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Life goes on in halls of City Hall

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While Mayor Larry O'Brien is front of a judge facing two criminal charges, it's business as usual at City Hall.

Deputy mayor Diane Deans said councillors are trying hard to ignore what's happening at the courthouse, just a few feet away from City Hall.

"It needs to be business as usual here," she said outside of the councillors' offices. "This has been a long time coming, but regardless of the outcome, I hope justice prevails."

Deans said she doesn't think it will be difficult without the mayor because the city still has to operate, regardless of whether he's in his seat.

"This is a very experienced council and there are a number of councillors who can step up to the plate," she said.

BLACK CLOUD

For some councillors, the allegations and subsequent criminal charges have been a black cloud hanging over council.

"We've had to stay focused and it's been a real challenge," said Gloucester-South Nepean Coun. Steve Desroches. "This is a scenario no mayor would want to have."

Desroches said council really has no choice but to move ahead because there are too many projects to be dealt with.

Orleans Coun. Bob Monette wants whatever is happening at the courthouse to stay out of city operations.

"It's very frustrating at times," said Monette.

However, for now council is expected to concentrate on municipal affairs.

"Streets will continue to be swept, garbage will continue to be picked up and library books will still be on the shelves," said Deans.

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