is falling short, and what can be done to make up lost ground towards reaching our emission reduction goals. Ms. Richters indicates that there is a delay between the community energy plan being approved and the implementation of a number of strategies. This year's budget has allowed the appointment of a full-time permanent position to help accelerate some of the actions. The corporate energy management plan will be an important key to look at individual buildings from an energy and GHG standpoint.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether additional resources were made available, would the Municipality be further along in the implementation piece of some of the issues raised. Ms. Richters indicates that having a full-time permanent position will allow for less fluctuation in staffing and allow better focus on these actions.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about which facilities are the most problematic to the GHG emissions. Ms. Richters indicates that administration is currently undertaking that analysis to identify any trends that they are able to action and what can be done there.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether there is anything that can be done today to expedite the report. Ms. Richters indicates that the Corporate Energy Plan should be brought forward this summer.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires, in terms of staffing, what challenges exist that are preventing us from moving forward with any initiatives related to GHG reduction as it relates to transportation. Mark Winterton, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 - City Wide" and indicates that a report will be brought forward, likely at the April meeting of this committee related to the restructuring of traffic and transportation planning departments with some recommendations moving forward.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether the report will address the possibility of additional positions. Mr. Winterton responds yes.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether there is anything in the report specific to transit that would help to identify improvements in GHG emissions. Tyson Cragg, Executive Director, Transit Windsor, appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 - City Wide" and indicates as highlighted in the administrative report, transit has made investments in fleet purchases, and ridership is also up 13 percent since 2019.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about challenges related to procurement of electric or hybrid buses. Mr. Cragg indicates that the procurement timelines are elongated as there are lingering supply chain issues and the timeline is approximately 15 months. Mr. Cragg adds that they have placed orders in November 2023, so the order should be fulfilled around August 2024 and they should be up and running by the beginning of 2025.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the 18 buses that will be coming in, there are currently 20 that are at the end of their useful life, is there any concern in that regard and how do we manage the turnover and green the fleet. Mr. Cragg responds that 18 was the initial order, we will be engaging in subsequent purchases with a change in vendor and there will be another 11 buses ordered for the 2025 budget.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether there is the expectation, with the change in vendor, that the timelines will be accelerated. Mr. Cragg responds that it is more of an industry issue. Procurement of the 18 buses is about 3 months shorter than the previous order. Mr. Cragg adds that it is going in a positive direction, but is difficult to predict the timelines.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether the existing infrastructure for bus storage is adequate to service the new fleet of buses that will be incoming. Mr. Cragg responds that there will be a significant amount of funding directed towards improvement of the facilities.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about how far off is the total electrification of the fleet. Mr. Winterton indicates that they are not close to the entire fleet electrification. That will require a massive upgrade to the garage and the facilities therein. Mr. Winterton adds that the municipalities that are being aggressive in electrification are having some challenges. The hybrid program is a happy medium for the transition towards electrification. Mr. Cragg adds that the technology advancements are happening so rapidly, that waiting for the technology to mature will put the corporation in a good position to invest when the time is right.

Councillor Gary Kaschak requests that Administration elaborate related to the transition to hybrid/electrification of other city vehicles. Mr. Winterton indicates that they have several smaller electric vehicles in the City's fleet. The technology for the heavy-duty vehicles is nowhere near ready to make that transition.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about the level of GHG emissions from prescribed burns. Ms. Richters responds that in terms of air quality, it would have a temporary impact, but the benefit to preserving the prairie outweighs the disadvantages. The prescribed burns are done to mitigate the possibility of wild fires.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about how much impact the winds from the Ohio Valley and Michigan factories have on our air quality. Ms. Richters indicates that they are unable to differentiate air quality depending on the point of origin. Depending on the wind direction, the emissions will be quantified accordingly. In terms of GHGs, they are calculated by fuel sales in our area. They are unable to capture the data if people are fueling up in the States and coming across.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the GHG targets will be met at a longer time frame. Ms. Richters responds that the targets are set by the IPCC (International Panel of Climate Change). The most recent report shows that, globally, they are not on the path to reach those targets, although global targets are expected to change.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether the City is making any advancements towards encouraging electrification to our staff. Mr. Winterton indicates that the issue of electrification is being driven by the industry and charging and battery life are improving constantly. As it relates to parking spaces, garages and offering charging stations, the City is debating whether or not it will be providing a service or partial service or amenity. Bill Kralovensky, Coordinator Parking Services appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 - City Wide" and adds that any additional budget that will allow for the addition of charging stations will be taken advantage of. Moving forward, any new parking lots will look to add charging stations.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether Chargepoint at Adventure Bay is under contract with the City to provide the spaces. Mr. Kralovensky indicates that the spaces were donated to Chargepoint. There was no remuneration to the City as they were implemented on a trial basis. Lot 5, The Bistro lot will see an additional spot and Lot 34 will see one as well sometime this year. Mr.

Kralovensky adds that wherever the charging spot is located, the customer will still need to pay for their parking as well as the electricity used to charge.

Moved by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 990**
THAT the report of the Community Energy Plan Administrator dated February 19, 2024 entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the report of the Community Energy Plan Administrator dated February 19, 2024 entitled "Community and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Monitoring Report – 2022 – City Wide" **BE FORWARDED** to the Environment Climate Change Advisory Committee for their review and comment.
Carried.

Report Number: S 169/2023
Clerk's File: EI/14519

8.2. Windsor's 2023 Report On the State of the Environment

Councillor Kieran McKenzie requests that Administration provide a high-level overview of what is included in the report. Ms. Richters indicates that The State of the Environment report is brought forward every 4 years. There are 5 goals being tracked in this report and promoting community awareness of green initiatives is an important area to focus attention.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks Administration as it relates to waste diversion rates, to what extent is the City a contributor to some of the negative outcomes and what initiatives are considered to improve them. Ms. Richters responds that the diversion rates have improved, and recycling in our parks was a pilot project that showed a positive response. Ms. Richters adds that as parks are being revamped, both receptacles are being implemented. Ms. Richters indicates that the addition of the curbside organic waste collection will increase the rates of diversion once implemented.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires as to what extent will short-term prosperity impact the action plans being contemplated. Ms. Richters indicates that with large companies coming to the area, there will be a slight increase in the overall emissions, but holistically, there will be a significant decrease overall per capita. The businesses coming in will also have their own net-zero plans. Matt Johnson, Executive Director, Economic Development appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Windsor's 2023 Report on the State of the Environment" and adds that the adoption rates of electric vehicles have reached the 10% level and as the technology improves, those net benefits will continually improve.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires, knowing that the demands are going to increase, to what extent has the City taken steps to position ourselves not have to make a decision like last year with the gas facility. Ms. Richters indicates that they are tracking the numbers of natural gas within the electricity system and they are currently seeing an increase, both provincially and within our city boundaries. Ms. Richters indicates that for large facilities, the numbers are reported to the Canadian government. Provincial assets are able to be identified and deducted from the municipality's overall contribution to GHGs.

Moved by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 991**

1. THAT the report from the Environment Sustainability Coordinator dated March 7, 2024 entitled "Windsor's 2023 Report On the State of the Environment" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

2. THAT City Council **SUPPORT** efforts to monitor and track environmental metrics and continue advancing environmental initiatives; and,

3. THAT City Council **APPROVE** the updated version of the City of Windsor's Report on the State of our Environment attached as Appendix A; and,

4. THAT the report of the Environment Sustainability Coordinator dated March 7, 2024 entitled "Windsor's 2023 Report On the State of the Environment" **BE FORWARDED** to the Environment & Climate Change Advisory Committee for their review and comment.

Carried.

Report Number: S 33/2024
Clerk's File: SW/8523

8.3. Response to CQ 36-2023 – Repurposing Lot 16 - City Wide

Councillor Renaldo Agostino requests clarification related to Option 1 with regards to the gate and whether administration has the ability to change the price over time. Mr. Kralovensky responds that upcoming reports will layout the ability to change pricing if the City moves to cashless using an app payment only. Mr. Karlovensky adds that pricing can be easily changed at any time, for special events, time of day, etc.

Councillor Gary Kaschak requests that Administration confirm the total number of spaces in Lot 16. Mr. Kralovensky indicates that there are 84 spaces in Lot 16.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about the Police response to after-hours enforcement at that lot. Mr. Kralovensky indicates that Parking Enforcement monitors the lot, and occasionally Windsor Police are called in when required. Mr. Kralovensky adds that any enforcement in Lot 16, ultimately

offsets the trouble to the east and to the west lots that are not being monitored at that particular time.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether there may be any potential plans for the City or Parks to absorb Lot 16 for further riverfront development. James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks and Facilities appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Response to CQ 36-2023 – Repurposing Lot 16 – City Wide" and indicates that the Lot has been identified as a key component for parking needs for the riverfront park land, and elimination of this lot would result in the need to identify parking availability at another location to facilitate the needs of the residents and visitors.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is any improvement planned to the condition of the surface of the lot. Mr. Kralovensky indicates that if the lot is to be maintained as a parking lot, plans to re-engineer it will be able to move forward along with measures for eliminating negative behaviour currently being carried out in that lot.

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 992**
THAT the report of the Coordinator, Parking Services dated March 11, 2024 entitled "CQ 36-2023 – Repurposing Lot 16" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT Option 1, being the:

Installation of a barrier gate (with integrated pay station) to control access to the parking lot 16, possibly including restrictions such as no entry after 10:00 p.m. **BE APPROVED**; and,

THAT the initial cost of the barrier gate $51,950 (plus HST), with associated infrastructure upgrade costs estimated to be approximately $10,000 **BE FUNDED** from the On-Off Street Parking Reserve fund 138; and,

THAT administration **BE DIRECTED** to investigate different techniques and changes that can potentially assist the surrounding residents with issues related to this parking lot including but not limited to noise detection cameras, speed humps, and an increase to parking fees; and that the information **BE BROUGHT FORWARD** to Council for their consideration.
Carried.

Report Number: S 35/2024
Clerk's File: ST2024 & ACOQ2024

9. TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS

None presented.

10. ADOPTION OF TRANSIT BOARD MINUTES

None presented.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee is adjourned at 5:25 o'clock p.m. The next meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee will be held April 24, 2024.
Carried.

Ward 2 – Councillor Costante (Chairperson)	Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services