



**THIRD MEETING OF THE
2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Karen Rea Guests: Councillor Valerie Burke Regrets: Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Alan Ho	Staff Present: 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 Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development & Culture Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries Barb Rabicki, Director of Operations Morgan Jones, Manager of Roads Operations Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:05 a.m. with Councillor Amanda Collucci presiding as Chair.

Culture & Economic Development

Stephen Chait, Director of Culture & Economic Development was in attendance to answer the Committee's questions on the Culture & Economic Development capital budget items.

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17018	Culture Public Art Coordinator	45,000	A Committee Member asked if the Public Art Coordinator position is required. Staff advised that the Public Art Coordinator

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			<p>position is supported by the City's Culture Plan and that it is required to provide leadership in selecting public art, managing public art projects, overseeing public art competitions, and to provide expertise in the area of public art. It is also in the City's best interest to vet public art projects being installed in Markham.</p> <p>A Committee Member spoke about the many contributions arts and culture make to a community.</p>
17019	Culture Public Art Program	150,000	<p>Staff advised that the capital budget item is funded with section 37 funds (donations to be put towards public art).</p> <p>A Committee Member asked for a breakdown of how section 37 funds are being used.</p> <p>Staff advised that a report is being brought forward to the General Committee on the matter.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked if the developers pick the public art for their developments.</p> <p>Staff advised that some developers pick public art for their developments and others will make a donation to the City to be put towards public art.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked why the maintenance of the public art is being undertaken under the program rather than being included under the lifecycle reserve.</p> <p>Staff advised that the day-to-day maintenance of public art is considered operational and is not included under the lifecycle reserve fund. Operation Staff will</p>

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			<p>undertake some of the work and more specialized work is contracted out.</p> <p>Most of the funds allocated to the public art program are for the capital installation of public art. The City has also set up a reserve fund to supplement public art projects when required.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked for a report on both the maintenance required and the life span for the City's public art pieces.</p>
17020	Gallery Courtyard Repairs	50,000	
17021	Gallery HVAC Maintenance/Cooling Tower Refurbishment	76,500	
17022	Museum - Locust Hill Train Station	84,700	<p>A Committee Member noted the importance of the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Locust Hill Train Station, noting it will be moved to the new Rouge National Park. The Committee Member explained that as part of Markham's partnership with Rouge National Park, Markham Museum will be keeping the official records for the national park. Capital investments that are associated with the Rouge National Park partnership should be recorded as part of the official records.</p>
17023	Museum - Strickler House	103,500	<p>A Committee Member asked if the Strickler House's revenue pays for its upkeep.</p> <p>Staff advised that residents visiting or renting the museum facilities enjoy the amenities the house offers. The City has not invested in the building since 2007. The animal proofing of the property will help reduce the future costs of repairs. The repairs are costly as it is a heritage property.</p> <p>A Committee Member noted the high cost of maintaining the heritage buildings on the museum property and suggested that more funds are being allocated to the museum</p>

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			<p>than to the City's other cultural facilities.</p> <p>Staff advised that the City is in the process of completing a master plan for the museum. The consultant will look at the economic value of the museum's current operations and make recommendations for the future. The plan should be completed in the first quarter of 2017.</p> <p>It was noted that most museums are subsidized and that Markham has a custodial responsibility to maintain the buildings. Furthermore, the City's net subsidy to the museum is similar to the City's contribution to its other cultural facilities.</p>
17024	Museum Facility Improvements	41,300	
17025	Theatre AV replacement	245,000	Staff advised that the Markham at the Movie's donation of \$25,000 has been allocated towards the capital budget item.
17026	Theatre Stage Floor replacement	79,000	
17027	Theatre Utility Meter	25,000	<p>The Committee asked staff to explain the agreement the City has with School Board with respect to the Theatre's use and upkeep.</p> <p>Staff advised that currently the School Board pays the utilities for the theatre. In turn, the school can use the theatre by booking the theatre through the Theatre Manager. The theatre and the high school were purposely built next to each other so that the facility could be used by both groups.</p> <p>The metre is being purchased at the City's cost, as currently the theatre shares a metre with Unionville High School.</p>

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			<p>A Committee Member asked if staff are still looking at installing an elevator at the theatre and if consideration has been given to connecting the theatre with Civic Centre underground.</p> <p>Staff advised that they are looking into the possibility of installing an elevator at the theatre next year. In order to do this, the theatre will need to be closed for a period of time.</p> <p>Staff did not think connecting Civic Centre with the theatre underground would increase the theatre's revenue.</p>
17028	Theatre Washroom Upgrades (Phase 2 of 2)	102,000	A Committee Member wanted to ensure that as part of the project gender neutral signage was used for the theatre's single stall washrooms.

Moved by Regional Councillor Armstrong
 Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Economic Development & Culture Capital Budget items be approved.

Carried

Community & Fire Services

Recreation Services

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation was in attendance to answer the Committee's questions on the Recreation Services capital budget items.

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17077	Angus Glen C.C. Arena Netting	25,000	
17078	Angus Glen C.C. Heating Pumps and Exchanger	38,300	
17079	Angus Glen C.C. Library Carpet	25,000	A Committee Member asked if this item regularly comes out of the City's

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			<p>budget rather than the library's budget.</p> <p>Staff confirmed that this is the regular process as Recreation is the landlord of the Library.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked if the carpet being replaced will be recycled.</p> <p>Staff confirmed that the old carpet will be recycled.</p>
17080	Angus Glen C.C. Lighting Replacement	61,100	
17081	Armadale C.C. Cabinets and counter replacement	62,100	
17082	Armadale C.C. Floor Machine replacement	9,400	
17083	Armadale C.C. Gymnasium Divider Replacement	14,000	
17084	Centennial C.C. Building Exterior Sealant Replacement	10,700	
17085	Centennial C.C. Ductwork	16,800	<p>A Committee Member asked why the ductwork is so expensive.</p> <p>Staff advised that the ductwork is expensive as it is industrial quality .</p>
17086	Centennial C.C. Floor Maintenance Machine	9,400	
17087	Clatworthy Arena Low Emissivity Ceiling Replacement	63,700	Staff advised that the capital budget item is to replace the covering over the arena's ceiling. The covering provides insulation and improves the energy efficiency of the building.
17088	Clatworthy Arena Water Treatment Control System	9,600	
17089	Crosby Arena Change Room Doors	16,300	
17090	Crosby Arena Floor Scrubber	9,400	

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17091	Crosby Arena HVAC Replacement	104,800	
17092	Crosby Arena Lamplight Room Refurbishments	22,000	
17093	Markham Village C.C. Doors	33,600	
17094	Markham Village C.C. Overhead Door	9,000	
17095	Markham Village Refrigeration Room Re-Design	20,400	
17096	Milliken Mills C.C. Building Automation Replacement	229,500	
17097	Milliken Mills C.C. Digital Marquee replacement	30,000	<p>Committee Members asked that the intent of proposed new electric sign policy be followed when selecting a sign for the Community Centre. The sign should have good resolution and should be easy to read. They suggested that the quality of the sign be given a higher priority even if it means spending more money.</p> <p>Staff advised that the proposed electric sign policy is anticipated to be brought forward to the Development Services Committee in January 2017. The policy will address the brightness of the signs.</p> <p>Staff agreed to look at the different types of electric signs the City has purchased in the past to see which signs have been the most successful in delivering clear messaging to the public prior to purchasing the sign. The results of the study can also be used to help choose the electric signs for the fire stations which will be used to disseminate information in an emergency.</p>
17098	Milliken Mills C.C. Hard Surface Restoration	102,000	
17099	Milliken Mills C.C. Ice Edger	8,000	

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
	Replacement		
17100	Milliken Mills C.C. Kabota Replacement	48,000	
17101	Milliken Mills C.C. Library Air Handling Unit Replacement	250,000	
17102	Milliken Mills C.C. Pool Heating & Ventilation Replacement	38,000	
17103	Milliken Mills C.C. Pool Lights	57,100	
17104	Milliken Mills C.C. Pump Replacements	34,500	
17105	Mt Joy Arena Lighting Retrofit to LED	44,800	
17106	Recreation AED Program	15,100	
17107	Recreation Aquatic Equipment	85,800	<p>A Committee Member asked why there was an increase in amount being spent on replacing recreation aquatic equipment.</p> <p>Staff advised that the City is starting to replace some of the aquatic equipment , like flutter boards, at the Pan AM Centre. Adding the Pan Am Centre to the capital budget item has increased the amount spent on replacing aquatic equipment per year.</p> <p>The Committee asked if the Pan AM Centre is well equipped to host a variety of swim competitions.</p> <p>Staff felt the facility was equipped to host a wide range of swimming competitions, advising that a warm up pool would be required to host international swim competitions.</p>
17108	Recreation Fitness Equipment	146,500	<p>A Committee Member asked what the City does with old recreation equipment.</p> <p>Staff advised that the equipment is either used at other City facilities, auctioned off,</p>

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			or bought back and refurbished by the vendor of the equipment. It was noted that there is a City's by-law that addresses the disposal of City assets.
17109	Recreation Pool Grouting	47,300	
17110	Recreation Program Equipment	112,600	
17111	Recreation Table and Chairs replacement	49,000	A Committee Member queried if the City purchases chairs and tables made from recycled or sustainable products whenever possible. It was noted that City is in the process of updating the green standards in its Procurement By-Law. Senior Manager of Purchasing and Accounts Payable can look into including this in the by-law.
17112	Rouge River C.C. Facility Improvements	6,000	
17113	Rouge River C.C. Gas Water Heater	10,000	
17114	Rouge River C.C. Pool Perimeter Fence	15,000	A Committee Member questioned if the treatment being put on the fence will last, suggesting it may be better to install a more sustainable fence. Another Member suggested that only an equally attractive replacement fence be considered. Staff advised that the fence was last treated in 2007 and that the treatment is anticipated to last for some time. The treatment is needed, as the fence is rusting. Other types of fencing can be looked at, but the type of fence that can be used is limited due to legislative requirements for pool fencing.
17115	Thornhill C.C. East Rink Board Replacement	29,800	
17116	Thornhill C.C. Equipment	27,500	

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
	Replacement		
17117	Thornhill C.C. Exterior Signage	14,200	A Committee Member thanked staff for including this in the budget, as the signage is required to refresh the Thornhill Community Centre.
17118	Thornhill C.C. Window Covering	10,200	
17119	Thornhill Sanitary Physical Assessment	28,000	Staff explained that the capital budget item is to conduct a study to determine why certain issues are being experienced with the sanitary system at the Thornhill Community Centre. Once the assessment is completed, , staff will likely request more funds to address the issue.
17120	Thornlea Pool Change Room ``B`` Tile Replacement	67,200	
17121	Thornlea Pool Change Room Dryers	9,500	
17122	Thornlea Pool Starting Blocks	28,500	
17123	Unionville Train Station Door Replacement	13,800	A Committee Member asked how will the public access the facility. Staff advised that the public will enter the facility by swiping a card or entering a code. This method has been successful at other facilities.
17124	Water St Seniors Centre- Replace Both Sets of Sliding Doors	22,500	

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the Recreation Capital Budget items be approved as presented.

Carried

Markham Public Library

Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries was in attendance to answer the Committee's questions regarding the library capital budget items.

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17125	Customer Service Maintenance (E-Resources) -Phase 3 of 5	40,000	
17126	Library Collections	2,608,500	<p>The Committee asked why the library collections budget increased from last year.</p> <p>Staff advised that \$342,000 was added for the new South East Community Centre, and 2% was added to the base for inflation. The budget was otherwise the same as last year.</p> <p>Finance Staff agreed to provide the breakdown of the increase to the library's budget at a future Budget Committee meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the baseline of all lifecycle reserve items are increased by the rate of inflation and/or based on recent staff awards.</p> <p>One of the obstacles the library is facing is that there has been less of a decrease in the actual borrowing of books than anticipated since the introduction of e-books.</p>
17127	Replace Library Furniture, Equipment & Shelving	135,500	<p>A Committee Member requested that furniture made with recycled materials or sustainable materials be purchased whenever possible.</p> <p>Staff advised that the computer chairs and the carpet at the libraries are made with recycled materials.</p>

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the Library Capital Budget Items be approved.

Carried

Operations- Roads

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17128	Asphalt Resurfacing- Annual Program	5,903,000	<p>The Committee recognized the success of the asphalt resurfacing program. It asked how roads are selected for resurfacing and why the cost of the program has increased.</p> <p>Staff advised that roads are selected for re-surfacing based on a condition assessment that is conducted in the fall and again in the spring prior to the work being done. The increase in the cost of the program is due an increase in the cost of the contract.</p>
17129	Boulevard Repairs- Annual Program	54,000	<p>A Committee Member advised that residents have complained that the City is replacing curve cuts and sidewalk before it is necessary.</p> <p>Staff advised that sidewalks and curve cuts are repaired or replaced based on condition assessment.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the upkeep of residential boulevards in Markham. A Member asked if interlock could be installed in the boulevard and if higher fines could be given to residents that fail to cut their boulevard grass.</p> <p>Staff advised that the City's by-law does not permit interlock to be installed on residential boulevards due to stormwater run-off as it is not a permeable surface. It was suggested that the most successful method of getting residents to cut the grass on their municipal boulevard is through education. It will be too costly for the municipality to cut the grass on all residential municipal boulevards.</p>
17130	Bridge Structure Prevent. Maintenance- Annual Program	47,600	

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
17131	Bridle Walk Rd Weather Information System Rehabilitation	37,000	
17132	City Owned Entrance Feature Rehab. - Annual Program	32,400	<p>A Committee Member asked why the entrance features are getting damaged.</p> <p>Staff advised that the entrance features are occasionally damaged by a car that has driven into it, but generally they are damaged by wear and tear.</p> <p>It was noted that if the entrance feature is located on a private property, it is the home owner's responsibility to repair the feature.</p>
17133	City Owned Fence Replacement Program- Annual Program	109,300	<p>The Committee asked what staff are doing to help manage the cost of the program.</p> <p>Staff advised that they are looking at putting shrubs instead of fences where possible to reduce the requirement to replace and maintain the fences.</p> <p>A Committee Member questioned how the appearance of fences along Markham's roadways can be improved.</p> <p>The Committee discussed re-activating the Markham Beautification Committee to improve the appearance of fences along Markham's roadways.</p>
17134	Don Mills Storm Channel-Annual Program	18,700	<p>A Committee Member asked if this program will always be needed.</p> <p>Staff advised that the program will be needed to clean debris out of the channel. This is an annual program</p> <p>There has been some discussions regarding asking the nearby properties to contribute to the cleaning of the channel.</p>

No.	Item	Total Cost	Discussion
			<p>A Committee Member suggested closing the channel to reduce the cleaning cost.</p> <p>Staff advised there are no plans to close the channel at this time and that closing the channel could create additional costs.</p>
17135	Emergency Repairs-Annual Program	108,000	
17136	Guiderail-Install/Repair/Upgrade-Annual Program	223,000	
17137	Localized Repairs - Curb & Sidewalk- Annual Program	558,800	A Committee Member requested that Raymerville be included on the list being considered for roads requiring localized curb or sidewalk repairs.
17138	Parking Lots - Localized Repairs-Annual Program	110,100	
17139	Parking Lots-Rehabilitation-Annual Program	217,100	
17140	Railway Crossing Improvements- Annual Program	103,200	<p>A Committee Member suggested that the City consider adding the cost of rail improvements required due to storms or flooding to the stormwater management fee.</p> <p>Staff advised that this was considered by Council at the time the storm water management fee was approved, but Council decided not to include in the fee. This discussion could be re-opened when the fee is reviewed in the next update.</p>
17141	Retaining Walls Program-Annual Program	74,100	
17142	Storm Sewer Inspection-Annual Program	103,800	
17143	Storm Water Retention Pond Maintenance - Annual Program	25,900	
17144	Winter Maintenance Vehicles	350,000	

Comment [a1]: I don't have any notes on this project

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Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Operations – roads capital budget items be approved.

Carried

The Budget Committee adjourned at 11:45 am.