



**FIRST MEETING OF THE
2019 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
JANUARY 18, 2019
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

Attendance:

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| Members Present: Councillor Amanda Collucci, Budget Chief Councillor Andrew Keyes, Vice-Chair Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Khalid Usman Guests: Regional Councillor Jack Heath Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Councillor Isa Lee Regrets: None | Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Brian Lee, Director of Engineering Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Matthew Vetere, Senior Financial Analyst Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator |
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The Budget Committee convened at 1:09 p.m. with Councillor Amanda Collucci presiding as Chair.

1. Budget Presentation

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning presented the Budget Presentation.

A. 2019 Budget Process and Communication Plan

A Committee Member asked what type of public input was considered in the budget process to date. Staff advised that feedback on the budget is collected throughout the year from surveys and comments from residents to Members of Council.

A short video on "How Markham develops the annual city budget" was shown at the meeting.

B. 2019 Proposed Capital Budget

Committee inquired if the Federal Government was proposing any changes to the distribution of gas tax revenue to municipal governments. Staff were unaware of any changes being proposed at this time.

Life Cycle Reserve Study

A Committee Member inquired if staff consider inflation when calculating the future replacement cost of an assets. Staff advised that an assumption on inflation was included in the forecasted replacement cost of assets.

A Committee Member inquired if investment income is used to help fund the replacement of assets. Staff advised that interest is earned from the reserve fund and interest income is included as one of the inflows in the Life Cycle Reserve Study.

C. 2019 Proposed Operating Budget

Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act (Bill 66)

Arvin Prasad, Commissioner of Development Services advised that a report will be brought forward to Development Service Committee (DSC) on January 28, 2019 on the Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act (Bill 66) implications. Staff are still reviewing and analyzing the legislation. A staff response to the legislation will be submitted to the Province.

Committee requested the following regarding Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act (Bill 66) Provincial consultation:

- That Members of Council be copied on the staff submission on the proposed legislation; and,
- That the following be included in the submission cover letter:
 - A request to extend the Provincial feedback period;
 - That the City does not support the reduction of environmental protection; and,
 - That the City supports municipalities having more authority over the planning process and the streamlining of the planning process.

Tax Rate Increase

Staff advised that every 1% tax rate increase will generate additional \$1.525M in tax levy.

Recreation Fees

Committee discussed whether the Budget Committee should discuss recreation fees that could be further increased (in addition to annual CPI increase) and implemented in 2019 at a future Budget Committee meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that further discussion on recreation fees will not be discussed as part of the 2019 Budget process. It will be discussed at a future General Committee meeting.

Staffing Requests

Committee briefly discussed the staffing requests. It was agreed to have further discussions on the staffing requests at a future Budget Committee meeting.

E3

Committee requested that a list of the E3 initiatives over the years be presented at a future Budget Committee meeting.

2018 Year-end results of operations

A Committee Member asked when the 2018 year end results of operations be available. Staff advised that this information will be presented to the General Committee in March 2019.

D. Next Steps

The next steps were reviewed.

2. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned 3:31 p.m.