



VISION - We will be a democratically elected, vibrant, safe and clean city focused on economic growth and livability.

MISSION - To provide positive experiences for everyone through the delivery of quality initiatives and services.

CORPORATION OF HAMILTON
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 10:00 am
Mayor's Parlour, City Hall, Hamilton

Present: Councillor John Harvey, MBE, JP, Chairman
Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP
Councillor George Scott, JP
Councillor Nicholas Swan
Councillor Henry Ming
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards
Councillor Jenefer Brimmer
Michael Branco, JP - Associate Member

Staff: CEO/City Secretary - Dwayne A. Caines, JP
COO/City Engineer - Patrick Cooper
Director of Marketing & Communications – Jessica Astwood
Public Relations Manager - Helen Zoellner

Apologies: CFO/Acting City Secretary – Tanya Iris

In Attendance: Mr. Scott Barnes, President of Bermuda Karting Club
Ms. Gloria Malpas, Secretary of Bermuda Karting Club
Mr. Gregory Bluck, Farnsworth Management Ltd
Mr. Lawrence Gibbons, Farnsworth Management Ltd

1. Confirmation of Notice

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that the appropriate notices of the meeting were duly given according to the Meeting Guide.

2. Role of the Chairman

Councillor John Harvey confirmed his role as the Chairman.

3. Open Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10.00 am.

4. Apologies

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillor R. Edwards, who would be late, and the CFO/Acting City Secretary Tanya Iris.

5. Public Participation/Presentation

5.1 Bermuda Karting Club - NE Hamilton Race

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Scott Barnes, President of the Bermuda Karting Club, and Ms. Gloria Malpas, the Club Secretary, to propose an international karting race in North East Hamilton in April 2023.

Mr. Barnes said that the COH, City residents and businesses, had approved and been excited about a planned international karting race which was due to take place in North East Hamilton in 2020, however, the race had been cancelled due to the COVID-19 lockdown. It was proposed to hold a 2-day race over a weekend in April 2023, with set up on the prior Friday evening. He said that the houses of worship in the area would be contacted for their agreement and the race would be temporarily halted in order to allow attendees to freely enter and exit. International drivers and crews would be invited to participate in the race. The vendors on the route would remain open for business during the race. Mr. Barnes proposed that social events could be held in the evenings of the weekend. Any vehicles along the route which had not been parked elsewhere, would be moved at the owners expense. Advertising would be via social media. A large number of spectators were expected. A fun race with public figures participating, would be planned into the weekend.

Mr. Barnes requested sponsorship from the COH of the waiver of costs for the barricades and street closures which would be required along the route in North East Hamilton. The Mayor said that the labour costs would be charged. Also, that the race date must be clear of the first public holiday of the year, 24 May 2023. Mr. Barnes would provide a detailed plan of the route, confirmation of the weekend date and the paperwork with the agreement of the houses of worship in North Hamilton.

Mr. Barnes and Ms. Malpas left the meeting at 10.19 am.

5.2 Oleander Cycles-E-Bike Stations in the City

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Gregory Bluck of Farnsworth Management Ltd, and Mr. Lawrence Gibbons, Sales and Service Manager of Oleander Cycles.

Mr. Gibbons gave a presentation of the power assisted pedal bike proposal, which took inspiration from micro-mobility initiatives in other cities. There would be a downloadable app to facilitate the rental and tracking of the bikes. The app would contain a map and a policy of terms and conditions for use. The bikes may only be rented and dropped at any docking station, each of which accommodate multiple bikes at various locations across the island. Each docking station would be geofenced and would be checked twice every day. Rental of the bikes would be available for monthly or yearly memberships, with incentives. Mr. Gibbons said that, although the Transport and Control Department classification of the vehicles was pedal bikes, third party insurance would be in place.

There would be a customer service office giving oversight of all aspects of the operation island-wide, including breakdown rescue and sidewalk misuse. Any parking fines would be billed to the renter. There would be an age restriction and identification process, safety would be paramount, and an in-built maximum speed of 15 km. The docking stations electricity meters could be independent, be in partnership with participating entities with an opportunity for advertising on the bikes such as City Events, or by solar panels installed atop of the docking stations.

Mr. Gibbons said that the first delivery of the bikes and docking stations would be in November 2022. Installation would be expected during the second week in December 2022.

Mr. Gibbons requested three (3) locations around the City for a single docking station of 12 bikes at each location. He suggested a docking station at the Bermuda Tourism Authority facility on Front Street, behind City Hall to accommodate office buildings and East Broadway for those companies to ride into the center of the City and return. Companies had also requested a docking station in their underground car parks. The app would show each docking station and the number of bays available. A bike dropped at a docking station where there were no available bays could be locked and left, as long as the bike was within the geofence surrounding the docking station, in which case the customer service office would be automatically notified.

The CEO/City Secretary thanked Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Bluck for a very informative and inspiring presentation. The initiative adequately addressed the issue of abandoned bikes and did not require legislation to operate. He recognised that, following several presentations by others, micro-mobility was the future in Bermuda. The COH had been considering several options for locations around the City where mobility companies could exist on an equal playing field. The initiative would work well with the COH's model and a more substantive proposal would be ready within a few months.

Mr. Gibbons said that the docking stations would not be interchangeable with other companies mobility vehicles.

The Mayor said that he appreciated the presentation.

Mr. Bluck and Mr. Gibbons left the meeting at 10.55 am.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Minutes of the Previous Infrastructure Committee Meeting dated 14 September 2022 (Public Session)

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming

Seconded: Councillor J. Brimmer

The Minutes were accepted as read.

8. Matters Arising from the Previous Infrastructure Committee Meeting dated 14 September 2022 (Public Session)

8.1 Traffic Issues Review and Design Report

Carry out community consultation on the proposals as it related to the change of use for the six (6) parking bays on Laffan Street and the six (6) parking bays on Washington Street. On hold. **(COO/City Engineer)** Action item had not been completed.

8.2 Angle Street Speed Bump

Following the community survey, carry out the installation of the speed bumps on Angle Street by the end of 2021. **(COO/City Engineer)** This would be carried out on approval of the new Traffic Calming Policy. Action item had not been completed.

8.3 Traffic Calming Policy

As there were no regulations in Bermuda for creating speed bumps, the COH would write a Speed Bumps Policy. **(COO/City Engineer)** The COO/City Engineer presented a draft Traffic Calming Policy noting that diagrams would be added. It was thought that imperial measurements could be included and the emergency services would include the police. The Mayor noted a contradiction in the first paragraph referring to Dundonald Street which currently had several speed bumps and where there was frequent freight traffic. Action item had not been completed.

8.4 Paving Works Schedule

After survey, the results of the annual sidewalk and road assessments would be published to inform the community of upcoming works due to take place in the coming year. In 2022, this would include all work carried out since 2014. **(COO/City Engineer)** The COO/City Engineer said that the Asset Management Plan had been completed in conjunction with advices from the Residents Advisory Committee. The Public Relations Manager was currently formatting a document which would be published. Action item had not been completed.

8.5 SSL Public Tariff Rate 2023

Request the Audited Financial Statement for Stevedoring Services Limited, as it relates to the request from Polaris Holding Company Limited, for a tariff rate increase of 3% for 2023. The Audited Financial Statement would be available after the Annual General Meeting to be held on 21 September 2022. To be forwarded to Finance Committee for Recommendation. Action item completed.

8.6 Proposed Parking Bays - Canal Road

Ascertain confirmation of the land ownership and other aspects of the proposal, as it relates to the request by Mr. Glen Smith for the COH to create a parking area and sidewalk adjacent to the new distribution facility on Canal Road and circulate a list of reservations to the Committee. The COO/City Engineer said that he had written to inform Mr. Smith with the Committee's decision to convert the bays on the southern side of Canal Road to one (1) hour parking. Mr. Smith had responded requesting further consideration. The Mayor reminded the meeting of the previous Committee discussion.

He fully supported the COO/City Engineer, in that, planning for a public service facility should have included parking bays on its property, rather than request the City to provide and pay for convenient parking. There existed 12 staff parking bays at the side of the property. The COO/City Engineer suggested that the owner could gift the land with the sidewalk to the COH and build the bays at their expense. The facility was a short walk from Bull's Head car park. The CEO/City Secretary said that the COH would always consider how to enable businesses to thrive, particularly in areas where there was a scarcity. The COO/City Engineer said that discussions and the land swap process had taken over four (4) years to come to the current agreement, which would again require a land swap process should the COH agree to the request. Action item completed.

ACTION:

Arrange a meeting with Mr. Glen Smith to further discuss the requested parking bays at the new distribution facility on Canal Road and come to a mutual solution. **(COO/City Engineer)**

8.7 Assessment of Parking Bays in Angle Street Area

Make an assessment of parking bays in the area around Angle Street, for the correct proportion of parking needs for residents, businesses and services, to ensure each had access to sufficient parking via drop-off areas, loading zones, etc. **(COO/City Engineer)**
Action item had not been completed.

9. Resolutions Approved by the Minister

That the Board approve the sponsorship request to waive the rental fees for Grateful Bread Early Thanksgiving Giveaway to the Needy, to be held at Nellie's Walk on Saturday, 12 November 2022.

That the Board approve a one-year full license, including terms and conditions, be issued to Horizon Communications upon the expiry of the temporary license, as it relates to the 23 installations of communication units on COH poles throughout the City, at a yearly cost of \$500 per unit.

That the Board approve a notice to vacate period for the water tank at No.8 Dock, be written into the peppercorn rent lease agreement with Government, at twelve (12) months.

Councillor Edwards joined the meeting at 11.27 am.

10. Recommendations for Review

10.1 Bermuda Swizzle Event

The CEO/City Secretary said that the Bermuda Tourism Authority was often not given sufficient time to comply with the COH event sponsorship process which required applications to be received six (6) weeks before each event. The working relationship between the COH and the BTA was a good community partnership, to the benefit of Bermuda. The Chairman said that the BTA had been consistently late with applications for events, even after being officially informed in writing of the lead in time requirement of six (6) weeks. The Mayor said that event planning and budgeting would be vital aspects for the benefit of both parties.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board decline the request from the Bermuda Tourism Association to waive the rental fee for Barr's Bay Park for the Bermuda Swizzle Festival that was held on 25 September 2022. The request had been submitted late.

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming

Seconded: Councillor J. Brimmer

Motion Passed

11. Status Updates

11.1 Marketing & Communication

The Taste of Bermuda event was very successful. Stats on advertising were being compiled and would be sent to sponsors and stakeholders.

- 14 October: Dudley Eve Park official opening would take place at 12 noon - a media event with Councillors. The Mayor noted the history of the park, whereby he, supported by the Council, was instrumental in the COH's purchase of the land and plans drawn for improvement of the North Hamilton area, including the speed bump. Upon his return as Mayor, the vision was now realised. He said that this was a small example of what could be accomplished by a committed COH Council.
- 14 October: Made in Bermuda Nights in the evening - a free community event.
- 29 October: Fresh Air Films for Halloween - two (2) movies - Fort Hamilton.
- 25 November: Mayor's Reception. Councillor Harvey suggested that, as this may be the last Christmas of the current Administration, this event should be more festive and invitations requiring RSVP, be sent to the wider community. A new budget would be agreed.
- 25 November: Tree Lighting following the Mayor's Reception.
- 2 December: Marquee Sign Unveiling.
- 10 December: Boat Parade would finish with a firework display. Retailers encouraged to stay open for late shopping.
- 16 December: Movie in the Park. Retailers encouraged to stay open for late shopping.
- 17 December: Staff Christmas Party - Pier-6.

A pamphlet detailing the works which had been carried out in North East Hamilton, would be dropped to residents and businesses, together with a tv commercial.

There was a waiting list for Pier-6 bookings for Christmas and the New Year.

ACTION:

All City events would be notified to the Council Members online calendar. **(Recording Secretary)**

ACTION:

Review the Mayor's Reception event for 25 November 2022 and increase the invitations to the wider community, requiring RSVP. **(Director of Marketing and Communications)**

11.2 Take Note: Project Charters 2022

- Pier-6 - near completion. The Infrastructure Committee would make a site visit immediately after the meeting.
- City Hall painting - roof and external walls.
- Christmas decorations were being put up around the City.
- Triathlon - 5 and 6 November - there would be traffic disruption with 4-day road closures - effected businesses and stakeholders had been advised. A cruise ship is expected on Friday and Saturday (4th and 5th November) with tours on Saturday during the Triathlon.
- Front Street Pipework replacement design work and tender were being prepared.
- Microscreening design work ongoing - awaiting planning permission.
- Installation of the Bermuda Marquee Sign - awaiting planning permission - tender would be prepared and installation would be after the Triathlon.

Councillor Brimmer had reviewed the new Events Contract and noted that Pier-6 was stated as a rain date for events. The words "upon availability" should be added to the Contract wording.

The Mayor said that it had come to his notice that a number of restaurant ratepayers regarded Pier-6 as competition. He suggested that an Open House for restauranteurs and hoteliers be arranged. The Director of Marketing and Communications said that an open house for the industry was planned for Q1 2023.

12. Government's Water and Wastewater Plan - Update

There was no update.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Assault in Par-La-Ville Car Park

The Chairman said that he had received an email from a lady who explained the circumstances whereby she and her elderly mother had been accosted in Par-La-Ville car park. He said that the offender had been identified and was being dealt with by the Bermuda Police Service. The CEO/City Secretary said that once the BPS had dealt with the criminal act, the COH could serve the individual with a registered letter stating that he is barred from the premises. Should he then be seen on the premises, he would be committing an offence and could be arrested. The Mayor said that a letter would not be sufficient action in such circumstances.

Councillor Edwards said that there was a group of vagrants who frequently meet in Queen Elizabeth Park.

The CEO/City Secretary said that he had been embarrassed to note many comments on social media, where aggressive harrassment was continually taking place in the City, by the homeless. This issue would be brought up at the the presentation by the BPS at the Special Corporation Board Meeting to be held on 14 October 2022, which would discuss policing in the City.

The Mayor noted that, whilst the COH was very concerned about the ongoing issue, until the COH was given authority to take action, it could do nothing. Discussion ensued.

The Chairman said that he would respond to the lady's email after the presentation by with the BPS.

The CEO/City Secretary said that the BPS had not been effective in Hamilton and it had been agreed to provide a budget to pay for Extra Duty Police Officers to patrol North and South Hamilton, a service for which ratepayers effectively pay twice. He said that ratepayers were disappointed in the effectiveness of the patrols and did not feel comfortable to continue with the expense. In January 2023, a decision would be made whether to continue to pay for the Extra Duty Police Officers.

13.2 Concessions to Encourage Building Projects

Forwarded from the Board Meeting held on 5 October 2022, to compile a list together with criteria, as it relates to potential concessions which the COH could offer to encourage building projects in the City. **(CFO/Acting City Secretary)** The Mayor encouraged all Council Members to attend a Restricted Session Special Corporation Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 10.00 am, for a presentation. Action item had not been completed.

13.3 Request for Commercial Vehicle Parking Options

The COO/City Engineer said that he had received a request from Mr. John Robbins of Switchworx Ltd, to convert some of the existing cycle parking bays, adjacent to his business at Power House on Serpentine Road, into commercial vehicle parking bays for rental. The Director of Marketing and Communications noted that Bermuda Athletic Association were undertaking a marketing plan to rent their parking bays for commercial and private use, as the cheapest option in the City. This would affect parking in Bull's Head car park. The COO/City Engineer said that commercial parking bays were rented to the business on the top floor of Bull's Head car park at a rate of \$5 per hour.

The COO/City Engineer suggested offering two (2) commercial parking bays out of the existing five (5), initially. He noted that the parking lot was not currently being used.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve to offer two (2) parking bays as commercial vehicle parking for rent, to Switchworx Ltd.

Proposed: Councillor H. Ming

Seconded: Councillor J. Brimmer

Unanimous

13.4 Presentation - Bermuda Karting Club - NE Hamilton Race

The Chairman invited comments on the presentation made by Mr. Scott Barnes, for sponsorship of the Bermuda Karting Club race in North Hamilton in April 2023. The event had been cancelled in 2021. The CEO/City Secretary said that he would fully support the proposal as it would generate dynamic interest in the area. The event would make North Hamilton the center of activity where businesses would be greatly benefitted and would open the area to first time visitors. Councillor Brimmer also fully supported the sponsorship. Councillor Edwards noted the manhole cover on the route of the last race which had not yet been repaired.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the sponsorship of the Bermuda Karting Club's International Race by the waiver of costs for the barricades and street closures which would be required along the route in North East Hamilton. Labour costs would be charged. Mr. Barnes would provide a detailed plan of the route, confirmation of the weekend date in April 2023, and the paperwork for the support of the houses of worship in North Hamilton.

Proposed: Councillor J. Brimmer

Seconded: Councillor R. Edwards

Unanimous

13.5 Presentation - Oleander Cycles-E-Bike Stations in the City

The CEO/City Secretary said that a decision on the proposal was not required at this time. The presentation was for information only at this stage. He said that, together with the COO/City Engineer, locations had been earmarked for this and similar ventures and the next steps would be considered in due course once legislation had been clarified. The Mayor said that he did not consider the Oleander Cycles-E-Bikes would be illegal. The CEO/City Secretary said that expected legislation would take account of all such vehicles and until there was clarity, he would not be in a position to support the proposal. A framework to accommodate three (3) current similar proposals would need to be planned in advance.

The Mayor said that the locations for electric car charging stations, including car parks, would be considered by the COO/City Engineer.

The COO/City Engineer said that a budget for both items had recently been considered.

13.6 Victoria Street Sidewalk Development

The Mayor referred to the sidewalk refurbishment on Victoria Street which had been undertaken over the last few years, including replacement of trees and a retaining wall, had produced a pristine sidewalk. He wished to convey his congratulations to the staff and Executive involved in the work which had been extremely well done.

13.7 Car Park Barrier Management

The Mayor had noted that inquiries calls at car park barriers, should be answered within three (3) rings, as good customer service. The CEO/City Secretary said that there was a significant number of incoming calls for assistance during night time and early hours, to which COH staff were required to attend. He also recognised that there was a financial cost in overtime payments. The Mayor said that a log of all such calls would be required in order to track and address the issue.

14. Motion to Move to Restricted Session

Proposed: Councillor J. Brimmer

Seconded: Councillor R. Edwards