

Electronic General Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 8
May 10, 2021, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti	Councillor Reid McAlpine
	Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton	Councillor Karen Rea
	Regional Councillor Jack Heath	Councillor Andrew Keyes
	Regional Councillor Joe Li	Councillor Amanda Collucci
	Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Councillor Khalid Usman
	Councillor Keith Irish	Councillor Isa Lee
	Councillor Alan Ho	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer	Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation
	Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services
	Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator
	Joel Lustig, Treasurer	Terence Tang, Technology Support Specialist II
	Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk	Ned Sirry, Acting Chief Information Officer
	Adam Grant, Fire Chief	Bindi Patel, Supervisor, Community Program
	Biju Karumanchery, Director, Planning & Urban Design	Barry Budhu, Sr. Mgr, Roads, Survey & Utility
	Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services	Lisa Chen, Sr. Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting
	Meg West, Manager of Business Planning and Projects	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Under the authority of the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020* (Bill 197) and the City of Markham's *Council Procedural By-law 2017-5*, and in consideration of the advice

of public health authorities, this meeting was conducted electronically with members of General Committee, staff, and members of the public participating remotely.

General Committee convened at 9:35 AM with Regional Councillor Jack Heath presiding as Chair for all items on the agenda.

Councillor Alan Ho left the meeting at 10:29 AM and returned at 11:17 AM in closed session.

The Committee congratulated, Morgan Jones on his new appointment as Commissioner, Community Services.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none disclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2021 GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

1. That the minutes of the April 26, 2021 General Committee meeting be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

There was a deputation in relation to item 9.1. Please refer to the individual item for details.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 YORK REGION COMMUNICATIONS (13.4)

There was brief discussion on item 1d. Pedestrian Crossover Policy Regional Roads.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the following communications dated April 26, 2021 from York Region be received for information purposes:

- a. Transportation Services Capital Infrastructure Status Update
- b. 2020 Integrated Management System Update Report for Water, Wastewater and Waste Management
- c. 2020 Drinking Water Systems Report
- d. Pedestrian Crossover Policy Regional Roads
- e. 2021 Property Tax Rates
- f. 2020 Regional Centres and Corridors Update
- g. ventureLAB 2020 Results
- h. Growth and Development Review 2020

Carried

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2021 MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

- 1. That the minutes of the March 22, 2021, Markham Public Library Board meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.2 MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2021 RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

- 1. That the minutes of the March 1, 2021, Race Relations Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.3 2021 TAX RATES AND LEVY BY-LAW (7.3)

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the report dated May 10th, 2021 entitled “2021 Tax Rates and Levy By-law” be received; and,
2. That a by-law to provide for the levy and collection of property taxes totalling \$765,868,900 required by the City of Markham, the Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario (Education) and Business Improvement Areas, in a form substantially similar to Appendix A (attached), satisfactory to the City Solicitor and provides for the mailing of notices and requesting payment of taxes for the year 2021, as set out as follows, be approved; and,

TAX LEVYING BODY	2021 TAX LEVY AMOUNT
City of Markham	\$164,739,938
Region of York	\$350,366,218
Province of Ontario (Education)	\$250,387,964
Markham Village BIA	\$160,559
Unionville BIA	\$214,221
Total	\$765,868,900

3. That the report dated May 10th, 2021 entitled “2021 Tax Rates and Levy By-law” be received; and,
4. That a by-law to provide for the levy and collection of property taxes totalling \$765,868,900 required by the City of Markham, the Regional Municipality of York, Province of Ontario (Education) and Business Improvement Areas, in a form substantially similar to Appendix A (attached), satisfactory to the City Solicitor and

provides for the mailing of notices and requesting payment of taxes for the year 2021, as set out as follows, be approved; and,

5. That staff be authorized to levy against Markham Stouffville Hospital and Seneca College the annual levy pursuant to Section 323 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as outlined in Section 9 of the attached by-law once the required information is received from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; and,
6. That the attached by-law be passed to authorize the 2021 Tax Rates and Levy By-law; and further,
7. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.4 MARCH YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS (7.0)

The Committee made inquiries into the positive salary variance indicated in the report, the number of vacancies, and concerns with the processing time of development applications.

Joel Lustig, Treasurer, addressed the Committee and indicated that there are more temporary vacancies in 2021 as a result of retirement and facility closures due to COVID-19 and that as facilities re-open, these positions will be filled and there will be fewer vacancies.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the report titled “2021 March Year-To-Date Results of Operations” be received; and,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

8. CONSENT REPORTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES ISSUES

8.1 THE MECP – MARKHAM DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM – DRINKING WATER INSPECTION REPORT, FEBRUARY 03, 2021 (5.3)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the report entitled “The MECP – Markham Distribution System – Drinking Water Inspection Report, February 03, 2021” be received; and further,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

9. REGULAR REPORTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES ISSUES

9.1 OPERATIONS WINTER MAINTENANCE UPDATES (5.10)

Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services addressed the Committee to introduce the item and staff members, David Plant, Operations Senior Manager, Parks, Horticulture, and Forestry, as well as Barry Budhu, Operations Senior Manager, Roads, Survey, and Utility who jointly delivered a presentation entitled, Operations Winter Maintenance Update. The presentation provided an overview of the 2020 Winter Pathway Pilot Project, pathway program recommendations for the 2021, 2022 season, proposed City operated skating surfaces and results from the 2021 Winter Maintenance Program.

The Committee heard from the following deputant in relation to this item:

Dennis Fortnum, addressed the Committee to express his support of public use and maintenance of Milne Pond and Toogood Pond for skating with appropriate risk signage. He also expressed concerns with clearing of walking areas on roads where there are no sidewalks, signage on roads to indicate shared use, and a reduction in the speed limit to 30 km/h.

There was discussion on the following in relation to the presentation:

- Concerns regarding maintenance of roads without sidewalks and pedestrian safety;
- Consideration to include granular pathways in the recommended maintenance program contained in the presentation;

- Consideration to treat all roads the same as primary roads for winter maintenance;
- Continued expansion of the current winter maintenance program for all pathways and the increased use of sand over salt;
- Consideration to treat pathways in the same manner as a sidewalk;
- The potential elimination of the local road category to provide for an increased level of service;
- Inquiry into the criteria used to determine pathway paving materials, i.e. limestone versus asphalt from a policy perspective;
- Concerns with liability and ownership with respect to maintenance of all pathways in the City;
- The size of the proposed new outdoor rinks in relation to other municipal rinks already built; and,
- The potential to provide additional outdoor rinks at Aaniin and Milliken Community Centers.

The Committee requested that staff review an increased level of service and its cost on all local roads in compensation of pedestrians walking on roads without sidewalks, a reduction in the speed limit on these roads and an update on the sidewalk completion project. There was also a request that staff prepare a memo that provides an outline of pathway maintenance similar to that of sidewalk maintenance and investigate an additional outdoor skating rink at Aaniin or Milliken Mills Community Centers.

Staff provided responses to the Committee's inquiries and will prepare additional information as requested for the May 26, 2021 Council Meeting.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

1. That the report titled "Operations Winter Maintenance Updates" be received; and,
2. That the existing practice for not clearing snow on non-asphalt pathways be continued; and,
3. That the staff recommendations for the 2021 – 2022 winter season for park pathway clearing be adopted; and,

4. That the estimated cost of \$121,711.29 for clearing pathways City-wide be funded from the existing 2021-2022 winter maintenance operating budget; and,
5. That the staff recommendations for the development of 3-4 potential key skating surfaces throughout the City at an estimated one-time cost of \$27,624.00 to be funded from the existing 2021-2022 Parks Facility Maintenance operating budget be adopted; and,
6. **That staff review an increased level of service and costs for secondary roads and local roads, a reduction in the speed limit on these roads and an update on the sidewalk completion project; and,**
7. **That staff prepare a memo that provides an outline of pathway maintenance similar to that of sidewalk maintenance, the maintenance of narrow sidewalks, a listing of all City pathways, and a review for an additional outdoor ice-skating surface at Aaniin Community Center or Milliken Mills Community Centre; and further,**
8. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the deputation from Dennis Fortnum, and written communication from Jeffrey Taylor be received.

Carried

10. MOTIONS

There were no motions.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

12. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new or other business.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

14. CONFIDENTIAL

General Committee open session concluded at 10:58 AM. The Committee resolved into confidential session and did not return to open session and consented to place item 14.2.1 on the May 26, 2021 Confidential Council Meeting Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, General Committee resolve into a confidential session to discuss the following matters:

Carried

14.1 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

14.1.1 GENERAL COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES- APRIL 26, 2021 (16.0) [Section 239 (2) (f)]

General Committee confirmed the April 26, 2021 Confidential Minutes.

14.2 LAND, BUILDING & PARKS CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

14.2.1 A PROPOSED OR PENDING ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF LAND BY THE CITY OR LOCAL BOARD (8.6) [Section 239 (2) (c)]

The Committee consented to forward this item to the May 26, 2021 Confidential Council Meeting Agenda for consideration.

That the General Committee confidential session adjourn at 12:02 PM.

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

Carried

15. ADJOURNMENT

General Committee adjourned at 10:58 AM and convened into closed session at 11:04 AM. The Committee consented to place item 14.2.1 on the May 26, 2021 Confidential Council Meeting Agenda for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
General Committee adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Carried