



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
2019 BUDGET COMMITTEE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE  
FEBRUARY 13, 2019  
12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

<b>Members Present:</b> Councillor Amanda Collucci, Budget Chief Councillor Andrew Keyes, Vice-Chair Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Khalid Usman  <b>Guests:</b> Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Councillor Isa Lee  <b>Regrets:</b> Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton	<b>Staff Present:</b> 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 Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Biju Karumanchery, Director of Planning & Urban Design Morgan Jones, Director of Operations Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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That the Budget Committee convene at 12:05 pm with Councillor Amanda Collucci presiding as Chair.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Staff made the following correction to the February 8, 2019 Budget Committee Minutes:

- “Development Fee Reserve” was changed to “Development Charges Reserve” on page 4 of the minutes, under item 4, in paragraphs 3 and 4.

**Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes**

**Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish**

**That the February 5, 2019 Budget Committee Minutes be approved as presented; and,**

**That the February 8, 2019 Budget Committee Minutes be approved as amended.**

**Carried**

## **2. REVIEW OF THE LIBRARY BOARD'S REQUEST TO EXPAND SUNDAY HOURS**

Library hours will be extended at the Milliken and Cornell Libraries using the Library's existing budget, as requested by the Budget Committee. The Library's budget will be monitored closely in 2019 and issues, if any, will be addressed through the 2020 budget process.

**Moved by Councillor Karen Rea**

**Seconded by Councilor Reid McAlpine**

**That the memorandum by Ben Hendrik's, Chair of the Markham Public Library Board be received.**

**Carried**

## **3. REVIEW OF THE 2019 STAFFING REQUESTS**

Staff advised that Staff undertook a comprehensive review of the staffing requests prior to bringing them forward to the Budget Committee for consideration. A memo and presentation on 2019 staffing requests were included in the agenda package.

## **4. REVIEW OF THE 2019 OPERATING BUDGET**

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning presented the 2019 Operating Budget.

Committee inquired about the 2019 E3 initiatives totaling \$2M that resulted in a partial offset against operating budget expenditure increases.

### Winter Maintenance

Committee discussed the following with respect to winter maintenance:

- Windrows;
- Neighbouring municipalities winter maintenance programs;
- Prioritization of roadways with respect to winter maintenance;
- Challenges with the deicing of local roads;
- The science of when to put salt on the roads;
- Why sand is not used as part of the City's winter maintenance program;
- Limitations to the City's service level due to the size of its work yard;
- The inspection of the roadways during a winter storm;

- The time it takes to implement a change to the City's winter maintenance program;
- The tracking of winter maintenance vehicles;
- How resident feedback is used during a winter storm.

Committee recommended that an interactive site tour be planned for Members of Council to visit the works yard during a winter storm event to better understand the City's winter maintenance program. It was also suggested that Vaughan's windrow service be observed in the next winter storm event.

Committee agreed to defer the remainder of the discussion to the winter maintenance workshop, which will be held in spring 2019.

Committee requested that staff present the following at the winter maintenance workshop:

- a chart comparing Markham's winter maintenance service level with other municipalities service level;
- A chart showing different winter maintenance service levels with a breakdown of the costs associated with each service level.

#### Porta Potties at Milne Dam Conservation Park

A Committee Member inquired regarding placing porta potties at Milne Dam Conservation Park during winter months.

Staff advised that they would not proceed with putting porta potties at Milne Dam Conservation Park as they freeze during the winter months.

#### York Region Tax Rate

A Committee Member noted that York Region may add an additional 1% tax rate increase to its proposed 3.37% tax rate increase, to accelerate road construction and transportation improvements in York Region. This is currently being discussed by York Region Council.

#### The Impact of Property Re-Assessment on the Budget

Staff explained 5 ways that can contribute to increases in property taxes: 1. Increase from the Province for education, 2. Increase from the Region of York for Regional services, 3. Increase from the City for local services, 4. property reassessment and 5. Tax shifting reassessment impact to different classes of properties. Staff advised that the average increase in reassessment in Markham is 8.29%. Therefore, properties with an increase in reassessment greater than 8.29% will see a property tax increase for the local portion, and properties with a reassessment lower than 8.29% will have a reduction in the property taxes for the local portion.

#### Committee Direction to Further Reduce the Tax Rate

Staff were directed to look for ways to reduce the tax rate increase to 2% without reducing service levels and to report back to Council on March 19 through the report on 2019 Budget.

**Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti**

**Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes**

**That the Budget Committee approve a proposed operating budget tax rate increase of 2.07% to be presented at the February 21, 2019 Budget Public Consultation meeting; and,**

**That the 2019 Budget presentation for the public consultation meeting be posted on the City's website on Feb. 13 (presentation from Budget Committee No. 1).**

**Carried**

#### The City's Website

Committee briefly discussed the City's new website. Staff advised that they are still fixing some glitches with the website prior to doing a hard launch of the website.

#### New Recreational Registration Software

Committee suggested that the new recreational registration software should provide residents with more flexibility in regards to when residents can register for a recreational program. It also suggested that the software should be compatible with other City systems.

Staff advised they will circulate a briefing note on the public opinion with respect to registering for recreational programs. They also advised that the City is working towards integrating customer profiles from various City systems.

#### Sidewalk Program – Capital Budget No. 19039 Sidewalk Program

Committee requested that the list of new sidewalks be presented at a future Development Services Committee after staff have prioritized the list and consulted with the local Ward Councillors. Staff advised that the list includes arterial and collector roads and does not include local roads.

#### Thermal Cooling Pilot Project - Capital Budget No. 19047

A Committee Member asked why the City is undertaking this pilot project if stormwater ponds are required by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to be 3 metres deep.

Staff advised that the purpose of the pilot project is to explore alternative ways to keep the stormwater management pond at a certain temperature without having to make the ponds 3 metres deep for safety reasons. The project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry and the Toronto Region & Conservation Area.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Councillor Amanda Collucci, Budget Chief thanked the Budget Committee, and Staff for their hard work in the review of the 2019 Budget.

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Andrew Keyes

That the Budget Committee adjourn at 2:38 pm

**Carried**