

CITY COUNCIL #30-74

November 28, 1974.

5:30 p.m.

A Special Meeting of City Council was held today with the following members present - His Worship Mayor E.C. Lumley, Aldermen G. Leger, A. LeBlanc, G. Samson, F. Guindon, G. Cameron, K. Bough, A. Lebano, J. Pescod and M. Holden.

Mayor Lumley apologized for calling the meeting on such short notice, however, the news that the YM-YWCA was in such dire straits did not reach him until last weekend. He explained that he had learned of the situation while meeting with the Kinsmen Club executive on another matter. The Club has had meetings with the 'Y' and has looked at the possibility of taking over the facilities. However, this would take several months to accomplish, and the 'Y' Board has announced that it will close on Saturday, November 30th. The mayor reminded members of Council that about a year ago there had been discussions about the City taking over the facilities and operating the program in conjunction with the 'Y' and the only reason the proposal had been turned down then was because Council would have had to go back to the 'Y' Board to change any facilities.

Mayor Lumley suggested that Council consider funding on a temporary basis the operation of the 'Y' until such time as the new Council takes office and can make a final decision. Temporary funding is under the Council's jurisdiction if taken from current funds. This would afford the City an opportunity to take over the facilities which could provide facilities for senior citizens, possibly day care centre and others. The cost factor is not that involved to bring the building up to par. Total liabilities are \$65,000 to \$70,000 (some is the City's for back taxes), renovations would cost approximately \$40,000. Part of LIP grant money (approximately \$12,000) could be allocated for labour costs. Operating costs would be

approximately \$62,000 per year.

Discussion ensued when a number of members of Council stated that they were sympathetic with the 'Y'. However, they also expressed concern over such short notice at a very inopportune time which could result in a vote that would not necessarily reflect the feelings of the people.

The President of the 'Y' stated that they had been approached by the City to come and explain their problem. The timing is unfortunate but a board is like a Council; it takes time to convince some people.

The Treasurer advised that the City does not have an allocation of \$10,000 as such. If expenditures remain on the same level we will have excess funds in the overall 1974 budget.

The Solicitor advised that this Council is restricted by the Municipal Act to deal with matters of an emergency nature from polling day to the time the new Council takes over. In his opinion a case could be made that this is an emergency. He suggested that if the Council is thinking in terms of a grant there should be some restriction that the funds are to meet that indebtedness that is necessary to keep the facility operating and not to satisfy present creditors.

It was moved by Alderman Leger, seconded by Alderman Holden that the City make a grant to the YM-YWCA up to an amount of \$10,000 to cover operating expenditures only, until the end of January 1975 by which time the new Council will have the right of first refusal on the property and in the event the City does not acquire the property all monies paid by the City, including taxes owing, will be repaid to the City.

An amendment was made by Alderman Samson, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc, that any decision be deferred for 7 days.

1900

A vote on the amendment resulted as follows -

For the Amendment - Aldermen A. LeBlanc & G. Samson
Against the Amendment - Aldermen M. Holden, G. Leger,
J. Pescod, A. Lebano, K. Bough, G. Cameron & F. Guindon.

A vote on the motion resulted as follows -

For the Motion - Aldermen M. Holden, G. Leger, J. Pescod,
A. Lebano, K. Bough, G. Cameron and F. Guindon.
Against the Motion - Alderman A. LeBlanc and G. Samson.

The amendment was defeated and the motion carried.

A letter from Dr. R.V. Peters on behalf of the Cornwall Academy of Medicine urging that the 'Y' not be allowed to close was tabled. It was moved by Alderman Holden, seconded by Alderman Leger, that the letter be received and filed.

On motion of Alderman Leger, seconded by Alderman Holden, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Acting Clerk



Acting Mayor