



Budget Committee Minutes

Meeting No. 4

October 20, 2021, 1:00 PM - 4:00 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 1:02 PM with Councillor Amanda Collucci in the Chair.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

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

Carried

4. CONTINUATION OF THE 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

4.1 Capital Summary

Committee continued its review of the 2022 Capital Budget.

Community Services

Markham Public Library

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the Budget Committee approve the Markham Public Library Capital Budget Item Nos. 22130 and 22131.

Carried

Community Services***Operations – Roads***

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Capital Budget Item No.	Project	Discussion
22132	Asphalt Resurfacing	<p>Staff advised that the City’s focus of asphalt resurfacing is to preserve road conditions by leveraging different technology. The pavement management program allows the City to perform rehabilitation of its roads rather than reconstruction. It would be more costly to fix roads later than it is to repair and maintain regularly. The safety of the City’s roads is important and delaying the program is not recommended.</p> <p>Mayor Frank Scarpitti indicated that the program is being funded from gas tax. Using gas tax funds for the Asphalt Resurfacing program, benefits the corporation’s lifecycle reserve as it is not greatly impacted. The contribution to lifecycle reserve may have to be increased overtime. The City’s excellent road quality ratings are a result of the Asphalt Resurfacing program.</p> <p>Councillor Amanda Collucci shared her recent experience of a neighboring municipality’s roads which were not ideal compared to the City’s excellent roads.</p>
22134	Localized Repairs - Parking Lots	Staff advised that the repairs to the parking lot behind the Royal Bank branch located on Main Street Markham at Centre Street are currently delayed. The Royal Bank has completed the repairs of its owned parking lot parcel and has expressed interest in purchasing the City’s parking lot parcel. The City will complete the repairs if an agreement of purchase and sale is not reached with the Royal Bank.
22135	Localized Repairs - Curb & Sidewalk	Staff confirmed that the City receives a one-year warranty on sidewalks and curbs. Areas of deficiencies can be forwarded to Staff for immediate repair.
22138	City Owned Entrance Feature Rehabilitation/ Replacement	Councillor Reid McAlpine indicated that his inquiry of this project is also in relation to project number 22179, Public Realm – Gateway Masterplan Update. Features in Ward 3 may be due to be repaired. It was requested that before funds are allocated to repairs, that local

		<p>residents are consulted. It was also expressed that the same strategy be applied to project number 22179.</p> <p>Councillor Keith Irish suggested that public consultations regarding entrance way features should include not only the immediate neighbors, but also all the residents of a neighborhood who pass through an entrance way. It was asked that this be considered by Staff.</p> <p>Staff confirmed that it will ensure to arrange public consultations prior to beginning rehabilitations for both project number 22138 and project number 22179.</p>
22142	Guiderail Repairs	Staff identified that guiderail repairs are not planned for Ferrah Street.
22145	Storm Water Retention Pond Maintenance Program	<p>Councillor Karen Rea requested whether more vegetation could be planted on the north side of the pond to hide residents' view of the pond's overabundance of algae.</p> <p>Staff advised that it will follow up with Environmental Services and will report back to Budget Committee.</p>

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations – Roads Capital Budget Item Nos. 22132 through to 22147.

Carried

Operations – Parks

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Capital Budget Item No.	Project	Discussion
22153	Playstructure & Rubberized Surface Replacement	Staff confirmed that the surfacing of playstructures will be replacement with Engineered Wood Fiber. Two playstructures' surfacing must be replaced in 2022.

22155	Pathways Resurfacing	Staff expressed that it would review the current Pathways Resurfacing program and look into a future strategy in line with the City's commitment to provide winter access to several parks, trails and pathways. This may involve paving more paths.
22162	Block Pruning Initiative – Year 3 of 3	Staff advised that it will report back to Budget Committee with details on the funding of the remaining trees left to prune in the third year of the three year program.
22163	Boulevard/ Park Trees Replacement	Staff advised that dead, diseased and damaged trees are monitored through the annual program.
22165	Sportsfield Maintenance & Reconstruction	<p>Staff explained that the Sportsfield Maintenance and Reconstruction program is dedicated to ensure safety of sportfields. It would be a challenge to apply the same program to boulevards but perhaps could be done with smaller equipment and could involve a completely different type of program.</p> <p>Staff advised that it could review a strategy and program to improve the conditions of grass and the removal of weeds of City boulevards where needed such as in the Vinegar Hill community.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton expressed that an irrigation system with a slow drip system works best.</p>
22166	Swan Lake Shoreline Restoration	Staff advised that the same shoreline modifications completed at Toogood Pond will be done at Swan Lake to reduce Canada Geese from walking onto land. The related project number 22197 could be expanded to incorporate geese issues at stormwater locations.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations – Parks Capital Budget Item Nos. 22148 through to 22161 and 22163 through to 22166.

That the discussion on Capital Budget Item No. 22162 be deferred to the next Budget Committee meeting.

Carried

Operations – Fleet

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Capital Budget Item No.	Project	Discussion
22167	Corporate Fleet Growth – Non-Fleet	Staff advised that it is closely monitoring the latest fleet industry technology as it is being developed. Equipment is being assessed to determine (i) which can be replaced and (ii) availability of adequate electric equipment to purchase.
22168 through to 22175	Corporate Fleet and New Fleet	Staff explained the cost difference between Bylaw Enforcement and Engineering. The City determined, after analysis of mileage and usage, that it is best to procure a hybrid SUV vehicle for Bylaw Enforcement. It was confirmed that the City has a Fleet Management Strategy Policy. Trinela Cane, Commissioner, explained how the appropriate vehicle is chosen. Business needs are reviewed and aligned with safety requirements. SUVs are better suited for a variety of reasons: carrying equipment, picking up signs, broken fences, etc. It was emphasized that staff are also required to drive in all types of weather and on backroads.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations - Fleet Capital Budget Item Nos. 22167 through to 22171 and 22173 through to 22175.

Carried

Operations – Utility Inspection & Survey

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations – Utility Inspection & Survey Capital Budget Item Nos. 22176 and 22177.

Carried

Operations – Business & Technical Services

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve the Operations – Business & Technical Services Capital Budget Item Nos. 22178, 22179 and 22180.

Carried

Environmental Services – Infrastructure

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Khalid Usman

That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Services – Infrastructure Capital Budget Item Nos. 22181 and 22183 through to 22192.

Carried

Environmental Services – Stormwater

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Capital Budget Item No.	Project	Discussion
22195	SWM Pond Cleaning ID#44 & #96 - Design & CA	Staff advised that it conducts sediment level inspections to determine whether ponds require cleaning. Staff will report back to Budget Committee with the details of last cleaning of Austin Drive Pond.
22197	Water Quality Improvements	Staff indicated that they will report back to Budget Committee on whether the geese control measures program at Toogood Pond and Swan Lake can be expanded to Edward Jeffrey Pond and other stormwater ponds which require geese control. Staff will also report back on whether fencing installed at Toogood Pond has helped discourage resident geese from using the pond.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Services – Stormwater Capital Budget Item Nos. 22194, 22195, 22196 and 22198.

That the discussion on Capital Budget Item No. 22197 be deferred to the next Budget Committee meeting.

Carried

Environmental Services – Waste

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Councillor Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Services – Waste Capital Budget Item Nos. 22199 and 22200.

Carried

Environmental Services – Waterworks

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Services – Waterworks Capital Budget Item Nos. 22201 through to 22212.

Carried

Corporate Wide

Staff provided the following responses to inquiries from the Committee:

Capital Budget Item No.	Project	Discussion
22213	Citywide Staff Salary Recovery	Joel Lustig, Treasurer, explained that rather than including personnel costs within individual capital budgets or as a stand-alone capital budget by department, it was determined that it would be easier and clearer to present same under one project description.

		<p>Staff explained that staffing discussions will continue at the Operating Budget review at the next Budget Committee meeting.</p> <p>Trinela Cane, Commissioner, advised that Graham Seaman, Director, is conducting a review and will provide an update on other ways that the service could be provided without the necessity of a new position of a Sustainability Coordinator for Kirkham Garden Community Garden.</p>
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Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the Budget Committee approve the Corporate Wide Capital Budget Item Nos. 22213 and 22214.

Carried

The following deputation was made:

Michael Steiner

- Has lived in Wismer Commons for 15 years.
- Questioned why funds are being allocated to the York University parking lot, which could be better used to improve the Wismer Commons community.
- Identified areas of concern in Wismer Commons community: (i) maintenance of the pond and pathways behind Edward Jeffrey Avenue; (ii) maintenance of trees and tree planting; and (ii) maintenance of grass and growth of weeds.
- Expressed concerns that not enough is being done regarding water management and ravine maintenance at the Edward Jeffrey's pond.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti thanked the Deputant and committed to meeting with both him and Lucy Giammarco (former Budget Committee meeting Deputant) to address all of their concerns regarding the Wismer Commons community, including the safety of the Wismer community bridge. The disbursement of Development Charges will also be discussed with both Deputants.

Moved by Mayor Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

Carried

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on October 22, 2021.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Committee adjourned at 2:38 PM.