

CITY COUNCIL #28-79September 17, 1979
6 p.m.

A Special Meeting of City Council was held this evening when the following members were present - His Worship Mayor G. Parisien, Aldermen D. Armstrong, R. Aubry, G. Cameron, F. Guindon, L. Keen, R. Lalonde, A. LeBano, A. LeBlanc, B. Lynch, J. Pescod, G. Samson and G. Williamson

Business Improvement Area Downtown

Mayor Parisien introduced a format whereby one speaker representing each side would be allowed 15 minutes to address Council after which members of Council could ask for clarification on certain points. Any decision on this matter would be reserved for the regular meeting of Council on September 24th.

Moved by Aldermen Williamson and Pescod that the format as introduced by the Mayor be accepted and that Rule 10 be invoked to allow those in attendance an opportunity to address Council.

Carried.

Mr. K. Gault, representing the Downtown Association, indicated that the designation of a B.I.A. is a necessity. He went on to describe briefly the plans that the Association had been formulating and indicated that where organized properly B.I.A. has always proven successful. He indicated that the Board of Management would involve eleven (11) persons, plus one member of Council. He reminded the Council that the petition had not been sufficiently signed and that those who had signed may have been misinformed to some degree as to what a B.I.A. stands for. Mr. Gault completed his presentation by urging Council to support the majority of the commercial establishments in the downtown in their quest to implement a B.I.A.

Mr. P. McDerby, representing those petitioners who oppose the B.I.A., indicated to Council that those who had signed the petition were aware of what a B.I.A. stands for and knew what they were doing. He cautioned Council that although 154 businesses did not sign the petition it did not necessarily mean they are in favour of the plan. He reminded Council that earlier in the year when the Association held a meeting to explain the B.I.A. fewer than 10% were in attendance. He also stated that it seemed impossible to obtain from the Association the number of merchants who belong to the Association and their assessments. He even questioned whether there was a recorded resolution of the Association supporting the B.I.A. He drew to Council's attention the fact that Sydney, between First and Third contains one retail outlet only and it is the petitioners' belief that the request before Council is really for a shopping area and not a business area. He indicated that retailers seemed to be favoured by this plan and if this is the case the retailers should be picking up the costs and not others who will derive no benefit. He suggested that Council should adopt a wait and see approach

until after Cornwall Square has been active for a while and determine how much support there is behind the request. The latter is one point that has never been clarified.

Mr. George Assaly, a member of the audience, impressed on Council the need for a B.I.A. and the support such a plan has from the Provincial Government. He indicated that if Council is to agree with this proposal it would be supporting the suggestions made by provincial officers that a two-tier management would be acceptable in the downtown.

R. O. O'Leary
Clerk

Neil Jensen
Mayor

Sept 24 / 79

COUNCIL ACTION

COMMUNICATIONS (REG)

COMMUNICATIONS (CONSENT)

COMMUNICATIONS (CLOSED)

APPROVED

RECEIVED

FILED

DEFER

COMMENTS _____

CLERK *RO*