

**6.6 Proposed Statue to Honor Saint John's Loyalist Heritage**

On motion of Councillor Chase  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hooton

RESOLVED that Council request the Greater Saint John Community Arts Board to explore and recommend to Council a statue that would depict and honor Saint John's Loyalist Heritage.

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

**6.6 Statue proposée afin d'honorer le patrimoine de nature loyaliste de Saint John**

Proposition du conseiller Chase  
Appuyée par le maire suppléant Hooton

RÉSOLU que le conseil demande au Conseil des arts communautaires de Saint John de rechercher et de recommander au conseil une statue qui puisse représenter et honorer le patrimoine loyaliste de Saint John.

À l'issue du vote, la proposition est adoptée.

**6.7 Pension Deficit Working Group Update**

Councillor Farren asked Councillor Ferguson to speak on the matter first at which time, Councillor Ferguson requested that his un-submitted prepared statement be recorded in the minutes which are noted below:

"I thought today I would be able to give a full update with respect to our Pension Deficit Working Group, I guess without having a better name for the people that are working together and their accomplishments. You will recall Common Council's resolution giving the working group authority to seek outside professional help. This motion was amended to include Councillor Farren. That motion relates to the working group and, Your Worship, reads as follows: 'Investigate the possibility of issuing bonds to assist with the unfunded liability of the Pension Fund and that they be given authority to seek any outside professional assistance that they deem necessary to do so'. Despite this resolution of Council, I have been denied the right by senior staff to seek outside professional assistance, even after Councillor Farren and I have tried for the past 5 to 6 weeks to obtain this outside help. As I say, it is scandalous that seeking outside professional assistance has been denied by senior staff in our attempts to resolve a 40 million dollar plus financial problem for the City of Saint John and ultimately the taxpayer. Your Worship and Councillors, Councillor Farren and I are still committed to finding a solution and meeting the obligations required of Council. Again, I would ask through your Worship that the minutes record my full statement. Thank you."

The City Manager responded by saying that it would be inappropriate to engage outside legal council, the request of Councillors Ferguson and Farren, without the City's Solicitor's input. He added that, in light of the Councillors' request to hire an outside securities' lawyer, Mr. Nugent met with Councillor Ferguson and himself, and provided advice, which is summarized below. Mr. Totten advised that he is always prepared to seek outside advice when warranted and took issue with the suggestion that senior staff is attempting to stall proceedings. He advised that if Council wanted to resolve to hire a securities lawyer at this time, then a motion would be required, however he noted that Council would have to advise of the nature of questions to be posed to the securities lawyer.

Mr. Totten suggested that to facilitate a better understanding of the issue, a presentation be prepared by Mr. Beckett and delivered to Council.

Councillor Farren raised a point of order on the issue of the City Manager and the City Solicitor being called upon to speak noting that elected officials should be heard from, at which time the Mayor called on Councillor Farren to speak. Councillor Farren reviewed a portion of a motion made at the January 31, 2005 meeting of Council stating that authorization was given by Council to seek outside help if needed on the pension deficit issue.

Councillor Tait reiterated his original position on the issue, which was that the City Manager and the Commissioner of Finance, not a committee, would explore the option