

## General Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Number: 19**

**October 4, 2023, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Heintzman House**

Roll Call	Mayor Frank Scarpitti	Councillor Karen Rea
	Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Councillor Andrew Keyes
	Regional Councillor Joe Li	Councillor Amanda Collucci
	Councillor Keith Irish	Councillor Juanita Nathan
	Councillor Ritch Lau	Councillor Isa Lee
	Councillor Reid McAlpine	
Regrets	Deputy Mayor Michael Chan	Regional Councillor Alan Ho
Staff	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer	Frank Clarizio, Director, Engineering
	Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Graham Seaman, Director, Sustainability & Asset Management
	Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services	Darryl Lyons, Acting Director, Planning & Urban Design
	Claudia Storto, City Solicitor and Director of Human Resources	Giulio Cescato, Director of Planning & Urban Design
	Bryan Frois, Chief of Staff	Chris Rickett, Director, Economic Development, Culture and Entrepreneurship
	Joseph Silva, Treasurer	John Yeh, Manager, Strategy & Innovation
	Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk	Mark Visser, Sr Manager Strategy Innovation & Investments
	Alice Lam, Acting Commissioner, Community Services	Eddy Wu, Acting Director, Environmental Services
	Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer	Hristina Giantsopoulos, Election/Council & Committee Coordinator
	Sumon Acharjee, Chief Information Officer	Rajeeth Arulanantham, Assistant to Council/Committee
	Stephanie DiPerna, Director, Building Standards	Cajaan Jeyanathan, Coordinator, Strategy & Executive Operations
	Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services	

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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 9:11 AM. Councillor Keith Irish presided as Chair.

The Committee recessed at 10:35 AM and reconvened at 10:50 AM.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were none disclosed.

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

They were no minutes to approve on this agenda.

**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 #1**

Mayor Frank Scarpitti provided opening remarks and briefly outlined the strategic planning process and its significance in identifying goals and objectives that align with the needs for the City, now and in the future.

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, addressed the Committee and welcomed all attendees to this first of three sessions to review the City's strategic plan, Building Markham's Future Together, which was held at Heintzman House. Mr. Taylor thanked, Trinela Cane, Commissioner, Corporate Services for her

guidance through this process, Bryan Frois, Senior Manager Executive Operations and Strategic Initiatives, the Senior Management Team, Members of Council, Directors, Jeyanathan, Cajaan, Coordinator, Strategy & Executive Operations and Rick Dominico for their contributions and identified all as City builders in building this community. He briefly outlined some of the City's accomplishments, innovations through the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond and highlighted two policy plans, the Diversity Action Plan, and the Anti-Black Racism Plan that align with Building Markham's Future Together and contribute to stronger communities.

Mr. Taylor introduced, Sabine Matheson, Principal, Strategy Corp, who was in attendance today to make a presentation entitled, Government Scan. Ms. Matheson is a well respected government advisor and a specialist on intergovernmental affairs.

#### **7.1.1 PRESENTATION: GOVERNMENT SCAN**

Sabine Matheson, Principal Strategy Corp, thanked Mr. Taylor and the Mayor for the warm welcome and introduction. She provided an overview of the fundamentals required to develop a meaningful strategic plan and that it is a measurable bridge to meet the requests of council and items identified by staff using best practices and legislative requirements. Ms. Matheson presented, Government Scan, which outlined the results of a survey of 25 Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) which highlighted factors affecting communities in the next five years such as, housing, health care, safety, climate change, a global recession and others.

The Committee and staff thanked Ms. Matheson for this insightful presentation.

A brief discussion ensued on the following:

- The key issues other than housing that may be a key concern for municipalities;
- The Strong Mayor Power legislation, and its unintended consequences; and,
- The potential for a regional review.

Ms. Matheson indicated that the CAO of the municipality is responsible to manage people and finances, and ultimately has to manage the community and a crisis when it may arise. She further indicated that a regional review may not be a priority at this time. Ms. Matheson noted that the Strong Mayor Power legislation is written in a way that does not tell

municipalities what to do and noted the importance of a well defined CAO function to assist with its navigation.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Government Scan presentation be received.

**Carried**

### **7.1.2 PRESENTATION: STAFF/ COUNCIL RELATIONS**

Sabine Matheson, Principal, Strategy Corp addressed the meeting attendees and made a second presentation on Staff Council Relations which identified the three relationships between, the public, elected officials and staff, and how they interrelate within the current guidelines. She highlighted the significance of a staff-council relations policy and that it should be updated to reflect current roles and legislation.

There was discussion on the following in relation to the presentation:

- The statutory obligations and enforcement of by-laws by the CAO, treasurer, chief building officials and others;
- That it is important for staff to provide specific details in the staff council relations policies;
- That there be consideration to afford a member of council a degree of protection from toxicity; and,
- Whether the implementation of a staff-council relation policy is a best practice or a policy.

Ms. Matheson advised that staff are independent from council and staff would adhere to and enforce the by-laws of the municipality. She suggested that a detailed staff-council relations policy is helpful to identify where there may be a policy violation, provides more clarity, and can provide an Integrity Commissioner means in which to adjudicate the facts against the policy. A staff-council relations policy may also include counter measures to dismiss vexatious and frivolous matters. She further suggested that the staff relations policy be thought through and applied to daily work, in conjunction with the development and implementation of the strategic plan.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea  
Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

That the Staff Council Relations presentation 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**

The Mayor provided closing remarks and on behalf of Members of Council thanked Sabine for her attendance at today's meeting and the information, thought provoking topics and considerations she provided. The Mayor also thanked Members of Council, and Directors for attending this session and looks forward to the next phase of the strategic planning process.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Isa Lee  
Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That General Committee adjourn at 12:20 PM.

**Carried**