



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2019 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
FEBRUARY 8, 2019
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Attendance:

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: 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 Phoebe Fu, Director of Environmental Services Brian Lee, Director of Engineering Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Biju Karumanchery, Director of Planning & Urban Design Larry Pogue, Director of Administration, Markham Public Libraries Michelle Sawh, Manager of Service Delivery, Markham Public Libraries Debbie Walker, Library Strategy & Innovation, Markham Public Libraries Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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That the Budget Committee convene at 9:05 am with Councillor Amanda Collucci presiding as Chair.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

- 1) That the Minutes from the January 29, 2019 Budget Committee be approved as presented; and,**
- 2) That the Confidential Minutes from the January 29, 2019 Budget Committee be approved as presented.**

Carried

2. MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD DEPUTATION

Ben Hendricks, Chair of the Markham Public Library Board provided a presentation on their request to expand Sunday hours at the Cornell Public Library, and Milliken Mills Public Library, at a cost of \$50,366.78. The Board is working towards phasing in longer library hours., The Board believes that expanding library hours generates a significant community benefit. In 2018 the Board introduced longer hours at Angus Glen Public Library, Thornhill Public Library and Aaniin Public Library.

Discussion

Committee inquired if volunteers could be used to staff the library to extend library hours at Cornell Public Library and Milliken Mills Public Library. Staff advised that collective agreements do not permit volunteers to be used to undertake library staff work. Only skeleton/ minimum staff level would be working the extended hours.

Committee asked when the libraries are the busiest. Staff advised that Saturdays, Sundays, and after school are the libraries busiest times, but libraries are also well utilized during all regularly scheduled library hours.

Committee suggested the Library Board to explore the possibility of funding the incremental cost from its existing budget.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keys

- 1) That the Markham Public Library Board investigate the feasibility of funding the incremental cost of \$50,366.78 from its existing budget to expand library hours on Sundays, and,**
- 2) That the Markham Public Library Board report back on the matter.**

Carried

3. CONTINUATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET

Capital Budget Item No. 19037 John Street Multi Use Pathway

Brian Lee, Director of Engineering provided a presentation on Capital Budget Item No. 19037 John Street Multi Use Pathway. The presentation displayed the proposed plans for the cycling facilities in Thornhill, and highlighted that the trail is a key part of Markham's Cycling Master Plan.

Peter Miasek, Vice-Chair of the Cycling & Pedestrian Committee spoke in support of Capital Budget Item No. 19037 John Street Multi Use Pathway. He provided the following feedback:

- Cycling network is needed to allow connection to rapid transit;
- Funding of a cycling network is an investment for Markham;
- Markham is falling behind other neighbouring municipalities in developing its active transportation system;

- Need to complete the cycling network in Markham and connect it with other facilities being built by York Region (e.g. Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail, and Bayview Multi Use Pathway);
- There is a general lack of cycling facilities in Thornhill; and,
- John Street multi use pathway is a key piece of the City's Cycling Master Plan.

A Committee Member suggested that the funds be re-allocated to a higher priority project. He was concerned that the construction would cause traffic congestion in the area, and that cycling was not a high enough priority for residents living in the area to justify the project. He also suggested allowing residents to ride their bikes on the sidewalks, as an alternative.

Staff advised that the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) looked at cycling on sidewalks as an option, but after very careful consideration it was deemed too risky for pedestrians and a liability to the City. They also advised that the construction would be phased in overtime to minimize disruption to the community.

Other Committee Members suggested that the funds should be re-allocated to another part of Cycling Master Plan if this project is not approved.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded Councillor Khalid Usman

- 1) That the funds from Capital Budget Item No. 19037 John Street Multi Use Pathway remain in the Capital Budget, as a placeholder; and,
- 2) That a presentation on the Cycling Master Plan be presented at the Development Services Committee; and,
- 3) That Staff bring back a report on the John Multi Use Pathway to the Development Services Committee; and further,
- 4) That if the Project is eliminated or deferred at the Development Services Committee meeting that the funds be reallocated to another section/ aspect of the Cycling Master Plan.

LOST

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That Capital Budget Item No. 19037 John Street Multi Use Pathway be approved as originally presented.

Carried

Capital Budget Markham Centre Trail Design No. 1962

Brian Lee, Director of Engineering presented Capital Budget Item No. 19262 Markham Centre Trail Design (Phase 1 of 4). Staff showed the different areas of the trail system and the location of this project.

Committee inquired if the design of the trail will be completed at the same time as the Environmental Assessment and how long it will take to build the trail.

Staff advised that the Environmental Assessment is required for the other areas and is not required for this Phase 1. The design of the trail and acquiring the permits from MNRF and the TRCA will take 12-18 months. This will allow the construction to start in 2020. It is anticipated the trail can be completed in one construction season.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That Capital Budget No. 1962 Markham Centre Trail Design (Phase 1 of 4) be approved.

Carried

4. OPERATING BUDGET - BUILDING, PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND OPERATING BUDGET

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning presented the Operating Budget for the Building, Planning, and Engineering Departments.

There was a brief discussion on the Waterworks Reserve. Committee was advised that the waterworks reserve study is updated each year to ensure there is enough funds in the reserve for the next 25 years, and that the water rate is increased (if required) to address any gaps in funding.

A Committee Member inquired about the Development Charges Reserve, specifically on the historic reserve balances and how it was managed over the years when the reserve was in a deficit.

Staff agreed to provide more information on the Development Charges Reserve after approval of the 2019 Budget.

Committee also requested that the Operating Budget be presented in more detail when reviewing future budgets.

Staff advised that a process will need to be undertaken to understand the level of detail the Committee would like the Operating Budget to be presented.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That Staff report back on recommendations/options for the presentation of the 2020 Operating Budget.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keys

That the Budget Committee receive the Building, Planning, Designing, Engineering and Waterworks Operating Budgets.

Carried

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

That the Budget Committee adjourn at 12:11 pm.

Carried