



Public Work Session Minutes Telecommunication Facilities in Markham

May 20, 2014 - 7:00 PM

Council Chamber, Markham Civic Centre

Attendance

Council

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Howard Shore
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

Regrets

Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Councillor Colin Campbell

Staff

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Anna Henriques, Senior Planner
Biju Karumanchery, Senior Development Manager
Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning and Urban Design
Tom Villella, Senior Project Coordinator
Kitty Bavington, Council/Committee Coordinator

Guests

Paul Calandra, MP, Oak Ridges-Markham
John McCallum, MP, Markham-Unionville
Stephen D'Agostino, Thomson Rogers
Mitch St. Jacques, Industry Canada
Dr. Jin Hee Kim, Public Health Ontario

The Public Work Session for Telecommunication Facilities in Markham convened at 7:08 PM in the Council Chamber with Mayor Frank Scarpitti in the Chair. The formal session was preceded by a Public Open House from 6:00 – 7:00 PM in the Great Hall, Markham Civic Centre.

The participants were provided with the following background information and presentations:

- Extract of Development Services Committee, January 14, 2014
- Staff report re: Fontur International dated November 5, 2013
- Correspondence from Health Canada dated February 12, 2014
- Markham OP Policies – Utilities Communications
- Markham TeleTower Policy, 2012

Presentations:

- Telecommunication Facilities in Markham (Henriques)
- Building Canada's Advanced Wireless Networks: Protocol Development (D'Agostino)
- Radiofrequency Update (Dr. Kim)

1. Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Opening Remarks

Mayor Frank Scarpitti welcomed everyone and introduced the distinguished guests. Opening remarks provided a brief overview of the issues surrounding telecommunication facilities, and Markham's objective to gather input to formulate policies that will guide future decisions.

2. Paul Calandra, MP, Oak Ridges-Markham

Mr. Paul Calandra provided opening remarks, noting the difficult decisions facing Councils to balance the concerns and needs of the public, and briefly outlining the recently proposed amendments to the federal regulations.

3. John McCallum, MP, Markham-Unionville

Mr. John McCallum expressed appreciation for the opportunity of participating in the Work Session and listening to comments. Mr. McCallum considered Markham's preliminary comments on the proposed amendments to the federal regulations, to be valuable.

4. Anna Henriques, City of Markham
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Anna Henriques, City of Markham, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the jurisdiction for telecommunication facilities, explaining that Industry Canada is the approval authority. The presentation included the evolution of Industry Canada protocols, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) protocols, Markham's policy background, and municipality and proponent responsibilities.

Ms. Henriques reviewed the current and proposed Industry Canada and FCM/CWTA regulations/protocols, and compared them with the current Markham policies and practices, particularly with respect to consultation requirements. Staff will follow-up this Public Work Session with a staff report to Development Services Committee in the fall of 2014, regarding any recommended policy changes, pending the approval of Industry Canada amendments. Ms. Henriques also recommended that the two outstanding site plan applications that had been deferred pending a review of Markham's policies, be considered at a DSC meeting in the near future.

5. Stephen D'Agostino, Thomson Rogers
[Presentation](#)

Mr. Stephen D'Agostino of Thomson Rogers, representing the service providers (Bell, Rogers, Telus) gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the requirements and challenges of the carriers with respect to federal regulations, Spectrum Licenses, CPC-2-0-03, Safety Code 6, and Provincial Policy Statement requirements for healthy, liveable and safe communities.

Challenges include the provision of dense coverage and dynamic networks, shadowing, new frequencies, and co-location designs. Mr. D'Agostino noted that approximately 25 percent of Canadian homes have no land lines, and about 50 percent of all emergency 911 calls are wireless. The industry is anticipating data growth of 900 percent over the next five years.

Mr. D'Agostino discussed incentives that work and opportunities found in the revised regulations, and expressed a willingness to work with the City on finding a solution.

Mr. D'Agostino also represented Fontur International Inc., the applicant for a telecommunication facility Site Plan Application at 9255 Woodbine Ave., and advised that although the applicant is looking forward to advancing the application, it is recognized that today's meeting is meant to focus on protocol development.

The Committee discussed concurrence/non-concurrence scenarios.

6. Mitch St. Jacques, Industry Canada

Mr. Mitch St. Jacques of Industry Canada, provided an update on the proposed revisions to Industry Canada's regulations, advising that comments have been received; however, a decision on the revisions has not yet been made. Mr. St. Jacques discussed the options and considerations that go into the thousands of applications received each year.

7. Dr. Jin Hee Kim, Public Health Ontario [Presentation](#)

Dr. Jin Hee Kim of Public Health Ontario, gave a PowerPoint presentation on health concerns that have been expressed regarding radiofrequency electromagnetic fields. Dr. Kim advised of the findings of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) monograph review in 2011 and 18 occupational studies reviewed by the working group, concluding that there is no clear indication of an association of occupational exposure to RF radiation with a risk of cancer of the brain. A recent Royal Society of Canada Panel (2014) conducted a review of Safety Code 6 and concluded that cancer effects are possible but are not established.

Dr. Kim noted that radiofrequency fields are ubiquitous and that cellular phone use dominates exposure impacts.

The Committee had several questions regarding the impacts from cell towers, cell phones, and hydro lines.

8. Public Deputations and Discussions

Pam Papaioannou questioned the proposed regulations with respect to notifying and consulting with tenants and residents who are not owners. Mr. Calandra advised of the proposed additional requirements to notify tenants.

Daniel Galessiere questioned the limited long-term scientific data, and the cumulative effects of cell phone towers, particularly multiple-pole towers and towers located near schools.

Brian Gordon suggested that the carrier industry and residents want the certainty and reliability of telecommunication services, and that better reception would result in less harmful effects, as the device would not have to work as hard. Mr. Gordon discussed the relationship between economic development and high quality technology.

Macky Lau discussed the application by Fontur International and questioned the basis on which the decision will be made, and the involvement of the MPs in making decisions. Mr. Calandra advised that MPs are not involved beyond setting Industry Canada policies, and that he would support the decisions of Council; however, if Council does not make a decision, he may consider holding his own public consultation.

Caroline Boorret of the Chapel Place Daycare, questioned European studies and standards, and provided Mr. McCallum with a petition of 41 signatures from parents of young students, in opposition to telecommunication facilities. Dr. Kim discussed the different European designs and criteria.

The Committee discussed precautionary principles, options and potential solutions. In response to questions, Mr. St. Jacques confirmed that Industry Canada will still apply the current regulations until any revisions are adopted by the federal government. Staff advised that that Markham will continue to use the current regulations, and to seek Development Services Committee input for all applications. If new regulations are adopted by Industry Canada, new policies will be developed for the City. A Council member suggested that the City consider forming a Task Force with residents and industry representatives, in the event that a new policy is developed. Staff confirmed that input from this session would be considered for possible revisions to the City's existing policy and that a staff report would be brought forward in the fall, pending the approval of Industry Canada amendments.

Mr. Calandra provided closing comments and stated that it is very rare for Industry Canada to overturn a Council recommendation.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Work Session for Telecommunication Facilities adjourned at 10:30 PM.