

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE  
2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE  
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE  
November 22, 2016  
1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

<b>Members Present:</b> Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Karen Rea  <b>Guests:</b> Councillor Valerie Burke  <b>Regrets:</b> Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Alex Chiu	<b>Staff Present:</b> Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Joel Lustig, Treasurer Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Library Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation David Plant, Manager of Operations Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 1:07 p.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

**1. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the November 8, 2016, Budget Committee Minutes be received as presented; and,

That the November 14, 2016, Budget Public Meeting Minutes be received.

Carried

**2. Status Update on the 2017 Operating Budget**

Joel Lustig, Treasurer provided a status update on the 2017 Operating Budget. The proposed tax rate is 3.46%, which includes a 0.5% infrastructure investment.

### 3. Review of All Members of Council 2017 Budget Requests

Joel Lustig provided an update on the Councillor Requests approved to date and the requests pending a decision from the Budget Committee.

Councillor Requests	Discussion	Decision
1 – Regional Councillor Newsletter	<p>The Committee discussed options for issuing the Regional Councillor Newsletters. The options discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing the Regional Councillors with a full colour page on the local Markham newspapers two times per year;</li> <li>• Mailing out the Regional Councillors newsletter with the Ward Councillors newsletters;</li> <li>• Including the newsletters as an insert on the York Region newspaper.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee noted that the Regional newsletter should look and read like a newsletter rather than an advertisement. It suggested that a standard template be used for the newsletter and that any design costs be taken from the Regional Councillors discretionary budgets.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the expense should be added to the operating budget if Council decides to continue with the Regional Councillor newsletter in 2018.</p>	<p>Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve \$30K (maximum \$6,000 for each of the Regional Councillors and the Mayor) for Regional Councillor newsletters to be funded from the \$150k placeholder for the 2017 All Members of Council Budget requests; and,</p> <p>That the Corporate Communications and Community Relations Department report back on options for issuing the newsletter in early 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
18 – Fireside Lounge electric fireplace	<p>The Committee spoke about the importance of improving the appearance of the Fireside Lounge at the Thornhill Community Centre by making small improvements like painting the walls and changing the lighting. It agreed that the room should remain a multipurpose room.</p> <p>A Committee Member suggested painting the brick wall in the main hall to cover up the patch work that has been done over the years.</p> <p>A Committee Member noted that the Heintzman House would benefit from the addition of an</p>	<p>Moved by Councillor Hamilton Seconded by Councillor Rea</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the allocation of \$4K for a electric fireplace for the Fireside Lounge at Thornhill Community Centre to be funded from the \$150k placeholder for the 2017 All Members of Council Budget requests.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Carried</b></p>

Councillor Requests	Discussion	Decision
	electric fireplace too.	

The Committee continued its review of the 2017 Councillor Requests.

Councillor Requests	Discussion	Decision
38 – Splash Pad		<a href="#">Staff recommendation approved</a>
39 – Develop a Tourism Strategy for Markham	<p>It was advised that Stephen Chait, Director of Economics &amp; Culture will be working on “Destination Markham” a strategy to promote greater awareness of Markham as a preferred place to visit, work, invest, study, live, celebrate, engage in sports, and be entertained. Tourism may be considered as part of the strategy.</p> <p>The Committee requested That Stephen Chait meet with Information Markham to discuss the strategy.</p>	<a href="#">Staff recommendation approved</a>
40 – Extended Library Hours	<p>The Committee discussed extending the library hours. It noted that the rest of the community centre operates for much longer hours.</p> <p>Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Library, reported that library staff are currently looking at innovative ways to extend library hours without dramatically impacting costs. Some of the examples provided included: extending access to study halls during exams by using security guards to monitor the facility; changing work schedules to open the library an extra hour on Friday’s; opening the library at 9:00 am Monday to Friday by opening the library to the public as soon as staff arrive.</p> <p>The Committee asked if Markham libraries could open earlier on Sundays.</p> <p>Staff advised that the hours of work on Sunday’s are defined in the collective agreement.</p>	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong</p> <p>That Library and City staff report back on library usage and on options to increase the library hours to meet the public demand.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>

Councillor Requests	Discussion	Decision
	<p>A Committee Member suggested staggering the various libraries hours to offer a greater range in the total number of hours the Markham libraries are open.</p> <p>The Committee suggested that a workshop be held on library attendance, usage and needs.</p> <p>Catherine Biss agreed to hold a workshop and undertake a study on the library attendance, usage, and needs. She advised that the library has lots of analytics that can be used to better understand the library's needs with respect to its operating hours.</p>	
41- Increasing Staffing at our By-Law Office	<p>The Committee discussed increasing by-law staff to process complaints faster and to address the anticipated new enforcement of short term accommodations.</p> <p>Staff suggested that the need for new by-law officers should be considered as part of the City's overall by-law strategy. This would include looking at existing resources to see if they can be reallocated, and looking for opportunities to create efficiencies through investment in technology.</p> <p>It was suggested that staff to come back and provide an overview of the existing by-law enforcement service levels and revenues. Council can then make an informed decision regarding increasing the number of by-law officers.</p> <p>It was noted that complaints are also received in regards to too much enforcement in certain areas of Markham.</p>	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton</p> <p>That staff report back on Parking Enforcements existing service levels and revenue and on options for the future by June 2017. Carried</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Rea Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton</p> <p>That staff investigate the need to hire additional by-law officers for the enforcement of Airbnb and other short term accommodations. Carried</p>

#### 4. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 4:04 pm.