



## Budget Committee Minutes

**Meeting No. 5**

**October 22, 2021, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Live streamed**

Members	Councillor Amanda Collucci, Chair Councillor Andrew Keyes, Vice-Chair Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Jack Heath	Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Khalid Usman
Regrets	None	
Roll Call	Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Isa Lee Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services Arvin Prasad, Commissioner Development Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources Joel Lustig, Treasurer Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk Adam Grant, Fire Chief Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services Biju Karumanchery, Director of Planning and Urban Design Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management	Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer Morgan Jones, Commissioner Lisa Chen, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting, Financial Services Jay Pak, Manager, Budgets Alison , Senior Financial Analyst Jemima Lee, Senior Financial Analyst Veronica Siu, Manager, Budgets Laura Gold, Council and Committee Coordinator Mary-Jane Courchesne, Acting Council/Committee Coordinator Eddy Wu, Director, Environmental Services Alice Lam, Director of Operations Stephanie DiPerna, Director, Building Standards Richard Fournier, Manager, Parks & Open Space Development Heena Mistry, Senior Financial Analyst Germaine D'Silva, Senior Financial Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Budget Committee convened at 9:02 AM with Councillor Amanda Collucci in the Chair.

## 2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

## 3. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

### **Project No. 22145 – Storm Water Retention Pond Maintenance Program**

Rob Muir, Manager, Stormwater, Environmental Services, provided a response to Councillor Karen Rea's inquiries.

#### *Algae at Edward Jeffrey's pond*

Planting additional vegetation around the Edward Jeffrey's pond to address residents' concerns of the current algae, could address the visual esthetic issues. The shade that trees provide could improve the water quality as shade would lower water temperature, resulting in improving the downstream aquatic habitat.

#### *Geese management*

A comparison between Swan Lake and Toogood Pond with the Edward Jeffrey Avenue pond was provided.

Swan Lake and Toogood Pond, which are within park amenities, have a comprehensive Geese Control Program. The geese control is intended to: (i) improve the visual amenity of the park features to deter the geese which can sometimes be aggressive with trail users and (ii) avoid geese waste on walkways. The Edward Jeffrey pond is a stormwater pond and is designed to regulate and maintain runoff water quality. Runoff includes fertilizers, pet waste and geese waste. Through biological processes, algae develops which is a normal function in stormwater ponds. The algae takes the phosphorus out of the water so it does not enter the downstream receiving water. The pond was visited in August 2021. The water outlet was crystal clear and therefore was confirmed to be doing its intended function.

In September 2021, a survey was completed of stormwater practitioners in southern Ontario to identify best practices for managing algae. Over ninety percent do not have a level of service for

controlling growth of algae or have a stormwater algae management control program. The City accepts the growth of algae as a natural occurrence as part of a stormwater ponds design function.

It was further explained that migratory geese are a challenge to control and the best place for geese waste to land is in ponds because the runoff will be treated before entering into the receiving water.

If the City implements geese hazing and expands its geese control program to stormwater ponds, such as at Edward Jeffreys, then the geese would be displaced, creating geese waste at schools, parks or other areas where the runoff is not controlled.

It was recommend that the City's stormwater ponds continue to be monitored so that they are performing their intended function.

Sediment cleaning in stormwater ponds occur every ten years. The phosphorus waste goes into the bottom of the pond, settling into the sediment. The total accumulated sediment is removed at the ten year mark.

Stagnant areas around the Edward Jeffrey pond could be filled in with vegetation as part of ongoing minor maintenance at stormwater ponds.

Councillor Karen Rea pointed out that developers should clarify and disclose to potential purchasers whether homes are backing onto/close to a stormwater pond.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti mentioned that there is a discussion happening with the development community regarding stormwater ponds. It was recommended that perhaps some trees could be planted between the homes and the Edward Jeffrey pond through Trees for Tomorrow program, as long as it does not cause any other environmental problems. The Mayor will visit the Edward Jeffrey's stormwater pond and will continue the discussion offline.

### **Community Services:**

#### **Project No. 22195 – SWM Pond Cleaning ID#44 & #96 – Design & CA & Project No. 22197 – Water Quality Improvements**

##### **#44 Austin Drive and #96 Box Grove**

Eddy Wu, Director, Environmental Services, provided a response to Councillor Reid McAlpine's inquiry...

It was confirmed that one of the stormwater ponds at Austin Drive was cleaned in 2011. The second stormwater pond at Austin Drive is scheduled to be cleaned in 2022. Staff can look into placing both ponds at Austin Drive on the same cleaning schedule going forward to minimize disruption.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Services – Stormwater Capital Budget Item Nos. 22195 and 22197.

**Carried**

**Project No. 22162 – Block Pruning Initiative Year 3 of 3**

David Plant, Senior Manager, Horticulture and Forestry, provided a response to Councillor Karen Rea's inquiry on whether the City could use grant money received from the federal government to accelerate the pruning of approximately 30,000 additional trees which Staff have identified require pruning. These additional trees have been placed on a further five year plan.

A presentation was provided to explain the background of the original capital project. The three year accelerated program put forward, was to address the worst trees in the City first (approximately 70,000) and then use the next five years to address the remaining trees (approximately 30,000).

Joel Lustig, Treasurer, explained the City's process with respect to when funds are returned to the original funding source. There was a finite sum of tax funded capital for 2022 and phase 3 of the block pruning project was included in the tax funded capital. In the meantime, the City received a grant for the project so the funds that were to be allocated to this project were able to be applied to other priority projects.

Councillor Karen Rea recommended expediting the pruning of the 30,000 trees to stay ahead of residents' complaints and avoid a backlog.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti agreed that funds given to the City by other levels of government or other programs, should be exhausted first, particularly when there is an ongoing program. If there are then savings in the City's budget, then those savings can be directed to support other programs.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations – Parks Capital Budget Item No. 22162.

**Carried**

**4. CONTINUATION OF THE 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET**

Committee continued its review of the 2022 Capital Budget.

## **Corporate Services**

### ***Sustainability & Asset Management***

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

<b>Capital Budget Item No.</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
22065	Facility Energy Management Program	Staff confirmed that the funding request for two staff for two years is for internal existing staff and the continuing of the renewals of their contracts. The funding is not to hire two new employees.
22068	Green Recovery Program – Feasibility Study	Staff explained that the Feasibility Study is to reduce barriers of local participation in retrofits including education. It was mentioned that an information session was held to provide awareness to residents on home retrofits. A survey was conducted and it was noted that residents do not know where to start, where to find resource information and what funding is available. This study is to address 70% community emissions in the City's 100,000 households.
22069	160 Dudley Life Cycle Repair/ Replacement	Staff advised that this project has been withdrawn.
22074	Corporate Accommodations	Staff explained that this project is a standard ask every year to accommodate movements. It was noted that there has been Staff working in the office and in the field throughout the pandemic. These funds would be available to adapt as necessary. It was confirmed that significant investments will not be made until the new hybrid work model is finalized.
22076	Fire Facilities Repair and/or Replacement Projects	Staff will provide a follow response to Budget Committee regarding the possibility of creating a crib/covering or fence around the waste bins at the Unionville Fire Station.
22082	Other Facilities Repair and/or Replacement Projects	Staff confirmed tenants reside in the Elson Miles Farmhouse Millworks and at the two homes located at 7107 & 7181 Reesor Road. The City owns the two Reesor Road homes because they are attached to Reesor Road Community Park and form part of the same parcel of land.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

That the Budget Committee approve the Sustainability & Asset Management Capital Budget Item Nos. 22064, 22065, 22066, 22068 and 22070 through to 22089 through to 22091. Project 22069 has been withdrawn.

**Carried**

## **Community Services**

### ***Recreation Services***

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

<b>Capital Budget Item No.</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
22109	Centennial C.C. HVAC Upgrade	Staff advised that the City anticipates receiving funding to support the Centennial C.C. HVAC Upgrade net-zero project. If the funding is not received then the project will be funded through lifecycle. This project is similar to that of Mount Joy C.C.
22118	Indoor Public Space Study - Areas of Intensification	Staff advised that this study will help with the planning of the Secondary Plan.

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve the Recreation Services Capital Budget Item Nos. 22092 through to 22116, 22118 through to 22129.

**Carried**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**6. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on November 2, 2021.

**7. APPROVAL OF CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2021**

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

That the Confidential Minutes of the October 13, 2021 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

Moved by Councillor

Seconded by Councillor

That discussions on:

- Development Services - Engineering Capital Budget Item No. 22050 - Parking Lot for York University Campus; and
- Corporate Services – Sustainability and Asset Management Capital Budget Item No. 22216 – Pan AM Parking Equipment; and
- York University Memorandum of Understanding;

all be deferred to a General Committee meeting.

**Carried**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Budget Committee adjourned at 10:38 AM.