

## Electronic Special Council Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Number: 21**  
**July 27, 2023, 1:00 PM**  
**Electronic Meeting**

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Michael Chan Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Regional Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Keith Irish	Councillor Ritch Lau Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Andrew Keyes Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Juanita Nathan Councillor Isa Lee
Regrets	Councillor Reid McAlpine	
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of People Services Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services Bryan Frois, Manager, Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives Joseph Silva, Treasurer Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering Giulio Cescato, Director of Planning & Urban Design Mark Visser, Senior Manager Financial Strategy & Investments	Alida Tari, Manager, Access & Privacy John Wong, Technology Support Specialist II Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer Stephen Lue, Acting Senior Manager, Development, Planning & Urban Design Maggie Cheung-Madar, Assistant City Solicitor Erica Alligood, Council/Committee Coordinator Stacia Muradali, Manager, Development Clement Messere, Senior Planner Nusrat Omer, Senior Planner

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Special Council convened at 1:14 PM on July 27, 2023. Mayor Frank Scarpitti presided.

## **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.

### **2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosure of pecuniary interests.

### **3. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

### **4. REPORT NO. 29 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (JULY 5, 2023)**

Please refer to your July 5, 2023 Special Development Services Committee Agenda for reports.

Mayors and Members of Council:

#### **4.1 PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE POLICIES OF THE PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT (10.0)**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Michael Chan  
Seconded by Councillor Keith Irish

1. That the July 5, 2023 report titled “Proposed Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Planning Statement” be received; and,
2. That the Province of Ontario be advised that the City of Markham has no concerns with the proposed natural heritage policies of the Provincial Planning Statement; and,
3. That the Province of Ontario be requested to review and update their natural heritage guidelines to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement; and,

4. That this report be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing as the City of Markham's comments on the proposed natural heritage policies of the Provincial Planning Statement; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**Carried**

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 REVIEW OF MARKHAM'S GOVERNANCE MODEL

Moved by Councillor Andrew Keyes

Seconded by Regional Councillor Alan Ho

1. That the rules of procedure be waived to introduce a motion regarding the City of Markham's Governance Model.

**Carried by a Two Thirds Vote**

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

#### **Review of Markham's Governance Model**

**Whereas**, 50 years ago, the Province of Ontario established the regional government model consisting of the Regional Municipality of York and 9 lower-tier municipalities that were relatively similar; and

**Whereas**, the current municipal governance model establishes the City of Markham as the lower-tier municipality, and the Region of York as the upper-tier municipality; and

**Whereas**, Markham is the largest lower-tier municipality in York Region and Canada's most ethnically diverse community as per Statistics Canada census data; and

**Whereas**, Markham is Canada's High-Tech Capital, located in Canada's second highest concentration of ICT jobs and a hub for innovation; and

**Whereas**, for the past 18 consecutive years, the City of Markham has maintained the lowest average tax increase in the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area; and

**Whereas**, Markham is proposed to grow to a population of 619,200 people and 309,200 jobs by 2051, an overall population increase of 280,100 people (2021), an additional 97,000 housing units and additional 127,200 jobs; and

**Whereas**, in March 2023, Markham Council signed its Housing Pledge, *Housing Pledge with a Promise*, as requested by the Province of Ontario, which includes a provincially mandated housing target of 44,000 housing units by 2031; and

**Whereas**, Markham taxpayers contribute a significant share of property tax revenue to York Region; and

**Whereas**, Markham's recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey indicated an over 90% satisfaction rate with quality of life and believe Markham is a great place to live, work and play; and

**Whereas**, Markham is continually rated amongst the top municipal employers in Canada and is recognized annually for its fiscal transparency, almost 80% of residents concluded that the City of Markham provides good value for the local tax dollar as per the recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey; and

**Whereas**, through the passage of Bill 112 and impending appointments of regional facilitators, the Province of Ontario is determined to review changes to municipal governance structures through but not limited to streamlined decision-making, expedited approvals and removal of duplication; and

**Whereas**, the City of Markham continues to be a leader in embracing new technology, streamlining processes and delivering cost-effective exceptional services residents and businesses have come to expect; and

**Whereas**, the City of Markham is one of Ontario's largest municipalities and a member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Big City Mayors' Caucus of Canada; and

**Whereas**, the City of Markham is one the largest municipalities in Canada not to have single-tier status;

It is therefore recommended:

1. **THAT** the City of Markham confirms that the status quo governance model in York Region requires modernization and changes to existing structures to meet the current and future needs of Markham; and
2. **THAT** the City of Markham staff explores options of a new single-tier governance model as part of the provincial government's regional review process; and

3. **THAT** City of Markham staff be directed to undertake the analysis required to support exploring a new governance model; and
4. **THAT** City of Markham staff be authorized to retain consultant(s) to complete the analysis on the options; and
5. **THAT** City of Markham staff report back to Council by the end of October 2023 with a final report; and further
6. **THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, York Region MPPs, Regional Municipality of York, and the nine lower-tier municipalities of York Region.

**Carried Unanimously by Recorded Vote**

See below for Recorded Vote

**Recorded Vote (12:0)**

**YEAS:** Councillor Keith Irish, Councillor Ritch Lau, Councillor Karen Rea, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor Michael Chan, Councillor Juanita Nathan, Councillor Isa Lee, Regional Councillor Alan Ho, Regional Councillor Jim Jones, Regional Councillor Joe Li, Councillor Andrew Keyes, Councillor Amanda Collucci

**NAYS:** (0)

**ABSENT:** Councillor Reid McAlpine (1)

**6. CONFIDENTIAL**

Moved by Councillor Juanita Nathan

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Keyes

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, Council resolve into a private session to discuss the following confidential matters at 2:16 PM:

**Carried**

Council reconvened in Open Session at 3:10 PM and passed the following resolutions:

- 6.1 REPORT NO. 29 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE (JULY 5, 2023)

6.1.1 COMMUNICATION FROM MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS  
AND HOUSING (10.0)

(INFORMATION EXPLICITLY SUPPLIED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE  
MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD BY CANADA, A PROVINCE  
OR TERRITORY OR A CROWN AGENCY OF ANY OF THEM.)

[Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2) (h)]

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

1. That the Communication from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them. [*Municipal Act, 2001* Section 239(2)(h)] be received; and further,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to direction provided by Council.

**Carried**

6.2 OLT APPEAL: 36 TO 48 STEELES AVENUE EAST AND 37 TO 49  
HIGHLAND PARK BOULEVARD, ZONIX GROUP INC.

LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION, INCLUDING MATTERS  
BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, AFFECTING THE  
MUNICIPALITY OR LOCAL BOARD (WARD 1) [Municipal Act, 2001,  
Section 239 (2) (e)] (10.5)

Moved by Councillor Keith Irish

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

1. That the confidential presentation regarding Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals of Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendment Applications, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, And 48 Steeles Avenue East, and 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, and 49 Highland Park Boulevard, Zonix Group Inc., be received; and,
2. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to these resolutions.

**Carried**

**7. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW**

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci  
Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That By-law 2023-117 be given three readings and enacted.

Three Readings

BY-LAW 2023-117 A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 27, 2023.

**Carried**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee  
Seconded by Councillor Juanita Nathan

That the Council meeting be adjourned at 3:18 PM.

**Carried**

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Martha Pettit

Deputy Clerk

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Frank Scarpitti

Mayor