

Electronic General Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 15
October 18, 2021, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Alan Ho	Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Andrew Keyes Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Khalid Usman Councillor Isa Lee
Staff	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 Alex Moore, Manager of Purchasing & Accounts Payable Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services	Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation Mark Visser, Sr Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator John Wong, Technology Support Specialist II Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering Kevin Ross, Manager, Development Finance & Payroll Lisa Chen, Sr. Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting Mona Nazif, Senior Manager HR Client Services Alice Lam, Director, Operations

1. CALL TO ORDER

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin today by acknowledging the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples and their commitment to stewardship of the land. We acknowledge the communities in circle. The North, West, South and Eastern directions, and Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Anishnabeg, Seneca, Chippewa, and the current treaty holders Mississaugas of the Credit peoples. We share the responsibility with the caretakers of this land to ensure the dish is never empty and to restore relationships that are based on peace, friendship, and trust. We are committed to reconciliation, partnership and enhanced understanding.

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 briefly convened at 11:28 AM to begin and recess the meeting while the Special Development Services Meeting was in session. Regional Councillor Jack Heath presided as Chair for all items on the agenda.

The Committee recessed at 11:29 AM to complete the Special Development Services Meeting and again briefly reconvened at 12:01 PM.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:01 PM and reconvened at 12:47 PM.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none disclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 SPECIAL GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the minutes of the September 21, 2021 Special General Committee meeting be confirmed.

Carried

3.2 MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2021 GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the minutes of the October 4, 2021 General Committee meeting be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 YORK REGION COMMUNICATIONS (13.4)

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

1. That the communications dated September 27, 2021 from York Region be received for information purposes:
 - a. 2022-2027 Water and Wastewater Rates
 - b. 2021 Services Capacity Assignment Status Update

Carried

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2021 GERMAN MILLS NATURAL HABITAT LIAISON COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the March 4, 2021 German Mills Natural Habitat Liaison Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.2 MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2021 ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Animal Care Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.3 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 2021 RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the June 7, 2021 Race Relations Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.4 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the June 21, 2021 Advisory Committee on Accessibility meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.5 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2021 HEINTZMAN HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE BOARD (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the June 24, 2021 Heintzman House Board meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.6 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the June 24, 2021 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.7 MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2021 MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the minutes of the June 28, 2021 Markham Public Library Board meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

7.8 2022 INTERIM SPENDING AUTHORITY PENDING APPROVAL OF BUDGET (7.4)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the report titled “2022 Interim Spending Authority Pending Approval of Budget”, be received; and,
2. That Council approve 50% of the City’s 2021 Operating, Waterworks, Planning & Design, Building Standards and Engineering budgets, equal to \$207,882,287, as a pre-budget approval for 2022 operating expenditures; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.9 2022 INTERIM SPENDING AUTHORITY PENDING APPROVAL OF UNIONVILLE AND MARKHAM VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT AREAS BUDGET (7.4)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the report titled “2022 Interim Spending Authority Pending Approval of Unionville and Markham Village Business Improvement Area Budgets”, be received; and,
2. That Council approve 50% of the 2021 Operating Budget equivalent to the amounts of \$150,000 for the Unionville BIA (UBIA) and \$132,882 for the Markham Village BIA (MBIA) as pre-budget approval for 2022 operating expenditures; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.10 TAX WRITE-OFFS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 354 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 (7.3)

There was an inquiry with respect to 28 properties that are owned by the Government of Canada and their Payment in Lieu of Taxes and if this was a similar classification which was being undertaken for some of the properties loaves with the Rouge Urban National Park boundaries.

Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue and Property Ta, addressed the Committee and advised that these 28 properties are currently under similar review with both the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and the Parks Canada Agency and that the respective parties will report back to the City once the review is finalized.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the report entitled Tax Write-offs in Accordance with Section 354 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* be received; and,
2. That taxes for 2019 and 2020 totalling \$236,448 as set out in this report, of which the City’s portion is \$57,499 be written-off pursuant to the provisions of Section 354 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*; and,

3. That the Markham portion of the taxes be charged to Tax Write-off Account 820-820-7040; and,
4. That the Treasurer be directed to remove the taxes from the Collector's Roll; and,
5. That the associated interest be cancelled in proportion to the tax adjustments; and further,
6. That staff be authorized to and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolutions.

Carried

7.11 2022 TEMPORARY BORROWING BY-LAW (2.0) (7.0)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the report titled "2022 Temporary Borrowing By-law" be received; and,
2. That a by-law be brought forward for Council approval to authorize the temporary borrowing, if required, of amounts not to exceed \$207,882,287 from January 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 and \$103,941,144 from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 to meet the expenditures of the municipality until taxes are collected and other revenues are received; and,
3. That the Treasurer report to Council in advance of borrowing, if temporary borrowing is required; and further,
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.12 MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX REINSTATEMENT (7.3)

Moved by Councillor Khalid Usman

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the report entitled Municipal Accommodation Tax 2022 be received; and,
2. That Council authorize the reinstatement of the 4.0% Municipal Accommodation Tax effective April 1st, 2022; and,

3. That staff be directed to notify all Hotel accommodation providers of the April 1st, 2022 reinstatement date; and further,
4. That staff be authorized to and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolutions.

Carried

8. PRESENTATIONS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

8.1 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BACKGROUND STUDY UPDATE (7.11)

Mark Visser, Senior Manager, Strategy, Innovation and Investments, addressed the Committee and made a presentation entitled, "Development Charges Background Study Update" which provided an overview of the Development Charges Act (DCA) and the changes introduced through Bill 197 to be reflected in the new Development Charges (DC) by-laws. He also provided a brief update on the progress made so far with the Development Charges Sub Committee meetings and the proposed policy change regarding the indexing of capital costs on multi-year Area Specific Development Charge (ASDC) credit/reimbursement agreements to take effect once the new by-laws have been adopted.

The Committee made the following inquiries:

- The City's negative reserve balance with respect to the General Government service;
- The factors that may contribute to overall cost decreases;
- The incorporation of municipal parking and how it may be financed;
- The way in which use of the Community Benefits Charge may reduce use of gas tax funding;
- The current use of gas taxes for growth and non-growth related items;
- The timing with respect to clause 2 (indexing of multi-year ASDC credits) and whether it is retroactive or if it begins with the new by-law begins;
- DC and differential DC for small and large apartment units and the lack of a uniform rate;
- The increasing differential between hard and soft services; and,

- The use of census data to determine number of people in larger apartments, smaller apartments and in townhomes.

Staff advised that it is not unusual for the General Government Reserve Balance to be in a negative balance as this service includes many upfront expenses such as the execution of studies in advance of growth and project resource costs. This balance will shift to a positive position as building takes place.

It was noted that gas tax reserves are used for growth related projects that are subject to eligible criteria for qualified uses and that the City is audited regularly to ensure compliance.

Staff further advised that a square footage cut off of 700 square feet per unit is used to determine large and small apartment developments to simplify and avoid multiple interpretations. There occupancy per unit is approximately 2.3 people for a large apartment 1.6 people for a small apartment and 2.9 people for a town house.

The Committee suggested that an example of Community Benefits Charge usage be brought to a future General Committee meeting and that there be consideration to include the intensification rate by York Region and study it's implications to the available units in the current growth scenario.

Staff suggested that this study will be updated again after the 2051 forecast and intensification rates are approved and the new population forecast is available.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

1. That the Development Charges Background Study Update presentation be received; and,
2. That the City provide for indexing of capital costs on multi-year Area Specific Development Charge credit/reimbursement agreements as part of the City's Development Charge by-law update; and,
3. **That Clause 2 apply at the adoption of the new Development Service Charge by-law; and further,**
4. **That staff be directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.**

Carried

9. PRESENTATIONS - COMMUNITY SERVICES ISSUES

9.1 MARKHAM VILLAGE / UNIONVILLE FLOOD STUDY COMPLETION (5.6)

Eddy Wu, Director, Environmental Services, addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview on the flood study progress and that today's presentation is an update to the previous General Committee Meeting on September 13, 2021. He introduced Rob Muir, Manager, Stormwater, who presented, "Markham Village-Unionville Flood Mitigation Study" which illustrated the next stage of the flood control program that is being accelerated as a result of the flooding that occurred in the summer of 2017. The presentation also provided new information with respect to resident questions raised at the Open House that occurred in June and outlined the anticipated activities during construction.

The Committee made the following inquiries:

- Mitigation strategies and available options to avoid constant operation of a sump pump in the area;
- That there be consideration to an additional public information meeting closer to when the work will be undertaken;
- Initiatives regarding water courses and waste item collection that may occur after storm events;
- That there be regular inspections of the creeks and surrounding areas to address debris removal; and,
- That there be consideration to conduct inspections for debris on affected private properties where water runs through them.

Staff advised that an enclosing ditch may be an option where a sump pump runs constantly, where there is no existing storm sewer and that this can be investigated. Staff indicated that there would continue to be constant communication with local area residents as work progresses by way of additional community open houses. It was noted that vulnerable waterways are inspected regularly after each event to initiate the appropriate debris removal and that this will be expanded to new areas identified.

The Committee thanked staff for their work on this significant project.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

1. That the presentation entitled "Markham Village-Unionville Flood Mitigation Study" be received.

Carried**10. PRESENTATIONS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES****10.1 WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE (5.3)**

Wendy Kemp, Acting Director of Infrastructure, Environmental Services, York Region and Tracey Carrigan, Master Plan Advisor, York Region, addressed the Committee and provided a presentation entitled, York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update which outlined the regional context, development of the 2016 Master Plan, highlights of the New Draft Recommended Plan and supporting plan implementation activities.

The Committee thanked Ms. Kemp and Ms. Carrigan for attending the meeting today.

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

- Concerns with the amount of growth in certain areas and the amount of work being done at other parts of the Region;
- A Regional breakdown of the quantum of work on water and sewer initiatives in other parts of the Region in relation to Markham;
- That there be uninterrupted water delivery to areas under development to avoid project delays; and,
- Inquiry into the the 10 year capital plan, its progress and if there is anything to preclude the use of a water booster station to ensure continuous water supply in the areas under development.

Ms. Kemp advised that service is being provided to all municipalities regionally and that the south-east collector is a large project and that the work on it supports Markham and other surrounding municipalities. She indicated that it is difficult to predict the approvals from the Ministry and that the capacity monitoring project and sewage allocation is on the agenda. Ms. Kemp further indicated that the land needs assessment is incorporated in the water and wastewater modelling in addition to infrastructure planning as the master plan is updated every five years.

The Committee requested that staff prepare a resolution to send to the Region that reiterates the timing and the delivery an uninterrupted water supply to the City's key development areas to avoid any negative impact on the creation of communities.

The Committee suggested that there be a Regional Breakdown of the quantum of work on water and sewer initiatives in other parts of the Region in relation to Markham.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the presentation by York Region on the York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update be received.
2. **That staff be directed to formulate a resolution for the upcoming General Committee meeting, a resolution to send to York Region that reiterates the timing and uninterrupted delivery of a water supply to key development areas.**
3. **That staff be directed to request of the Region to complete the required EA work; and further,**
4. **That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.**

Carried

11. REGULAR REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

11.1 MINUTES AND NOTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (16.0)

The Committee thanked the Race Relations Committee for this recommendation and look forward to their participation with ongoing City Race Relations and Truth and Reconciliation initiatives in the future.

Recommendation:

"Whereas Indigenous Children were found at the mass grave sites at residential schools across Canada; and,

Whereas truth and reconciliation has been an important national narrative and that the City of Markham is committed to all 94 Call to Action items; and,

Whereas Call to Action item #75 calls for all levels of government to work together which includes the City of Markham; and further,

Whereas on January 31, 2017, the City of Markham signed an historic agreement of cultural collaboration with the Eabametoong First Nations:

Be it resolved that the City of Markham, the Race Relations Committee, and its communities take the time to listen and observe and actively seek out the truth and advice of Indigenous communities; and,

Be it resolved that the Race Relations Committee will make itself available to support Indigenous communities; and further,

Be it resolved that the Race Relations Committee is committed to the elimination of all forms of racism and continues to support ongoing conversations with the City, the Mayor's Office and Indigenous Communities."

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the minutes and recommendation from the September 13, 2021 Race Relations Committee meeting be received for information purposes.

Carried

11.2 STAFF AWARDED CONTRACTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021 (7.12)

There were inquiries on the following contracts:

- 126-R-21 Engineering Consulting Servicing for the Restoration Design at Thornlea Pool;
- 148-R-21 - Consulting Engineering Services for the Detailed Design of Markham Centre Trails Phase II;
- 041-T-21 Installation of Oil Grit Separator at Stormwater Management Pond (ID #70); and,
- 150-T-21 Block Tree Pruning Program – Year 3 of 3.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

1. That the report entitled "Staff Awarded Contracts for the Month of September 2021" be received; and,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

11.3 BILL PR37 - AN ACT RESPECTING THE PARYA TRILLIUM FOUNDATION (7.3)

Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Tax, addressed the Committee to advise Council of the passage of Bill PR37, that provided a property tax exemption for the property located at 344 John Street, owned by the Parya Trillium Foundation. He indicated that this is a non-profit organization that provides a safe and welcoming place for newcomers to Canada of Iranian decent. This legislation received Royal Assent in 2021 and allows for Council to pass a by-law for the 2019, 2020, and 2021 taxation years, as well as in the future provided that; a)The Foundation is the registered owner of the specified land; b)The specified land is occupied and used solely by the Foundation; and c) The Foundation is a registered charity within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada). Mr. Manson noted that the initial tax adjustment would be approximately \$40,000 and \$14,000 per year in future tax adjustments.

The Committee discussed the following:

- That there may be additional organizations that provide services and programming for the community that request similar consideration; and,
- That the supporting by-law for Bill PR37 be specific to the type of activities and programming provided to the community as was indicated in the Bill.

Staff advised that they are not aware of other organizations seeking this type of consideration and that this organization has consulted with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation on an appeal for previous taxation years and spent considerable time and effort to conform to the criteria outlined by the Province for this special legislation.

The Committee requested that the qualifying activities and programming utilized on the property be specified in the by-law with consideration to this property tax exemption.

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

1. That the report entitled Bill PR37, Parya Trillium Foundation Act (Tax Relief) be received; and,
2. That should Council approve the passage of a by-law authorized under subsection (1) and (2) of Bill Pr37, for the cancelling of taxes for municipal purposes, other than local improvement charges, for the property located at 344 John Street; the Treasurer or his designate adjust the property tax account accordingly; and,

3. That the associated interest be cancelled in proportion to the tax adjustments; and,
4. **That staff bring forward a by-law exempting Parya Trillium Foundation from paying property taxes on this property as long as the Bill qualifying criteria are met; and** further,
5. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

11.4 MINUTES AND NOTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND OCTOBER 6, 2021 BUDGET COMMITTEE (16.0)

The Committee inquired about the requested recommendation.

Joel Lustig, Treasurer, advised that this request is for pre-approval of the 2022 Capital Budget as discussed at the Budget Committee Meetings to initiate the procurement process on the included items.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

1. That the minutes and notes of the October 1, 2021 and October 6, 2021 Budget Committee meetings be received for information purposes; and,

That the “2022 Capital Budget Pre-Approval Summary” be received (summary attached as Appendix “A”); and,

That Council approve the 2022 Capital Budget Pre-Approval in the amount of \$4,212,751.00; and further,

That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

11.5 2022 PROPOSED WATER / WASTEWATER RATE REPORT PRESENTATION (5.3)

Staff advised that the public meeting in relation to this item is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 6:30-7:30 PM following the November 2, 2021, Budget Meeting.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

1. That the presentation entitled “2022 Water/Wastewater Rate Public Consultation Meeting” be received and approved for presentation at the November 18th Public Consultation meeting; and,
2. That the report entitled “2022 Water/Wastewater Rate” be received; and,
3. That Staff be authorized to hold an electronic public meeting on November 18th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to gather resident feedback on the principle of, increasing the 2022 water/wastewater rate by 3.7% or \$0.1667 from \$4.4680 to \$4.6347; and,
4. That feedback received at the public meeting along with the proposed 2022 water/wastewater rate be put forward for Council’s consideration on December 7th, 2021; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

12. MOTIONS

12.1 BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES (2.0)

Councillor Reid McAlpine addressed the Committee and read the Motion.

There was discussion regarding concerns with difficulties on obtaining quick enforcement on by-law infractions and that the City works on a complaint based system due to the current case volumes and resource allocation. The Committee requested a third party review of current processes together with the identification of roles and objectives of by-law services to assist with future improvements and decision making. The Committee also discussed concerns with neighbourhood and community maintenance, in addition to property value preservation.

The Committee also discussed allowing time for the newly appointed staff members to use their extensive experience to provide an appropriate analysis of current operations and identify issues that the municipality does not have authority to act on.

Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services, addressed the Committee and advised that new managerial staff resources have been hired to assist with work-

load optimization and organizational development, and that they will need time to orient themselves with the City.

Ms. Cane noted that the City was previously successful in obtaining funding from the Province's Audit and Accountability Fund to extend the Administrative Monetary Penalty program and implement the ParkSmart program. She indicated that there is currently an additional intake by the Province for funding from the Audit and Accountability Fund where applications are due by October 28, 2021, and that the City submitted two proposals and can add a third with respect to by-law services. This funding can help offset the cost of a third party consultant.

The Committee requested that staff prepare an application to the Audit and Accountability Fund and that there be funding set aside in the City budget in the event funding is not obtained from the Province for this review.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

Whereas the City of Markham maintains teams of Provincial Offences Officers to enforce City Bylaws;

Whereas a new City Manager of Bylaw and Regulatory Services will join the City on November 15, 2021;

Whereas other departments, including Animal Care and Tree Protection also employ Provincial Offences Officers;

Whereas bylaw enforcement is one of the most high-profile services maintained by the City;

Whereas bylaws are typically enforced on a complaints-only re-active basis, rather than pro-actively, such that enforcement is uneven across the City;

Where property standards and sign bylaws in the Heritage Conservation Districts are honoured more in the breach than in the observance;

Whereas observance of property standards bylaws across the city is perceived by many residents to have been declining for many years.

Whereas there were hundreds of open bylaw enforcement cases prior to the pandemic;

Whereas the pandemic has almost certainly served only to increase the backlog of open cases;

Whereas bylaw enforcement service is limited on weekends and evenings, even as those breaking bylaws do not necessarily keep business hours;

Whereas the bylaw enforcement team does not have a centralized dispatch system;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Council directs City staff to commission an independent third-party report and recommendations for improved bylaw enforcement services, addressing but not limited to the following topics:

- Best practices among other bylaw enforcement operations in Ontario and elsewhere,
- Optimal organisational structure,
- Per capita staffing levels,
- Case backlogs,
- Weekly hours of service,
- Dispatch systems,
- Proactive vs reactive enforcement,
- The roles of other City and Regional field staff in identifying and reporting bylaw offences,
- Options for the employment of private security contractors,
- Implications for union contracts and relations,
- Costs for various increased service levels;

And that the final report be presented to council no later than April 30, 2022; and,

That staff including the new Manager By-Law and Regulatory Services, and the Assistant Manager, Parking Administration and the By-Law Services Supervisor, be asked to review and evaluate the above areas and provide input regarding any additional external consultant review; and further,

That staff determine the opportunity to apply to the Province's Audit and Accountability Fund, Intake 3, to assist in the evaluation of these areas and that staff report back to Development Services Committee on this matter.

Carried

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new or other business.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional Councillor Jack Heath addressed the Committee and advised that the Honourable Helena Jaczek's husband, Hershel Weinberg, passed away in his 93rd year on October 15, 2021. He was previously Commissioner of Planning at York Region. On behalf of the Committee, Regional Councillor Heath extended condolences to the Hon. Ms. Jaczek and her family.

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Committee did not resolve into Confidential session and consented that staff may proceed with the recommendation and that it be referred to the October 26, 2021, Confidential Council Meeting Agenda for further consideration.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

That item 16.1.1 be referred to the October 26, 2021 Confidential Council Meeting Agenda for further consideration.

Carried

16.1 LAND, BUILDING & PARKS CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

16.1.1 A PROPOSED OR PENDING ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF LAND BY THE CITY OR LOCAL BOARD; (8.6) (WARD 4) [SECTION 239 (2)(c)]

17. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

That General Committee adjourn at 4:45 PM.

Carried