

General Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Number: 14

May 23, 2023, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Live streamed

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti	Councillor Reid McAlpine
	Deputy Mayor Michael Chan	Councillor Karen Rea
	Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Councillor Andrew Keyes
	Regional Councillor Joe Li	Councillor Amanda Collucci
	Regional Councillor Alan Ho	Councillor Juanita Nathan
	Councillor Keith Irish	Councillor Isa Lee
	Councillor Ritch Lau	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer	Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management
	Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Alex Moore, Manager of Purchasing & Accounts Payable
	Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services	Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation
	Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources	Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship
	Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk	Mark Visser, Sr Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments
	Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator
	Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer	John Wong, Technology Support Specialist II
	Adam Grant, Fire Chief	Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services
	Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services	

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 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.

General Committee convened at 9:31 AM with Councillor Keith Irish presiding as Chair.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Deputy Mayor, Michael Chan, declared a pecuniary interest in relation to item 7.4. He abstained from voting on this matter.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2023 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING (16.0)

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the minutes of the May 9, 2023 General Committee meeting be confirmed.

Carried

4. DEPUTATIONS

The Committee heard a deputation in relation to item 7.5. Please refer to the item for details.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 YORK REGION COMMUNICATIONS (13.4)

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

Seconded by Councillor Ritch Lau

1. That the following communications dated May 3, 2023 from York Region be received for information purposes:
 1. ventureLAB 2022 Results
 2. 2022 Drinking Water Systems Report

3. 2022 Integrated Management System Update Report for Water, Wastewater and Waste Management

Carried

6. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

7. CONSENT REPORTS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7.1 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS CHARGE DECEMBER 31, 2022 RESERVE BALANCE AND ANNUAL ACTIVITY OF THE ACCOUNTS (7.11)

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the report titled “Development Charge and Community Benefits Charge December 31, 2022 Reserve Balances and Annual Activity of the Accounts” be received by Council as required under Section 43(1) of the *Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended*, and Section 37(48) of the *Planning Act*; and further,
2. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this report.

Carried

7.2 DEVELOPMENT CHARGES INTEREST POLICY (7.11)

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the report entitled “Development Charge Interest Policy” be received; and,
2. That the revised “Development Charge Interest Policy”, attached as Appendix A, be adopted by Council; and further,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.3 2023 TAX RATES AND LEVY BY-LAW REPORT (7.3)

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the report dated May 23, 2023 entitled “2023 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 \$814,035,928 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 2023, as set out as follows, be approved; and,

TAX LEVYING BODY	2023 TAX LEVY AMOUNT
City of Markham	\$176,566,030
Region of York	\$383,061,591
Province of Ontario (Education)	\$253,954,446
Markham Village BIA	\$239,640
Unionville BIA	\$214,221
Total	\$814,035,928

3. 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,
4. That the attached by-law be passed to authorize the 2023 Tax Rates and Levy By-law; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.4 TAX ADJUSTMENT UNDER SEC. 357 & 358 OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 (7.3)

Deputy Mayor, Michael Chan, declared a pecuniary interest in relation to this item. He abstained from voting on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the Report for the Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Taxes under Sections 357 and 358 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* be received; and,
2. That taxes totalling approximately \$175,191 (incl. \$2,556 of Stormwater Fees) be adjusted under Section 357 and 358 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* of which the City's tax portion is estimated to be \$34,259; and,
3. That the associated interest be cancelled in proportion to the tax adjustments; and,
4. That the Treasurer be directed to adjust the Collector's Roll accordingly; and further,
5. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

7.5 2023 UNIONVILLE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA AND MARKHAM VILLAGE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA OPERATING BUDGETS (7.4)

The Committee heard a deputation from Doug Denby in relation to historic concerns with government development and tax decisions.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the report titled "2023 Unionville Business Improvement Area and Markham Village Business Improvement Area Operating Budgets" dated May 9, 2023 be received; and,
2. That the 2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$450,000 for the Unionville Business Improvement Area (UBIA) be approved; and,

3. That the 2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$334,034 for the Markham Village Business Improvement Area (MVBIA) be approved; and,
4. That the Special Tax Rate levy, in the amount of \$214,221 for the UBIA members and \$239,640 for the MBIA members be included in the 2023 Tax Levy By-law; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the deputation from Doug Denby be received.

Carried

8. CONSENT REPORTS - ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY MATTERS

8.1 WASTEWATER 2022 O&M ANNUAL REPORT (5.0)

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Michael Chan

1. That the report entitled “2022 Wastewater Collection Performance Report” (the 2022 Report) be received; and,
2. That Council acknowledge and endorse the 2022 Report and its outcomes as a baseline for future reporting; and,
3. That Staff be authorized to share this 2022 Report with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry), as a best practice and to seek early feedback, in anticipation of reporting requirements under the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure (CLI) Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) for the City’s Collection System; and further,
4. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

9. PRESENTATIONS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

**9.1 AUDITOR GENERAL OVERVIEW ORIENTATION (ROLE) AND
UPDATE ON AUDITS COMPLETED DURING TERM AND AUDIT
PLAN FOR 2023 (7.0)**

Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services, addressed the Committee to provide opening remarks and indicated that today's presentation will provide an overview of the Auditor General function and that this is the second term with MNP LLP as the City's Auditor General. Ms. Cane introduced Geoff Rodrigues, Partner, National Internal Audit Leader, MNP LLP who presented the City of Markham Audit Plan Update, together with Depak Jaswal, LL.B, CTPRP, Senior Manager, MNP LLP. The presentation included information on the Role of the Auditor General, the Audit Charter, work done to date, the proposed 2023 Audit Plan, as well as details regarding audit execution and follow up approaches. Mr. Rodrigues noted that since 2016 the audit activities have been compliance driven and that the intent going forward is to review operations and value for money as well as provide comparative analysis on previous audits.

The Committee thanked Mr. Rodrigues and Mr. Jaswal for attending the meeting and their presentation.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

1. The Auditor General Update Presentation be received; and further,
2. That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Carried

**9.2 STATUS UPDATE OF IMPLEMENTATION - REGISTRATION AND
FACILITY BOOKING SYSTEM (12.0)**

Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services, addressed the Committee and introduced the recently procured, Xplor Recreation culture, registration and facility booking system that will replace the CLASS (ezreg) and Citywide Point of Sale systems.

Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer, Mary Creighton, Director Recreation Services, and Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk and Director of Legislative Services, presented the improved features, functionality, benefits and the steps necessary to create an account. Staff indicated that the system was created using input from all major stakeholders from the Contact Center, Recreation, Markham Public Library and Culture, and will facilitate registration and rental offerings

within one platform. The new, easy to use system will be available for general program registration on August 15, 2023 and for aquatics programs on August 22, 2023. Staff advised that members of the public may begin creating a profile beginning June 19, 2023.

The Committee thanked staff for the presentation, their enthusiasm and work put into this new initiative. There was discussion on the following in relation to the presentation:

- The elimination of matching payments;
- The replacement or integration of Markham Public Library Cards;
- The types of room and facility bookings the system can accommodate;
- The process in which to sign-up and pay for 'drop-in' programs;
- The process in which to create an account and profile and whether information from CLASS will be transferred to the new system;
- The timing of when the CLASS and ezreg systems will cease operation;
- The method in which refunds are processed;
- Whether City staff from the Contact Centre, Recreation and Markham Public Library will be available to assist members of the public to create an account;
- An inquiry regarding cancellation periods after a facility has been booked and paid for;
- The length of time the data collected is stored and the threshold for inactive accounts;
- The process in which to reserve a sports field for activities such as cricket, baseball and golf;
- The availability of an App for the system;
- An inquiry into registration start times, waiting lists, and virtual queue management when the maximum number of online users has been reached at peak registration periods;
- That consideration be made to create a robust communication strategy is executed to ensure that all residents and members of the public are aware of the change to this new system and provide instructions on how to use it; and,

- A suggestion that Members of Council may participate on the steering committee for this initiative.

Staff responded to the inquiries made by the Committee and noted that staff at recreation centers, libraries, and, the Contact Centre will be available to assist members of the public with questions and provide instructions to create their profile. Staff further noted that during the preliminary launch of the program, feedback from users will be taken to evaluate their experience for consideration of future updates to the system, procedures and programming.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michael Chan

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

1. That the presentation titled, "Status Update Program Administration Facility Booking System and City Wide Point of Sale System (POS)" 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 ITEMS

General Committee resolved into confidential session at 11:23 AM.

Moved by Councillor Juanita Nathan

Seconded by Councillor Isa Lee

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 MATTERS

14.1.1 GENERAL COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES - APRIL 11, 2023 (16.0) [Section 239 (2) (a)(c)]

14.1.2 LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD; [SECTION 239 (2) (e)]

UPDATE REPORT - REQUEST FOR DIRECTION RE: ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL APPEAL BY TIMBERCREEK FOUR QUADRANT GP2 INC., OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATIONS AT 288, 298, AND 300 JOHN STREET (WARD 1) (10.3, 10.5)

The Committee consented to place this item on the May 31, 2023 Confidential Council meeting Agenda for consideration.

15. ADJOURNMENT

General Committee adjourned from confidential session at 12:37 PM and did not report out on any matter.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

That General Committee adjourn from confidential session at 12:37 PM and not return to open session or report out on any matter.

Carried