

## General Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Number: 22**

**October 25, 2023, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Flato Markham Theatre**

**171 Town Centre Blvd.**

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti Deputy Mayor Michael Chan Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Keith Irish Councillor Ritch Lau	Councillor Reid McAlpine Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Amanda Collucci Councillor Juanita Nathan Councillor Isa Lee
Regrets	Regional Councillor Alan Ho	Councillor Andrew Keyes
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services Morgan Jones, Commissioner, Community Services Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff Joseph Silva, Treasurer Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk Alice Lam, Acting Commissioner, Community Services Michael Toshakovski, Deputy City Solicitor Stephanie DiPerna, Director, Building Standards Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services Hersh Tencer, Manager, Real Property Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering	Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management Darryl Lyons, Acting Director, Planning & Urban Design Shane Manson, Senior Manager, Revenue & Property Taxation Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship John Yeh, Manager, Strategy & Innovation Mark Visser, Sr Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services Jay Pak, Sr. Manager, Financial Planning & Reporting Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator Rajeeth Arulanantham, Assistant to Council/Committee

David Plant, Sr. Mgr, Parks, Horticulture  
& Forestry, Operations  
Cajaan Jeyanathan, Coordinator,  
Strategy & Executive Operations

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**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 9:03 AM with Councillor Keith Irish presiding as Chair. The Committee recessed at 10:03 AM and reconvened at 10:10 AM.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no minutes on this agenda to approve.

**4. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

**6. PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

**7. PRESENTATIONS - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**7.1 BUILDING MARKHAM'S FUTURE TOGETHER WORKSHOP #2**

**7.1.1 PRESENTATION: TD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK**

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed the Committee to provide opening remarks and indicated that this is the second of three General Committee meetings to discuss the City's Strategic Plan, Building Markham's Future Together. Mr. Taylor further indicated that this is an opportunity to refresh the current strategic plan and prioritize initiatives through feedback from Members of Council, and the community through engagement activities to position the City for the future and to manage change. It was noted that today's meeting will be facilitated by Bryan Frois, Senior Manager Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives and Meg West, former City staff member and consultant.

Mr. Taylor welcomed Rishi Sondhi, Economist, TD Bank Financial Group, whose responsibilities include analyzing and forecasting provincial economies and regional housing markets

Mr. Sondhi, addressed the Committee to present Ontario's Outlook, which provided an Ontario centric economic outlook that highlighted, real GDP growth; mortgage payments relative to maximum affordability; the Bank of Canada and interest rate decisions; population growth and migration; information regarding the housing market supply, prices, and affordability; workforce pressures; as well as the cost of commodities.

The Committee made inquiries in relation to the following:

- Current layoffs at Canadian banks and the overall employment rate;
- The impact Artificial Intelligence will have on the job market;
- Ontario's ranking with respect to GDP across the country;
- The current geo-political impact on markets;
- The factors used to forecast a potential decrease in interest rates in Q2 2024;
- Canadian productivity and ability to meet current demands;
- The realization of the impact that the recent interest rate increases on mortgage payment and renewals; and,
- The effect of baby boomers leaving the workforce and downsizing their homes.

Mr. Sondhi provided insights in response to the inquiries and noted that the economy is expected to undergo modest growth in 2024.

On behalf of Markham City Council, Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Sondhi for attending today's session and for the enlightening information.

### **7.1.2 PRESENTATION: STATUS OF CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Bryan Frois, Senior Manager Executive Operations & Strategic Initiatives introduced Meg West, former City staff member and consultant who facilitated a review of BMFT Goals 1 and 2 that comprised of a brainstorm session to identify additional strategic components and those that are embedded in the City's policies.

The Committee reaffirmed the inclusionary items for the strategic plan.

#### **7.1.2.1 PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP: REVIEW OF BMFT GOAL 1**

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the 2020-2026 Strategic Plan presentation regarding Goal 1 be received.

**Carried**

#### **7.1.2.2 PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP: REVIEW OF BMFT GOAL 2**

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Regional Councillor Joe Li

That the 2020-2026 Strategic Plan presentation regarding Goal 2 be received.

**Carried**

### **8. MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

### **9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no notices of motion.

### **10. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no new or other business.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

General Committee adjourned at 11:29 AM.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Michael Chan

That General Committee adjourn at 11:29 AM.

**Carried**