



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**  
**RESIDENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, October 6, 2022, 4:00 pm  
Mayor's Parlour, City Hall, Hamilton

Present: Councillor Jenefer Brimmer, Chair  
Councillor Henry Ming  
Councillor RoseAnn Edwards

Apologies: Rt. Wor. Charles R. Gosling, JP  
Councillor George Scott, JP  
Sarah Thompson - Associate Member  
Donte Hunt (BEDC) - Associate Member  
PC Christopher Douglas - City Constable

Staff: CEO/City Secretary - Dwayne A. Caines, JP  
COO/City Engineer - Patrick Cooper  
Public Relations Manager - Helen Zoellner

Apologies: CFO/Acting City Secretary - Tanya Iris  
Director of Marketing & Communications – Jessica Astwood

In Attendance: Mr. Mansfield Armstrong  
Mr. Coy Ratterary  
Operations Manager - Allan Somner  
Parks Superintendent - Steven DeSilva

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**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 Jenefer Brimmer confirmed her role as the Chair.

**3. Open Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 4.02 pm.

#### 4. Apologies

The CEO/City Secretary confirmed that apologies had been received from Associate Member Ms. Sarah Thompson, Associate Member (BEDC) Donte Hunt and Director of Marketing and Communications. The City Constable, PS Christopher Douglas, was due to join the meeting via Zoom but was prevented due to internet connectivity issues.

#### 5. Public Participation/Presentation

##### 5.1 Mr. Mansfield Armstrong

The Chair welcomed Mr. Mansfield Armstrong to the meeting and invited him to present to the Committee.

Mr. Armstrong said that he had lived in Hamilton, on Elliott Street between Court Street and Princess Street, for the past five (5) years. He said that parking on one side of the street was Residential Parking and the other side was all-day parking. Until recently he was able to park anywhere on the street as there had been far fewer cars coming into the City. He was now unable to obtain a Residential Parking sticker from the COH as his landlord had failed to pay City rates. Mr. Armstrong had paid his portion of the rates to the landlord. He had come to the COH for help and advice in respect of obtaining a Residential parking bay so that he would no longer be ticketed.

The Chair thanked Mr. Armstrong and appreciated the seriousness of the matter. She advised that the CEO/City Secretary would be in touch with him with a solution.

*Mr. Armstrong left the meeting at 4.07 pm.*

##### **ACTION:**

Arrange a meeting with Mr. Mansfield Armstrong, as it relates to a Residential Parking bay sticker until such time as his landlord settled the outstanding rates. **(CEO/City Secretary)**

##### 5.2 Tree Trimming on Dundonald Street

The Chair welcomed Mr. Coy Ratteray to the meeting and invited him to present to the Committee.

Mr. Ratteray said that he was a resident at 65 Dundonald Street. He wished to pass on his thanks to all COH staff who worked around the City. He noted that his City rates were paid up to date. Mr. Ratteray said that he had previously been asked to become a member of the Residents Advisory Committee and he had declined as he did not want to be a part of a Committee which did not have teeth. He asked Councillor Edwards to confirm this, which she did. Mr. Ratteray had previously informed the Mayor that, in his opinion, the Mayor gave no consideration to North Hamilton, which the Mayor strongly disagreed with.

Mr. Ratteray said that there was a lack of consistent tree cutting and maintenance in the North Hamilton area. He said that for eight (8) years he had made requests to Mr. Steven DeSilva that the trees should be kept to a height below his roof line to avoid leaves and branches falling on the roof and into the water tank and Mr. DeSilva had agreed. This had not been done. Mr. Ratteray suggested that the particular tree was not appropriate for the area and should be replaced with a smaller tree. Mr. Ratteray said that his requests had been ignored over the years, however, similar changes had been made in other areas around the City, for example, on Victoria Street.

Mr. Ratteray said that the COH did not give North Hamilton the same attention as Front Street in that there were no recreational areas and it lacked infrastructure, issues which had not been addressed.

Mr. Ratteray said that BELCo were currently trenching on every major roadway on the Island, yet North Hamilton was not a priority. Mr. Ratteray asked the CEO/City Secretary if it was because his brother as CEO of BELCo, that action was not being taken and North Hamilton. The CEO/City Secretary said that was a significant personal and unfounded allegation which sits at the core and center of his integrity. He said that he did his job without fear or favour. The CEO/City Secretary wished it to be recorded that he had taken umbrage at the allegation of his integrity by which he lived. The CEO/City Secretary reminded Mr. Ratteray that the COH did not have any authority over the activities of BELCo in the City.

The CEO/City Secretary referred to Mr. Ratteray's comments that North Hamilton was being ignored. He said that North Hamilton had been the first to be cleaned up after the storm. He said that the data will show that significant activity in North Hamilton had taken place, at great expense. He advised Mr. Ratteray that the COH owned the roads and sidewalks in the City. The majority of the properties in North Hamilton were privately owned, which limited the impact of the COH. He said that the COH did not have a social service infrastructure and Mr. Ratteray's challenges were intertwined with socioeconomic issues which had nothing to do with the COH and which should be addressed at the national governmental level.

The CEO/City Secretary said that he acknowledged Mr. Ratteray's frustrations however only the issue of the trees could be addressed by the COH. The trees represented a complicated historical ecosystem among roadways and sidewalks, which the COH endeavoured to balance and manage. The replacement of trees and their surrounding infrastructure was expensive, a schedule of priorities existed and a plan to communicate those priorities to the community was developing. The COH had also experienced strong objections to felling trees as there was minimal green spaces in the City.

The CEO/City Secretary said that the pruning of trees would be done in accordance with the schedule of works. The Parks Superintendent said that he was sorry that he was unable to assuage Mr. Ratteray as the tree referred to had been scheduled to be pruned in August, however, this had not taken place. The CEO/City Secretary said that the arborist had been on long term sick leave due to an injury. The team was now back to work and tree trimming to the roof line had commenced. He would ensure that Mr. Ratteray was kept informed of the tree trimming schedule in the area. Mr. Ratteray thanked Mr. DeSilva for his genuine and forthright answers.

The CEO/City Secretary recognised that there was always room for improvement, however, he wished to challenge the narrative that the COH did not take North Hamilton seriously, which was not true. He would ensure that Mr. Ratteray and the community would be kept informed of the tree trimming schedule and other activities in the area.

*Mr. Ratteray left the meeting at 4.29 pm.*

The CEO/City Secretary said that the community in North Hamilton should be informed at every opportunity, of the work that the COH does in the area, for example, it has spent \$250,000 on Extra Duty Police Officers so far, together with sponsorship of events, amongst others. He said that the resident Councillors would advocate for the COH in North Hamilton, supported by the data, and that the negative perception must change. Councillor Brimmer recognised the importance of the role of the Councillors in this respect.

**6. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**7. Minutes of the Previous Residents Advisory Committee Meeting dated 7 July 2022**

**Proposed:** Councillor H. Ming

**Seconded:** Councillor R. Edwards

The Minutes were accepted as read.

**8. Matters Arising from the Previous Residents Advisory Committee dated 7 July 2022**

**8.1 CCTV Cameras**

**Await an update from the Bermuda Police Service, as it relates to CCTV cameras being repaired or replaced in the vicinity of Dudley Eve Park.** The CEO/City Secretary said that the Government were in the advanced stages of providing a CCTV camera network. Action item completed.

**8.2 Meeting of the Street Vendors in North Hamilton**

Reschedule a meeting with the North Hamilton Vendors in order to explain the role of the COH in support of the businesses. **(CEO/City Secretary)** Action item had not been completed.

**8.3 Cycle Parking**

Make a review of the area near the Four-Star Pizza business, with a view to installing cycle parking close to the businesses. **(COO/City Engineer)** Action item had not been completed.

#### **8.4 Dudley Eve Park**

**Circulate the video of Mr. Dudley Eve to the Committee, as it relates to the QR Code information.** The Public Relations Manager said that there would be a media event of the official opening of Dudley Eve Park, which would take place on Friday, 14 October 2022 at 12 noon. A Made in Bermuda Night would follow in the evening. Mr. DeSilva said that the bronze plaque in the COH livery, would be affixed to the railing on the landing at the top of the steps. Another sign will be installed in the Park. Permanent planters would be placed either side of the stairs on Court Street. It was hoped that the murals would be installed by the opening day and the artist present. Action item completed.

#### **9. Resolutions Approved by the Minister**

There were no Resolutions approved by the Minister.

#### **10. Recommendations for Review**

There were no Recommendations for review.

#### **11. Status Update**

##### **11.1 Marketing & Communications**

The Public Relations Manager said that the Taste of Bermuda event had been very successful. A press release including a video had been sent out.

A Fresh Air Movies event would be held at Fort Hamilton with two (2) movies.

##### **11.2 Take Note: Project Charters 2022**

- Seating/Planters for Court Street would be delivered on 17 October 2022.

- Victoria Street tree planting would be completed in November 2022.

- Christmas Decorations in North Hamilton - the inventory had been increased to include different decorations, as well as replacing cross-street decorations. The tree usually installed at the junction of Court Street and Dundonald Street had historically been abused and urinated upon making it hazardous for staff to manage. Discussion ensued.

- North Street and Court Street pump stations had been refurbished.

- The tree on the Court Street sidewalk which had caused damage to private property and was also a pedestrian trip hazard, was not able to be rectified and had been removed. The COO/City Engineer said that this situation was far more complex than it looked on the surface. The tree root had push the sidewalk up by under one (1) inch and had been reported as a trip hazard. It was discovered that there were utility lines running through the roots of the tree and the COH awaited the utility companies to further lower the lines into the ground before work could continue. The CEO/City Secretary said that a door to door flyer would be sent to inform the surrounding community of the progress. Councillor Edwards requested that door to door flyers be sent out when there were changes to the trash collections.

**ACTION:**

Arrange a flyer drop to inform the community surrounding the tree on the Court Street sidewalk which had caused damage to private property and was also a pedestrian trip hazard. The tree had been removed and utility lines would be lowered. The site would then be prepared for a young tree to be planted using a root guard system. The sidewalk would then be repaired. **(Public Relations Manager)**

**12. Utility Works Update**

There was no update.

**13. Residential Development - BEDC Update**

Mr. Donte Hunt was not in attendance and therefore could not bring a update.

**14. Budget Wish List**

Items for the Budget Wish List in preparation for the 2023 Budget Review meeting to be held in October 2022.

The COO/City Engineer said that the Infrastructure Committee had discussed the capital items for the 2023 Budget. The Chair said that she had emailed the COO/City Engineer with suggestions for the Budget as being the entry arch on Court Street and Victoria Street, and a permanent venue for a vendor's market. The COO/City Engineer said that more detailed vision for a vendor's market with a full project description and location would be needed before a budget could be considered.

**15. Any Other Business**

**15.1 Perception of the COH**

The CEO/City Secretary raised the matter of the City residents and businesses historical perception of the COH, particularly in North Hamilton, which would be represented by the Residents Advisory Committee. He said that it was a duty of care for the COH to set the standard of what the City would look like and to inform the community of the positive work that was done in the area at any opportunity.

**15.2 Additional Parking on North Street - World Distributors**

A request from Mr. Jason Cuoco of World Distributors, for additional parking bays on North Street, opposite the TCD entrance gate, for customers of his business. The Operations Manager had been approached by Mr. Cuoco and it had been suggested that the matter be forwarded to the Infrastructure Committee. The COO/City Engineer said that previous discussions on similar matters had been exhaustive and that it had been agreed that the road was not wide enough for additional parking on North Street. He said that this was a recurring request which had previously been denied. The Chair agreed that these discussions and numerous meetings had already taken place, and a letter should be written to Mr. Cuoco outlining the reasons for the COH's decision to deny the request. The COO/City Engineer noted that the recently employed Parking Enforcement Officers were ticketing more vehicles in the area, prompting the request for dedicated parking.

The Operations Manager said that he had taken measurements at the site and said that, in his opinion, the road could be made wide enough for additional parking at the site. He said that each request should be given fair and reasonable consideration. The COO/City Engineer said that he would share with the Operations Manager the previous work done on this matter, together with the letters sent out to previous requests with full explanations.

The CEO/City Secretary said that businesses should make their own provision for parking at their premises which should be included in the business plan.

**ACTION:**

Write to Mr. Jason Cuoco of World Distributors to outline the reasons for denying the request for additional parking at his premises on North Street and share with the Operations Managers the history of the matter. **(COO/City Engineer)**

**16. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 3 November 2022.

**17. Meeting Closed**

The meeting closed at 5.11 pm.