

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 1, 2016**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: 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 Guests: Councillor Valerie Burke Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Alex Chiu	Staff Present: 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 Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Barb Rabicki, Director of Operations Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Development Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:05 A.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the Minutes from the October 21, 2016 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Councillor Requests

The Budget Committee reviewed the 2017 Councillor Requests.

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
1. Regional Councillor News	The Committee briefly discussed the item.	Deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
Letter	<p>Staff were asked to report back with the cost of providing each Regional Councillor with a full page in the Economist & Sun and Thornhill Liberal twice a year.</p> <p>Staff were also requested to find out from the City of Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill with respect to Regional Councillor newsletters.</p> <p>Further discussion on the item was deferred to the November 8, 2016 Budget Committee meeting.</p>	
2. Christmas Decorations in Thornhill	The Committee asked staff to report back on the cost of putting up holiday decorations (cost of the snowflakes and the related hydro connection costs) on Yonge Street for consideration in the 2018 Budget , recognizing the historical significance of Yonge Street and the challenges with starting a Business Improvement Area on the street.	Staff Recommendation Approved
3. Completion of Veterans Square as Originally Designed	Staff recommended that the Veterans Square be completed as approved in principle by Council.	Staff Recommendation Approved
4. Support for Keeping Markham Beautiful Pilot Projects/ Initiatives	Staff will be bringing a report forward to the General Committee in November 2016. The updated strategy for the program will focus on the realignment of the program within the existing budget.	Staff Recommendation Approved
5. Addition of Park Accessories in Cornell to Accommodate Basketball Nets for Older Children/Youth	Staff supported this initiative, as they saw it as a community investment for youth. One basketball net will be installed in 2017 and one will be installed in 2018.	Staff Recommendation Approved
6. Poop and Scoop/ No Litter Signs Installed in Ward 5	Staff supported this initiative. Staff added that this initiative will be done City-wide.	Staff Recommendation Approved
6. A. Slow Down and Play Signs Ward 5	This request was not supported by staff.	Staff Recommendation Approved
7. Water Connection to	Staff did not support this request, as there are other outdoor rinks in close proximity.	Staff Recommendation Approved

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
Applevue (now referred to as Nicholas Miller Park) and or Orchardview (now named Peter Bowden Park)	<p>Staff were requested to meet with Councillor Campbell and Councillor Hamilton to estimate the cost of the project.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked if water connections are being put in new parks.</p> <p>Staff advised that water connections are added where applicable such as at community parks.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked staff to investigate the possibility of incorporating an ice rink into the design of both Morgan Park and Museum Park.</p>	
8. Addition of Water Play to Applevue	Staff did not support this request, as there is already a large splash pad within close proximity. Also, the location of splash is determined strategically, as part of a larger City wide plan.	Staff Recommendation Approved
9. Permanent Washrooms or a Least Portable Washrooms at all Existing and New Parks	Portable toilets will be placed in three park locations, as of 2016: John Button, Ashton Meadow and Calvert.	Staff Recommendation Approved
10. Big Enough Shelter with Flat Ground for All Parks	Staff advised that shelter at parks is being addressed through the City's Park Renaissance Program, and shade structures will be an element in new parks	Staff Recommendation Approved
11. Rubberized Pad to Replace Sand Parks	<p>Staff did not support this request.</p> <p>Committee Members noted that they are constantly getting requests to replace sand flooring at parks with rubberized pads.</p> <p>Staff agreed to work with the City's Corporate Communications and Community Engagement Department to develop a communication plan to promote the benefits of sand at parks to the public.</p>	Staff Recommendation Approved
12. Installation of Chinese Chess Tables at Parks	<p>Staff will be installing six Chinese chess boards at Markham parks.</p> <p>The Committee suggested that this be done at other parks with elderly populations.</p> <p>Staff advised that with each budget cycle they will continue to put chess tables in parks.</p>	Staff Recommendation Approved

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
13. Victoria Square Community Centre Signage	Staff supported this request.	Staff Recommendation Approved
14. Parking Bays in Cathedraltown Area	Staff recommended that the signs be installed using funds from the existing operating budget. Pavement markings were not recommended.	Staff Recommendation Approved
15. Pavilion at Ashton Meadows Park	Staff supported this request.	Staff Recommendation Approved
16. Victoria Square Community Centre Expansion	Staff did not support this request.	Staff Recommendation approved
17. Invasive Species Management Program	Staff advised that there are ongoing preventive programs that monitor and manage invasive species. A Committee Member noted the importance of managing invasive species and suggested that the City should be more proactive in managing these threats.	Staff Recommendation approved
18. Refurbishment of Fireside Lounge	The Committee suggested that staff look into installing a gas fire place rather than an electric fire place. It also suggested that minor improvements to the lounge be made over the next few budget cycles (e.g. improving the lighting, and adding lounge furniture). Staff advised that the lounge is being permitted as a multi-purpose room. Staff will look at the history on the room usage prior to adding furniture to the room.	Staff will report back on the cost of a gas fireplace.
19. City-Wide Gateway Horticultural Display	Staff did not support this request.	Staff Recommendation approved
20. Turtle Fencing	Staff agreed to report back in 2017 on a strategy/options for conducting a study on the turtle fencing. It was suggested that the study could be undertaken as part of the City's Wildlife Strategy.	Staff Recommendation approved
21. Heintzman House	The Committee suggested that staff look into the cost of installing a gas fire place at the Heintzman House.	Staff Recommendation approved
22. Ponomo Mills Park Conservationist	Staff supported this request.	Staff Recommendation approved

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
s Interpretive Sign		
23. German Mills Community Centre (Historic School House)	A Member of Council requested that the Chair of the German Mills Community Centre Board be advised of the outcome of the request.	Staff Recommendation approved
24. Increase response for Wildlife Response During after Hours	Staff recommended that the service enhancement be requested when negotiating the new contracts with the OPSPCA and Toronto Wildlife.	Staff Recommendation approved
25. Safety Fence Along the South Side of John Street bordering German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat	A Member of Council suggested to consider a type of sumac tree that will not take over the meadow.	Staff Recommendation approved
26. Historic Thornhill Cemetery East Gateway Refurbishment	<p>The Committee suggested that the item be considered under the City's 2018 capital budget. Staff clarified that the request should be submitted as part of the 2018 All Members of Council Budget requests.</p> <p>Staff stated that the West entrance was a higher priority than the East entrance. The West entrance had been addressed, and therefore the East entrance was not included in the 2017 Capital Budget request.</p>	Staff Recommendation approved
27. Wood Fence and/or more Hedges Along Tunney, Mercer and Stargell	Staff advised that hedges will be planted in the spring of 2017.	Staff Recommendation approved
28. Sound Barrier Fence due to Increased Noise from 407	Staff advised that this matter is within the jurisdiction of the 407.	Staff Recommendation approved
29. Boulevard Cutting	Staff advised that most of the complaints regarding boulevard cutting come in during dandelion season and that there is little staff can do as it is illegal to use pesticides. Staff explained that big machines are used for sportsfield cutting, but these machines may not be conducive for small boulevards. The standards the City adopts are common practices. City's grass level will not get higher than what's	Staff Recommendation approved

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
	allowed in the by-laws. Staff confirmed that there's adequate Staff for the established service levels.	
30. Yard Waste Pick Up	Staff advised that the leaf collection was extended until mid December when the last waste contract was negotiated. The collection schedule can be re-looked at when the contract is being negotiated again in the future if Council provides this direction.	Staff Recommendation approved
31. Town Square		Staff Recommendation approved
32. Speed Radar Board	<p>The Committee discussed ways that encourage drivers to drive the speed limit. It was commented that speed boards helped change driver behaviour by making them more aware when they are speeding. The Committee also felt that installing photo radar would deter drivers from speeding.</p> <p>After some discussion, the Committee agreed to put a placeholder in the budget for eight photo radar boards. The City will then wait to see if the Province will permit municipalities to install photo radar. If the Province announces that it will allow municipalities to install photo radar by April 1, 2017, the funds will be used to purchase photo radar equipment; otherwise the funds will be used to purchase eight new speed display boards.</p> <p>Move by Councillor Karen Rea Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong</p> <p>That the City ask the Province if it will be permitting municipalities to install photo radar; and,</p> <p>That if the City does not hear back from the Province by April 1, 2016, that staff proceed to purchase eight speed boards at the following cost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40,800 – Capital Budget • \$13,480 – Operating Budget <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	<p>Approved the following as a placeholder for either photo radar equipment or 8 speed display boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40,800 – Capital Budget • \$13,480 – Operating Budgets
33. Maintenance of piece of land at Princess Street and Vinegar hill	Staff agreed to cut the boulevard of the home on the steep hill (between 72 and 80 Main Street Markham on the west side) due to safety concerns or provide alternative low maintenance landscape plantings to be maintained by the City.	Staff Recommendation approved
34. Morgan Pool	Staff supported this request.	Staff Recommendation

Councillor Request	Discussion	Decision
		approved
35. By-Law Officer Heritage Homes	<p>The Committee suggested that there may be a need for more by-law enforcement officers in the future. It also asked why new by-law officers could not be hired on contract and remain on contract.</p> <p>Staff explained that by-law officers can only be kept on contract for a short period of time, as the position is a unionized position.</p>	Staff Recommendation approved
36. Heritage Estates	The Committee spoke about the growing need to acquire more land for the Heritage Estates.	Staff Recommendation approved
37. Add Plants/Grass	A Committee Member suggested asking the Waste Management staff to work with the property owner to resolve the issue.	Staff Recommendation approved

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the Staff recommendations for Councillor Request Items No. 1 to 37 (excluding items 1, 18 and 32) be approved.

Carried

Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:40p.m.