



**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 17, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio) Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Guests: Regional Councillor Joe Li</p> <p>Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho</p>	<p>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 Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Barb Rabicki, Director of Operations Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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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

The November 10, 2015, Budget Committee Minutes were amended to state that the staff report on the “Upgrades at Cedarena” be brought forward to the General Committee in the **first quarter** of 2016.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the Minutes from the November 10, 2015, Budget Committee be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Changes to the Agenda

The following new Councillor Requests were requested to be added to the agenda under the agenda item “Councillor Requests”:

- Video streaming of Council and Standing Committee meetings
- Putting a storage locker at the Millennium Band Stand

3. Review of Responses from the Previous Budget Committee Meeting

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning reviewed the responses from the previous Budget Committee meeting. The Committee discussed the following responses:

Stormwater Management Ponds

The Committee noted that it would like stormwater management ponds to be looked at as natural areas and as part of Markham’s park system. Jim Baird advised that the integration of stormwater ponds as natural areas into the City’s park system will be reviewed as part of the Parks Review.

Geese Deterrent Metrics

The Committee asked where geese deterrents are being used and if staff had any plans to expand its existing program to other City parks. Staff advised that geese deterrents are currently used at Civic Centre and at Toogood Pond. The use of the deterrents is applied to two locations due to the high cost of the program.

The Committee suggested staff explore options to deter geese from Markham parks. Staff were not aware of a successful municipal strategy for deterring the geese, and identified the issue of residents feeding the geese which encourages the geese to come back.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That staff explore options to deter geese from Markham Parks and report back to the General Committee; and,

That staff consult other municipalities and other levels of government on effective strategies for deterring the geese.

CARRIED

Washrooms on Main Street Unionville

The Committee reviewed the estimated cost to install washrooms on Main Street Unionville and asked why the project was so expensive and what the anticipated lifecycle for the washrooms would be. Staff advised that the high cost of installing washrooms is due to: 1) the need to build durable washrooms for frequent public use; 2) the heritage design requirements for Main Street Unionville; and 3) the need for new surfacing. The lifecycle of the washroom was estimated to be from 50 to 75 years depending on how it is built and maintained.

The Committee asked how much it cost to build the washrooms on Main Street Markham. Staff advised that it cost over \$300K to build the Main Street Markham public washrooms.

A Committee Member suggested putting a steel roof and vinyl siding on the outside of the building, subject to it meeting heritage requirements for the area. The inside of the building should be built simple and functional.

The decision to build public washrooms on Main Street Unionville will be revisited at the end of the Councillor requests.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That agenda item No. 5 “Potential Installation of an air support dome at the Mount Joy artificial turf field” be moved up to agenda No. 4 on the agenda.

CARRIED

4. Potential Installation of an Air Support Dome at the Mount Joy Artificial Turf Field

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation provided a presentation on the proposed Mount Joy Soccer Dome. The presentation included an analysis of the purchase and operating costs of the dome based on a recovery model. A copy of the presentation was circulated to the committee.

Discussion

The Committee spoke in support of the Mount Joy Soccer Dome in principle and discussed the following:

- Whether it should purchase a new or used soccer dome and if the price is negotiable on the used dome
- Conducting further analysis on the need/demand for another soccer dome in Markham and if Mount Joy is best location for the dome
- Looking at naming rights and other sponsorship opportunities for the dome
- Looking at alternative uses of the dome during non-prime times
- See if Brother Andre Catholic School is interested in partnering with the City on the project
- Looking at potential funding sources for the dome, some of which included:
 - Increasing taxes
 - Borrowing from a City reserve
 - Substituting it with another budget item
- Possibly looking at a cost sharing model like the model used with Tennis Clubs
- Pursuing a private public partnership and the implications this could have on the public's access to the dome, which may include:
 - The dome remaining up all year around due to the high cost of taking it down
 - Less prime time public rental times
- Preparing the site for installation of the dome in the early spring of 2016, so that the dome can be installed in the fall of 2016, if the City moves forward with the project
- Ensuring the dome can be modified later to add a clubhouse/change rooms

Markham Soccer Club Deputation

Kent Greene and Perry Galanis, Markham Soccer Club provided a deputation in support of installing a soccer dome at Mount Joy Artificial Turf Field . They highlighted the lack of soccer facilities in Markham and the benefits the community derives from youth being actively involved in soccer. The Club will contribute \$150K to the project subject to some conditions, such as having first rights to the usage of the dome, being provided with a fair rate, and/or being provided with the naming rights for the dome. They recommended purchasing the used dome and suggested that its lifecycle is likely 3 to 4 years longer than staff presented.

Staff will meet with the Markham Soccer Club to discuss funding options for the dome.

Moved by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the Budget Committee approve in principle the Mount Joy Soccer Dome; and,

That Staff report back on December 7, 2015, Budget Committee with funding options for the installation of the soccer dome at Mount Joy Artificial Turf Field with or without the contribution of \$150K from the Markham Soccer Club.

CARRIED

5. Councillor Requests

Andrea Tang reported that Councillor Requests Nos. 27-32, 37-40, 44, and 46 were reviewed with the Councillor making the request at a meeting held outside of the regularly scheduled Budget Committee meeting. Both Councillors approved the staff responses to their requests.

No.	Councillor Request	Discussion	Staff Response
49	Purchase of portable stage	Staff explained that it is very expensive to purchase, store, and transport a portable stage. Therefore, based on the City's usage of this type of a stage it is more cost effective to rent the stage.	Approved
50	Install railing on the side of McCowan between pedestrians and traffic	<p>Staff advised that the implementation of guard rails is the responsibility of the Region. The Region was contacted on this matter and responded that the area does not meet the criteria for installing a guard rail.</p> <p>A Committee Member spoke about the residents concern regarding the closeness of the sidewalk to the road and forwarded a picture of the area to staff. Staff will provide this information to the Region.</p> <p>The Committee was not aware of any Regional roads having a rail between the road and the sidewalk, and did not think this was an issue the City should pursue any further.</p>	Approved

Staff will prepare a report for the General Committee on the Councillor request to video-stream Council and Standing Committee meetings. Staff will also look into the Councillor Request to put a shed at the Millennium Band Stand on Main Street Unionville and will report back at the next meeting.

6. 2016 Operating Budget

Andrea Tang provided an update on the proposed 2016 operating budget.

Water Reserve

An update on the water & wastewater budget was presented.

The Committee asked how much funds are required to be in the water & wastewater reserve. Staff advised that the goal is to have enough inflows in the reserve to cover the outflows for the next 25 years. The increase in the rate is required to have enough funds in the reserve to support the City's water & wastewater capital program for the next 25 years and to support the Waterworks department's day-to-day operations. The proposed increase of 7.8% includes the Region's 9% water rate increase.

E3 Initiatives

The following new E3 initiatives were identified:

- Expenditure reductions (sports field maintenance, telephone services, Sustainability Office) - \$88K
- Revenue volume generating (ownership change and tax certificate administrative fees) - \$56K

The above initiatives bring the operating budget down by \$144K and have no impact on service level. Staff are still trying to generate an additional \$63K from E3 initiatives to meet the targeted tax rate.

7. Next Steps

An additional Budget Committee meeting will be held on December 7, 2016 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:19 pm.