CITY HALL RENOVATIONS
STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Wednesday, October 17, 2007
11:30 a.m.
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre
One Summer’s Lane, Hamilton

Present: Councillor M. Pearson, Vice Chair
Councillors C. Collins, T. Whitehead

Absent with Regrets: Councillor L. Ferguson – Personal Business

Also Present: M. Hazell, Director, Parking and By-law Services
G. Davis, Senior Director, Capital Planning and Implementation
T. Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance
C. Biggs, City Clerk’s Office

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS FORWARDED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Revisiting Councillors’ Parking

(Collins/Whitehead)
That staff be authorized and directed to close Municipal Car Park 69 to the public
and that it be reserved for Council members’ parking.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) Call to Order/Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pearson called the meeting to order and asked of there were any declarations of interest, of which there were none.
(b) Changes to the Agenda

None.

(c) Approval of Previous Minutes – October 1, 2007

(Collins/Whitehead)
That the minutes of the October 1, 2007 meeting of the City Hall Renovation Steering Committee be adopted as presented. CARRIED

(d) Revisiting Councillors’ Parking

Marty Hazell advised that after discussion of Councillors’ parking at a previous meeting, the Committee agreed to take no action, and to revisit this issue at a future date.

Since that time, the Mayor and many members of Council have requested that the issue of Councillors’ parking be revisited by this Committee.

Mr. Hazell suggested that Municipal Carpark 69, which is located immediately to the east of the York Street Parkade and accommodates 18 spaces, be closed to the public and be designated as “reserved” for the Mayor and Councillors. There are a few cars with monthly passes that utilize this lot currently; however, they can be moved to other locations.

When asked what type of control would be put in place for the use of this lot, staff responded that it would be signed with “authorized parking only” and permits would be used.

With respect to complaints being received from businesses in the vicinity and the Farmers’ Market if this change is made, staff responded that a number of complaints have already been received with respect to City vehicles parking at meters on James Street and York Blvd. for long periods of time. Staff is looking into an alternate location(s) to accommodate City vehicles in an attempt to free up the meters on both James Street and York Blvd. Staff also advised that the majority of market shoppers use the parkade because of the one-hour free; however, the farmers’ market will appreciate the removal of City vehicles on York Blvd.

Questions were asked with respect to the top floor of the York Parkade, and whether that could be used for City vehicles. Staff responded that there are some safety issues in terms of some City vehicles not being able to manoeuvre their way through the tight turns in the parkade. Staff also advised that other uses are being investigated for the use of the top level.
Councillor Collins indicated that he has not experienced any problems/difficulty finding parking space close to the City Centre.

Councillor Whitehead indicated that he is constantly having to circle the downtown to find a parking space, which is wasted time.

Councillor Pearson advised that to date, she has not had difficulty looking for parking space.

Mr. Hazell advised that Municipal Carpark Lot 69 generally operates at “break even”; therefore, there would not be any financial impact to closing this lot to the public.

As a result of the above-noted discussions, the Committee is submitting the above-noted recommendation for the consideration of the Public Works Committee.

On a separate matter, Councillor Collins requested staff to repair the potholes in Municipal Carpark 69 as soon as possible to avoid any liability issues.

(e) Other Business

None

(f) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor M. Pearson
Vice Chair

C. Biggs
Legislative Assistant
October 17, 2007