

## Budget Committee Minutes

**January 30, 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Live streamed**

Members	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Michael Chan Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Ritch Lau	Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Andrew Keyes Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Juanita Nathan Councillor Isa Lee
Regrets	Regional Councillor Joe Li	
Roll Call	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services Alice Lam, Acting Commissioner, Community Services Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer Jemima Lee, Manager, Financial Planning Jay Pak, Senior Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting	Adam Grant, Fire Chief Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management Giulio Cescato, Director of Planning & Urban Design Mark Visser, Senior Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services Loy Cheah, Acting Director, Engineering Kumar Prathapan, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Budget Committee convened at 9:05 AM.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. BUDGET PRESENTATION - January 30, 2023**

Jemima Lee, Manager, Financial Planning, presented a brief presentation on the 2023 Capital Budget.

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

The Budget Committee continued its review of the 2023 Capital Budget.

The Committee discussed the following items:

**Project No. 23116 - Digitalization of HR Files**

A Committee Member inquired why the project was a multi-year project, and if there is an end date to the project

Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources, advised that project timing will not be known until the scope of the project and the manual labour requirements of the project are determined. Ms. Storto noted that the project involves digitalizing the employee records and linking them to ADP, explaining that digitalizing the records will make it simpler and more efficient to look-up employee records.

**Project No. 23144 - Civic Centre Repair and or Replacement Projects**

The Committee suggested that City needs to focus on solutions that do not rely on fossil fuels to support its net zero objectives and that should be a consideration for the repair of the peace flame. Committee suggested that this item remain in the 2023 Capital Budget and that Staff report back with options for a more environmentally friendly option for the repair of the peace flame burner unit, noting that it is an important feature at Civic Centre.

Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability and Asset Management, agreed to report back on the various options available for the repair of the peace flame multi burner unit prior to proceeding with the repair.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

That the Budget Committee approve the CAO, Legal, and Fire Capital Budget Items be approved as presented.

**Carried**

## **Corporate Services Commission**

### **Project No. 23129 - Contract Resource Recovery**

A Committee Member inquired if the Budget Committee will be provided with more information on the staff requests as part of the review of the 2023 Operating Budget.

Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services, confirmed that new staff requests will be addressed as part of the review of the 2023 Operating Budget.

Suman Acharjee, Chief Information Officer, advised that contract positions being requested under this item will assist with the replacement of major corporate systems, including EAM, and PerfectMinds.

### **Project No. 23130 - ITS- AMP's (Administrative Monetary Penalty) Expansion**

The Committee asked for an overview of the project expansion, and the types of offences which will be added to AMP's.

Trinela Cane, Commission of Corporate Services, advised that this budget request is to purchase additional modules for the new parking enhancement software purchased in 2022, to facilitate the expansion of AMP's to other areas. The cost of the additional modules is anticipated to be paid back over a five year timeframe.

Ms. Cane advised that staff are working with the consultant to determine which offences will be added to AMP's, noting that the most frequent offences will be targeted for inclusion in the program.

### **Project No. 23151 - Fire Facilities**

Mr. Seaman advised that he would report back to Councillor Reid McAlpine on the status of garbage enclosure at the Unionville Fire Station.

### **Project No. 23144 - Civic Centre Repair**

A Committee Member inquired why the City needs to hire a consultant for the repair of Civic Centre's underground garage.

Mr. Seaman advised that a consultant is being hired for the repair of the garage, as it is a complicated multi-layered project, and staff want to ensure that the City is moving forward with the right work at the right time.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the Budget Committee approve the Corporate Services 2023 Capital Budget Items.

**Carried**

## **Community Services Commission**

### **Project No. 23193 – Recreation Arena Refrigeration Study**

The Committee asked how the study would help decide, which refrigeration system will be used and if the City will be able to benefit from economies of scale when replacing these systems.

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation, clarified that a consultant is being hired to look at what type of refrigeration system should be implemented in various community centre arenas to ensure the safest and most efficient way of making ice is utilized, noting that the recommendation may vary for the various arenas, as the rinks may have been built differently. Staff anticipate that the City will be able to benefit from economies of scale for the replacement of the refrigeration system for some of rinks.

### **Project No. 23204 - Library Furniture, Equipment and Shelving Replacement**

A Committee Member questioned why the replacement of library shelving is being spread out over three years, and why the Library has an annual budget allotted for furniture and equipment replacement.

Ms. Cane advised that the Library, similar to other Departments, has an annual budget in the lifecycle reserve dedicated to the repair and replacement of Library furniture, fixtures and furniture. Each year, Departments work within their annual capital budgets to prioritize works or replacements that need to be undertaken for that budget year.

Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries, advised that the entire Milliken Mills shelving replacement could be done in 2023 once the 2023 Library Furniture, Equipment and Shelving Replacement project is approved.

The Committee noted that they should be made aware of the implications prior to advancing the budget for the replacement of the library shelves.

Ms. Lee advised that to proceed with the entire project in 2023, the Library's furniture and equipment budget for the next two years would need to be accelerated. Staff advised that they will look into this request and report back.

This item was deferred to a future Budget Committee meeting.

### **Project No. 23206 - City Owned Entrance Feature Rehabilitation/Replacement**

A Committee Member suggested that the entrance feature at Main Street Unionville and Bridle Trail could possibly be removed rather than replaced.

The Committee noted that the entrance features do not only benefit those that live within close proximity to the feature, as they also play role in the beautification of the community. Committee suggested that any further discussion on how City owned entrance features should be addressed should be dealt with at the General Committee, as it would be part of a larger policy decision.

#### **Project No. 23214 - 2022 Windstorm Tree Replacement**

A Committee Member inquired how long it will take to replace the trees damaged in the 2022 windstorm.

Alice Lam, Acting Commissioner of Community Services, advised that the trees and stumps will be removed in 2023, and staff will come forward with a 2024 budget request to replant the trees as phase two of the project..

#### **23220 - Mount Joy Artificial Turf**

The Committee inquired if artificial turf could be used on boulevards that are not thriving.

Ms. Lam advised that it is the City's service level to use natural sod on boulevards.

The Committee also inquired if the replacement of the artificial turf at the Mount Joy Community Centre could be accelerated to occur this year, as the Ontario Soccer Association did not approve the current artificial turf for premier soccer games due to its condition.

Ms. Creighton advised that there would be implications if the replacement of the artificial turf was accelerated, as the 2023 allotment of the artificial turf usage is in the process of being finalized, and the turf would not be available for use for some time if it were replaced this year.

**The Committee deferred this item and requested that staff work with the Markham Soccer Club and look at options for accelerating the replacement of the artificial turf.**

#### **Project No. 23224 - Replace Recycling Container**

The Committee suggested removing this item from the 2023 Capital Budget, as the recycling from parks often ends up in the garbage due to contamination.

Ms. Lam advised that they would like to keep this item in the 2023 Capital Budget as having recycling bins in parks helps encourage residents to recycle at home. Eddy Wu, Director of Environmental Services, agreed to re-think their educational strategy in regards to teaching residents to recycle properly at parks.

#### **Operations - Fleet**

**Project No. 23232 – Corporate Fleet Replacement – Non-Fire**

A Committee Member inquired if the City was investing in more electric vehicles, specifically electrical pick-up trucks.

Ms. Lam advised that Operations and Sustainability and Asset Management are undertaking a joint Green Fleet Strategy Study while piloting one electric pick-up truck in Roads Operations. No decision at this time in regards to whether they will invest in more electric pick-up trucks, as they need to ensure that there is enough charging stations with a higher electrical charge to support these types of vehicles.

**Project No. 23236 – New Fleet – Utility Locates (Bill 93 AMPs)**

A Committee Member asked for clarification on this item.

Ms. Lam advised that the Capital Budget Request is for two new small pickups, and two new locate detectors to support a new in-house locate team. Staff are being brought in-house due to the high cost of contracting out the work. The staff are needed to address increased development across the City, and to address the *Getting Ontario Connected Act, Bill 93*, and the *More Homes Built Faster Act, Bill 23*. Ms. Lam noted that the City will be charged if the City does not meet the timelines specified in Bill 93 for providing a locate mark-up, and that the legislation prohibits the municipality to charge for this service.

**Project No. 23245 - Toogood Pond Dam - Rehabilitation**

A Committee Member asked what type of repair is being made to the Toogood Pond Dam.

Kumar Prathapan, Senior Manager, Infrastructure, clarified that repair being undertaken is an underwater repair to the concrete that presents no public safety concerns.

**Project No. 23251 – South Unionville Stormwater Tank Rehab**

The Committee inquired why repair work is required on a stormwater tank installed in 2019 and how this can be prevented from occurring in the future.

Mr. Wu advised that staff are investigating the cause, as it appears the issue may have occurred at installation, but the exact cause is unknown at this time. Mr. Wu noted that staff need to improve their understanding of the specifications of underground stormwater management tanks to establish design standards that can be used during approvals and inspections. Mr. Wu clarified that the stormwater tank replacements are covered under the lifecycle, but that this repair is being expedited due to a public safety concern. Therefore, the Gas Tax is being used to cover the cost of the repair.

**Moved by Councillor Juniata Nathan**

**Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti**

**That the Budget Committee approve the 2023 Community Services Items, save and expect Capital Budget Project Nos. 23154 and 23220.**

**Carried**

### **Development Charges**

The Committee inquired if the City will be able to collect lost Development Charges due the new five year phase-in of Development Charge rate increases.

Mark Visser, Acting Treasurer, advised that staff are still looking into what Development Charges will be permitted to be collected, noting that lost Development Charges for soft services will likely never be able to be collected. Mr. Visser noted that majority of the City's Development Charges are already committed to upcoming growth related projects.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **6. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on Monday, February 6, at 9:00 AM.

### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

The Budget Committee adjourned at 10:28 PM.

**Carried**