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MINUTES
OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE
CITY OF OTTAWA

1956

DATE DATE	NUMBER, DEPARTMENT OR NAME NUMÉRO, DÉPARTEMENT OU NOM	TAKEN BY RETIRE PAR	DATE DATE	NUMBER, DEPARTMENT OR NAME NUMÉRO, DÉPARTEMENT OU NOM	TAKEN BY RETIRE PAR
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City Council, January 3rd, 1956.

xTo McLaughlin Bros. Contractors Ltd.

\$ 18,055.73 for construction of a storm sewer on Riverside Drive, Industrial Ave., Northeast St., Alta Vista Drive, Station Boulevard and Russell Road.

14. CITY HALL, NEW.

The Board of Control reports receipt of the report of the Board of Assessors on the Architectural Competition for a new City Hall.

The report is as follows:

"In order to secure the best design, the City Council, at a meeting held on Dec. 20, 1954, approved of the holding of an Architectural Competition for a new City Hall for the City of Ottawa. The competition closed on Dec. 10, 1955, 12 o'clock noon, and thirty-seven entries were received, representing work of Canadian Architects from coast to coast.

The following Assessors were appointed by your Board of Control:

Her Worship Mayor Charlotte Whitton, C.B.E.

Mr. A. T. Galt Durnford (F), A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A., Architect, of the firm of Durnford, Bolton and Chadwick, 901 Victoria Square, Montreal, P.Q.

Mr. George D. Gibson, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., Architect, President of the Ontario Association of Architects.

Mr. John Layng, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., Architect, 170 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont.

Mr. C. Maxwell Taylor, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., Building Inspector and Supervising Architect for the City of Ottawa.

Mr. G. C. Medcalf, Q.C., City Solicitor, who shall be Chairman of the Board of Assessors.

The Board of Assessors met on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, to judge the entries and the judging continued on Wednesday, Dec. 14th. After careful consideration of all factors involved in this architectural competition, the Board of Assessors have judged the winning design to be that of:

City Council, January 3rd, 1956.

Winning Design
12 Riverside St. W.
MONTREAL, P.Q.
(Vincent Babin, M.R.A.I.C.)
(John Babin, F.R.A.I.C.)
(Charles Elliot Tremblay, M.R.A.I.C.)

Prize of \$5,000

Two other awards of \$1,500 and \$1,000, making a total of \$7,500, are respectively as follows:

1st and 2nd - J. S. L. Lavoie, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., A.R.I.B.A.,
13 Bank St. West, TORONTO, Ont.

3rd and 4th - Rogers and Wilson, Architects, 61 Avenue Road,
TORONTO, Ont.

UNJUDGED DESIGNS (Alphabetically)

1st and 2nd - (Walter Babin, M.R.A.I.C.)
13 Bank St. West, TORONTO, Ont.

3rd and 4th -
13 Bank St. West,
TORONTO, Ont.

5th and 6th - J. S. L. Lavoie, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., A.R.I.B.A.,
13 Bank St. West, TORONTO, Ont.
(Harry Flett, 14 Christie St. E., TORONTO, Ont.)
(Joe A. Murray, 5 Sheffield St., TORONTO, Ont.)

7th and 8th - G. E. E. Wilson, O.B.E.,
B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C.,
(Frank David Newton, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C.)

The names of the competitors will be required to comply with Part II, General Conditions, paragraph 17, of the competition program, before submission of work.

The Board of Assessors wishes to comment on the general high standards of the designs submitted by Architects from across Canada, and express

City Council, January 3rd, 1956

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Mr. C. Maxwell Taylor, B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C., Building Inspector and Supervising Architect for the City of Ottawa.

Mr. G. C. Medcalf, Q.C., City Solicitor, who shall be Chairman of the Board of Assessors.

The Board of Assessors met on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, to judge the entries and the judging continued on Wednesday, Dec. 14th. After careful consideration of all factors involved in this architectural competition, the Board of Assessors have judged the winning design to be that of:

City Council, January 3rd, 1956.

Rother, Bland, Trudeau,	(Vincent Rother, M.R.A.I.A.)
1115 Sherbrooke St. W.,	(John Bland, F.R.A.I.C.)
MONTREAL, P.Q.	(Charles Elliott Trudeau, M.R.A.I.C.)

who shall be awarded a prize of \$5,000.00.

The two additional awards of \$1,500.00 and \$1,000.00, ranking next in order of judgment after the winner, are respectively as follows:

\$1,500.00 award—K. Sinclair Lawrie, Dip. Arch., M.R.A.I.C., A.R.I.B.A.,
124 Heath St. West, TORONTO, Ont.

\$1,000.00 award—Westeneys and Wilkes, Architects, 61 Avenue Road,
TORONTO 5, Ont.

COMMENDED DESIGNS (Alphabetically)

Abra & Balharrie,	(Watson Balharrie)
55 Metcalfe St., OTTAWA, Ont.	(Harold R. Morin)
Gilleland & Strutt,	
304 Laurier Ave. W.,	
OTTAWA, Ont.	
Henry Fliess and James A. Murray,	(Henry Fliess, 14 Charles St. E.,
Associate Architects,	TORONTO, Ont.)
	(Jas. A. Murray, 5 Sheffield St.,
	TORONTO, Ont.)
Wilson & Newton,	(G. Everett Wilson, O.B.E.,
1104 Bay St., TORONTO, Ont.	B.Arch., M.R.A.I.C.,
	(Frank David Newton, B.Arch.,
	M.R.A.I.C.)

The winner of the competition will be required to comply with Part II, General Conditions, paragraph 17, of the competition programme, before commencement of work.

The Board of Assessors wishes to comment on the general high standards of the designs submitted by Architects from across Canada, and express

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

CITY HALL BUILDING

With the permission of City Council, the following report of the City Hall Building Committee was introduced after consideration of Clause No. 20 of Report No. 4 of the Board of Control to accommodate the Architects, Messrs. Bland and Trudeau, who had come to Ottawa for the meeting and had to return to Montreal.

Her Worship the Mayor left the Chair, which was assumed by Controller Tardif, and presented the Report of the City Hall Building Committee.

REPORT OF THE CITY HALL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Committee recommends to Council that it be authorized to give instructions at once to the Architects, Rother, Bland and Trudeau, to proceed with working drawings for the City Hall as proposed on Green Island.

The Committee reports that immediately following Council's decision on January 30th arrangements were made for the Architects to meet with the Architectural Sub-Committee of the F.D.C. This meeting took place on February 2nd.

Suggestions then made, in a rough sketch, a copy of which is transmitted herewith, were taken up with the Architects by the Architectural Committee of the F.D.C.

The Architects prepared, first the report which is transmitted here as addendum (1) with the suggestions made to the City Hall Building Committee for adaptation of the plans to the Green Island Site.

The Architects then studied the sketch and the letter from the F.D.C. which was transmitted both to Council and to Board of Control, the Board of Control referring the matter at once to the City Hall Building Committee.

As addendum (2) there is attached hereto the report of the Architects in respect to these proposed changes.

There is also transmitted as part of this report the sketch of the skyline, with the revised drawings, which the Architects recommend for the adapted City Hall.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

Having taken all matters into consideration and having the Architects present, the City Hall Building Committee decided to recommend to Council, since time was so important in the matter, immediate authority to the Architects to proceed with working drawings in accordance with these changes of which the Committee unanimously approve.

The Committee moreover, instructed Her Worship the Mayor as Chairman, to advise the F.D.C. of the recommendations of the Architects, their acceptance by the City Hall Committee and to seek their early attention and it was hoped complete concurrence in these suggestions.

In so transmitting this report the Committee decided further to draw to Council's attention the assurance of the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister that the decision as to the location and nature of the City Hall rested entirely with the City itself.

The Committee is confident that with these changes made by its Architects, there will be full co-operation in the early erection of the City Hall on this site.

The Committee reports that the various negotiations are under way relative to the exchange of the lands, etc.

(Sgt.) CHARLOTTE WHITTON,
Chairman.

(Sgt.) C. M. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

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(Sgd.) CHARLOTTE WHITTON,
Chairman.

(Sgd.) C. M. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

CITY HALL BUILDING

With the permission of City Council, the following report of the City Hall Building Committee was introduced after consideration of the 20th of Report No. 4 of the Board of Control to accommodate the Messrs. Hoad and Trubshaw, who had come to Ottawa for the purpose of to return to Montreal.

Her Worship the Mayor left the Chair, which was assumed by the Mayor Trubshaw, and presented the Report of the City Hall Building Committee.

REPORT OF THE CITY HALL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Committee recommends to Council that it be authorized to instruct at once to the Architects, Hoad, Hoad and Trubshaw, to proceed with working drawings for the City Hall as proposed on Green Island.

The Committee reports that immediately following Council's decision on January 18th arrangements were made for the Architects to meet with the Architectural Sub-Committee of the F.D.C. This meeting was held on February 2nd.

Suggestions then made, in a rough sketch, a copy of which is transmitted herewith, were taken up with the Architects by the Architectural Committee of the F.D.C.

The Architects prepared, first the report which is transmitted herewith (1) with the suggestions made to the City Hall Building Committee for adaptation of the plans to the Green Island Site.

The Architects then studied the sketch and the letter from the F.D.C. which was transmitted both to Council and to Board of Control, the Board of Control referring the matter at once to the City Hall Building Committee.

As addendum (2) there is attached hereto the report of the Architects in respect to these proposed changes.

There is also transmitted as part of this report the sketch of the proposed City Hall, with the revised drawings, which the Architects recommend for the adapted City Hall.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

Addendum 1

ROTHER, BLAND, TRUDEAU

Architects and Town Planning Consultants
Montreal, Quebec

February 13th, 1956.

The Secretary,
The Board of Control,
Corporation of the City of Ottawa,
City Hall,
Ottawa, Canada.

Ottawa City Hall

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the Council's request, we have carefully studied all the factors involved in the change of site from City Hall Square to Green Island.

Consideration has been given in our study to the physical features of the site as well as to the interests of the Public, the Federal District Commission and the City Administration.

We are pleased, therefore, to advise as follows:

1. No change of plan from the ground to 7th floor inclusive is proposed or required as a result of the change of site.
2. Modifications affecting the basement and penthouse space only are based on:
 - (a) The sub-soil conditions of the site. It is considered advisable to minimize construction below ground to avoid costly waterproofing problems.
 - (b) location of the building to provide proper relationships with the main approaches, other public buildings and the island site.
 - (c) the provision of a slight increase in the mass of the building to obtain decisive contrast with the National Research Council Building.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

These modifications do not involve any change in the estimated cost of the new City Hall.

Modifications:

1. Omission of the Sub-Basement.

All parking for the required 160 cars would now be provided on one floor, the lower ground floor, which would be approximately at the existing ground level of the island.

This modification will reduce excavation and avoid the waterproofing problem. It is made possible by the difference of level between Sussex Street and the island.

The slab above the lower ground floor (as in the original plan) forms the paved platform on which the building stands at the correct level in relation to Sussex Street to maintain the fine approach to the building.

The increased setback of the building from Sussex Street, which is necessary to give the building its proper relationship to the approaches, etc., provides the additional area at the lower ground floor required for the one-floor parking.

2. Extension of the penthouse area to accommodate all mechanical and heating equipment and storage, previously accommodated in the sub-basement.

Modern practice makes it possible to operate oil-fired equipment efficiently from the top of the building as well as from the basement area. There are many large buildings in the United States and Canada designed in this way, where the basement is unsuitable for one reason or another. In this particular case considerable expense would be avoided in excavation and waterproofing. The slightly greater building mass obtained by this extension is desirable to provide decisive contrast with the National Research Council Building.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

3. Cost analysis based on cubic content.

	Existing Cubic Content of the Building	New Cubic Content of the Building After Proposed Modifications
Main Block (7 storeys)	1,297,343 cu. ft.	1,297,343 cu. ft.
Council Suite, etc.	175,799 cu. ft.	175,799 cu. ft.
Penthouse	64,410 cu. ft.	178,800 cu. ft.
Basements	896,034 cu. ft.	621,000 cu. ft.
	<hr/> 2,433,586 cu. ft.	<hr/> 2,272,942 cu. ft.

This analysis shows a reduction of 160,644 cu. ft. in the cubic content of the building with the modified plan, without sacrificing any of the accommodation provided in the original plans.

This reduction in cube would be roughly offset by the increased area of paving at ground floor level and an increase in certain structural and finishing elements.

It is considered, therefore, that on this basis there should be no increase in the estimated cost of the City Hall as modified for the Green Island Site.

It is suggested that with the new site, consideration might be given to the provision of a lounge on the penthouse floor which could be accommodated without further increase in the cube of the building. Commanding views across the Ottawa River and a fine space for the entertainment of important visitors would thus be obtained.

We should like to add that, on the basis of our study, and having regard to the function of the building, we are of the opinion that the plan and design for the new City Hall as accepted for the City Hall Square site, subject to the above modifications, is eminently suited to the Green Island site and would provide an impressive City Hall on a fine park site.

Finally, this plan and design, on the Green Island site, will permit future extension of the City Hall without interference with the design, appearance or functioning of the building, and without addition to the present estimated cost of the building.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

We enclose sketch drawings showing the proposed modifications, and we would be pleased to explain these proposals should this be considered necessary.

Yours very truly,

ROTHER, BLAND, TRUDEAU.

Addendum 2

BOARD OF CONTROL
Ottawa

February 7, 1956.

Mr. H. R. Cram,
Assistant General Manager,
Federal District Commission,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Cram:

The City Clerk will officially transmit the minutes of the special meeting of City Council on January 30th in respect to the decision of Council on the location of the proposed new City Hall, etc.

The official minutes were not cleared through the Printers in time for formal approval at last night's Council meeting. They require only this formal approval, after which the City Clerk will forward you a certified copy. In the meantime he has advised you of the general terms of Council's action.

In pursuance with the above the Board of Control on January 31st instructed that the architects in the winning competition should confer at once in the name of the City with the Architectural Sub-Committee of the F.D.C. to the end that any suggestions might be made and reported on at the earliest possible date.

The Board of Control, therefore, would be grateful for any comment or suggestions which will be referred at once to the architects for examination and report by them to the Board of Control for reference in turn to the City Hall Building Committee through whom formal report and suggestions will go forward to Council.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

It is the hope of Board of Control that all these references may be expedited to the end that any further comment or suggestions may be available before the March meeting of the F.D.C.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) C. E. PEARCE,
Secretary,
Board of Control.

Addendum 3

FEDERAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
Ottawa

File No. 211-C-2

February 9, 1956.

Mr. C. E. Pearce,
Secretary,
Board of Control,
City Hall,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Re: City Hall Plans

Dear Sir:

As requested by the City of Ottawa, the competition plans for the proposed new City Hall were thoroughly studied by the Architectural Committee of the Federal District Commission and discussed with Messrs. Bland, Rother and Trudeau, of Montreal, the architects who prepared them.

The Committee considered that the City Hall design was not the type of design which would have evolved had it been designed for Green Island. It felt that the importance of the site and building warranted a much higher structure and recommended that the city height by-law be amended to accommodate such an increase in height. The Committee considered that a building constructed to the competition drawings, when viewed from the Quebec shore, would appear insignificant compared to the scale of the waterfall and Ottawa River cliffs. On the other hand, a dignified building with a high

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

shaft on this site would be the most dominant feature of this section of Ottawa, which the Committee felt should be the function of this building.

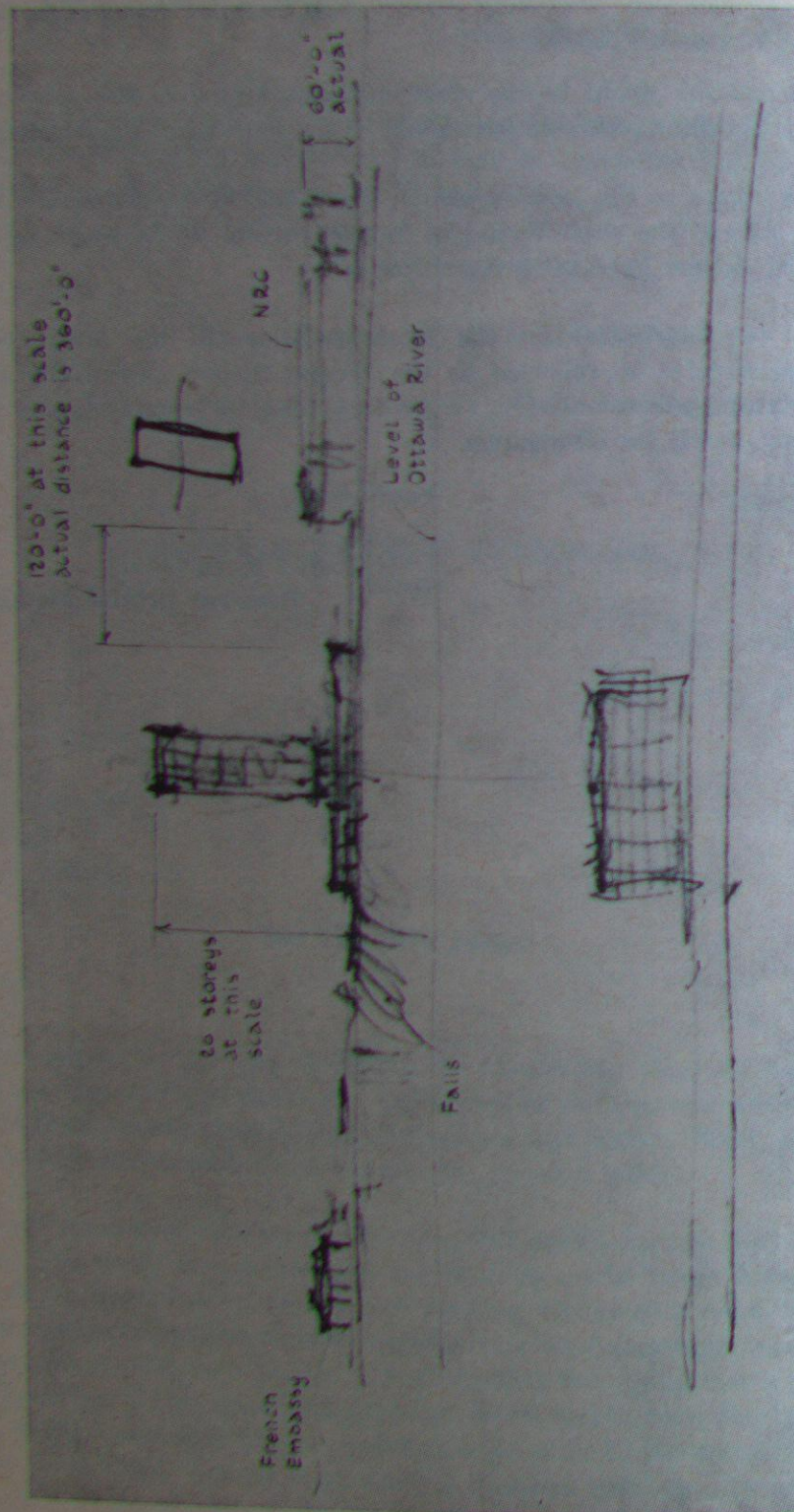
With regard to the location on the site itself, the Committee felt that the long axis of the shaft should be located parallel to the length of the Island and did not have to be centred on it.

You will appreciate that the recommendations of the Architectural Committee have to be endorsed by the Federal District Commission at a regular meeting and accordingly, we are forwarding these particulars to you at this time, purely for information.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) H. R. CRAM,
Assistant General Manager.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.



City Council, February 20th, 1956.

Addendum 5

ROTHER, BLAND, TRUDEAU

Architects and Town Planning Consultants
Montreal, Quebec

February 13th, 1956.

The Secretary,
The Board of Control,
Corporation of the City of Ottawa,
City Hall,
Ottawa, Canada.

Ottawa City Hall

Dear Sir:

We have had the opportunity to study the Green Island site and to consider the suggestions of the Architectural Committee of the Federal District Commission as proposed to us at their meeting of 2nd February, 1956.

In our study we have considered the characteristics of the site, the approaches, the relationship to other buildings and natural features in the area and to the City of Ottawa, as these relate to the City Hall design.

An analysis of Green Island shows that this site is similar to the City Hall Square site in major respects. Both are "island" sites and have the same relationship to their main approaches, Sussex Drive and Elgin Street. Gradients on both sites are similar, as would be the views of the building from the surrounding areas.

The differences between the two sites are mainly those of location and sub-soil conditions, and in our opinion are easily resolved by slight modifications to the existing design. These modifications consist of omitting the sub-basement and extending the penthouse to accommodate additional equipment and to provide a slightly greater building mass.

With these modifications the scale of the City Hall is well related to the size of the island and provides decisive contrast with the National Research Council. Its recommended location on the site maintains the character of

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

the island and gives great significance to the City Hall from its main approach along Sussex Drive.

The actual accommodation of the building is not changed as a result of change of site. The arrangements are considered to be convenient and well suited to the needs of the City Administration, and it is fortunate that the general layout of the building can be maintained.

Finally, as befits its civic character, the City Hall on this site makes an imposing composition dominating its immediate area.

We are able to say, therefore, that the building as designed for City Hall Square, with minor modifications, is eminently suited to the Green Island site. Moreover, Green Island as an alternative was made known to the competitors in Bulletin No. 3 during the competition.

The Architectural Committee of the Federal District Commission felt the importance of the site and building warranted a much higher structure and recommended that the city height by-law be amended to accommodate the necessary increase in height, adding that a building constructed according to the competition drawings would be insignificant when viewed from the Quebec shore. To illustrate this point the Committee gave us a sketch which shows a building of about 20 floors in height.

In our opinion such a building stretches the accommodation requirements over too many floors and would be quite inconvenient departmentally. Furthermore, apart from the increase in initial cost, such a height would add considerably to the cost of maintenance.

We feel that such a tall building would be out of scale with its surroundings when viewed from its main approaches and unnecessarily prominent when viewed from a distance.

We enclose a sketch based on photographs which we had taken from the Quebec side, showing that the City Hall as now modified maintains its significance at a distance.

The National Capital Plan Report proposed a uniform skyline on Sussex Drive in relation to which the mass of the proposed City Hall would be an effective contrast. In our opinion such a contrast would amply assure the

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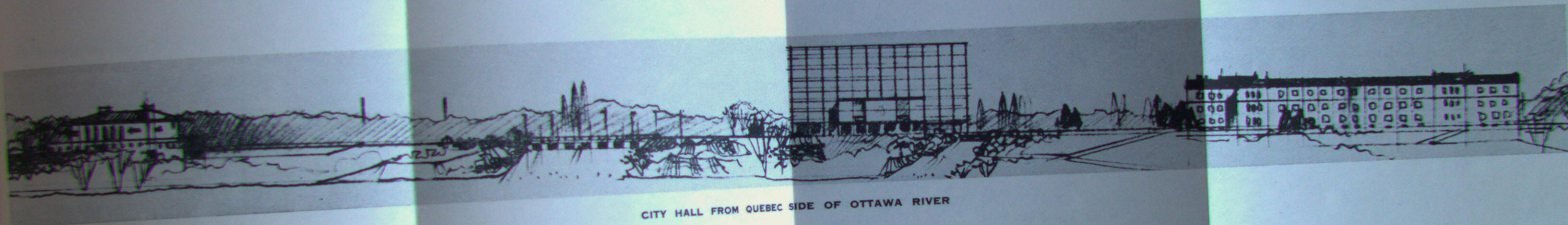
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CITY HALL FROM QUEBEC SIDE OF OTTAWA RIVER

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

City Hall to be the dominant feature of this section of Ottawa as suggested by the Committee, but without risk of conflict with Parliament Hill.

We feel, therefore, that the proposed City Hall as modified meets the suggestions, in principle, of the Committee and maintains a general composition that was found to be superior to a wide variety of other solutions to the problem.

Yours very truly,

ROTHER, BLAND, TRUDEAU.

Her Worship the Mayor returned to the Chair.

4. Moved by Controller Donaldson, seconded by Alderman St. Germain, that the Council convene into a Committee of the Whole to consider the report.—Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Architects, Messrs. Bland and Trudeau, were present, and, at the request of the Chair, explained the plans for the new City Hall Building and answered the questions of Council.

On motion of Alderman Wall, the Committee of the Whole arose and reported progress.

IN COUNCIL

5. Moved by Controller Jones, seconded by Alderman Robinson, that the Report of the City Hall Building Committee as considered in the Committee of the Whole be now adopted and the architects instructed to proceed forthwith with the plan.—Carried.

BY-LAWS

The following by-laws received two readings only:

To authorize the construction of sanitary sewers and house connections in Rockingham, Gloria, Bavlle, and Brule Avenues as local improvements upon petition.

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

To authorize the construction of a water main in Montreal Road and Richmond Road as local improvements upon petition.

To authorize the construction of water mains in Denbury, Mayview, Centre, Young, Westhill, Faircrest, King, Cabot, Leslie and Sproule Streets as local improvements upon petition.

The following by-laws received three readings and were passed:

To authorize the execution of various agreements.

To amend By-law 238—55 (Zoning North Carling Area).

To authorize the expropriation of lands for Carling Avenue Widening.

To declare partial exemption of taxes on certain farm lands.

To appoint and fix salaries of certain employees.

To fix the times for making assessments for 1956.

To declare desirability of constructing a water main on Carling Avenue as a local improvement under Section 8.

To declare desirability of constructing water mains on Cummings, Wilson, Clarke, Quebec, Burn and Clyde, as local improvements under Section 8.

To amend By-law 260—51 re Traffic.

To amend certain zoning by-laws re Maximum height of buildings.

The following by-law received a third reading only and was passed:

To authorize the construction of an access road on Borthwick Ave. as a local improvement upon petition. (First and second readings on May 30th, 1955.)

MOTIONS

6. Moved by Controller Tardif, seconded by Controller Donaldson, that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa is gratified to learn that Miss Byers makes rapid progress to complete recovery, and in recognition of her unique record as Secretary to the Mayors of Ottawa from 1919 to this date, in which years she has also been a gracious, loyal and splendid servant of the Councils of this City, the members of Council hereby request

City Council, February 20th, 1956.

Her Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk to arrange, in their name, for a suitable gift and presentation to Miss Byers on the occasion of her birthday on Wednesday, February 22nd with Council's good regards and wishes.—
Carried.

Council adjourned, due to lack of a quorum, at 11.15 p.m.

N. R. OGILVIE,
City Clerk.