

Moved by: Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Don Hamilton

Motion for release of reports regarding the GTA Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre

This Council has been put in a position where we are being asked to support probably the largest financial debt that the City of Markham has ever considered.

We as a Council have been elected by the residents of the City to do the best job we can in managing the affairs of the City. We have a responsibility and a duty collectively as a Council, and individually as Councillors to complete the required due diligence in all matters of this City's municipal business. At no time has the need for this responsibility been greater than now especially regarding the GTA Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre.

We have a further responsibility and duty to consult with the residents before making decisions, especially decisions that can impact every taxpayer in our municipality. We are obligated to be honest and to show good judgement in making these decisions that can potentially adversely affect the future of the City and its financial well being.

Council must take this responsibility seriously. As such, I would make the following motion:

Motion:

Whereas Markham has engaged consultants (Raymond James, BDR, etc) to prepare reports outlining to Council the Proponents financial ability to finance the capital infrastructure and the ability to successfully operate the Facility, and

Whereas many questions are being asked of Councillors by the residents and press concerning the financing and viability of operating this Facility, and

Whereas Council members to not have access to these reports nor have confirmation of any kind, even in a confidential manner, to assist them in answering these questions, and

Whereas without complete information, the Council may not be giving fulsome and correct information to the residents,

I would therefore move that:

1. All information and reports received from the above mentioned Consultants be provided to all Council members as soon as possible, and
2. The independent Consultant team to be engaged by the City to conduct a peer review of all aspects of this project, also be requested to review and report on all information contained in media stories and other sources regarding this project as part of their peer review.