



**NINTH MEETING OF THE
2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
December 7, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:

Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair
Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor Heath (ex-officio)
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Alex Chiu
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Karen Rea

Guests:

Regional Councillor Joe Li
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Councillor Colin Campbell

Regrets:

Councillor Alan Ho

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
Alan Brown, Director of Recreation
Christopher Alexander, Acting Manager of By-Law
Enforcement
Chris Bird, Director of Building Standards
Biju Karumanchery, Director of Planning & Urban
Design
Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Budget Committee convened at 12:49 p.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Move by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the Minutes from the November 17, 2015, Budget Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

The item “By-Law Enforcement Service Levels” was added to the agenda.

3. Deputation From Stop Horn Group

Shanta Sundarason spoke in opposition of using \$150K from the anti-whistling project for washrooms on Main Street Unionville, unless the project plan is presented and shows the funds are not required in 2016.

Alan Brown, Director of Engineering advised that \$150K from the anti-whistling project could be allocated towards another project in 2016 as staff projects that \$650K will be spent/committed in 2016. Staff will need most of 2016 to develop the design plan, which will cost approximately \$300K. A maximum of three crossings could be completed in 2016, although there may be cost savings if all of the crossing are completed in 2017. The crossings will be completed from south to north. Staff are aiming to complete the work before the GO trains increase in volume and are looking at ways to expedite the work. Both the project plan and an update on negotiations with Metrolinx will be presented to the Development Services Committee in January 2016.

A Committee Member requested that the Markham Village and the Unionville Village crossings be updated to meet anti-whistling standards at around the same time.

4. Miller Avenue Project

There was a discussion on postponing the Miller Avenue project until the Hydro Underground Study is complete. The Committee decided against this suggestion.

5. A. Potential Installation of an Air Support Soccer Dome at Mount Joy Artificial Turf

Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation reviewed the options for installing an air support dome at Mt. Joy Artificial Turf. Staff’s preferred option was to have a private operator install and operate the dome.

Deputation

Perry Galamis, Markham Soccer Club made a deputation in support of the City building and operating the soccer dome at the Mount Joy artificial turf, as it is the Club’s preference to deal with the City and not a private operator. The Club agreed to a 25% rate increase if the City

installs and operates the dome, as the rate increase would be more if the dome was to be run by a private operator.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the fairness of raising rental fees by 25% if the City builds the soccer dome. Some Committee Members felt that residents living in the Mount Joy area should not pay more to play soccer than residents living in the Thornhill area. Also, the City did not raise its fees when it installed the St. Roberts Soccer Dome. It was suggested that staff look at paying back the dome over a longer period from the current payback period of 9 years in order to reduce the rental fee increase.

The Committee also discussed whether the user surcharge should be temporary until the cost of the dome is recovered. Staff recommended a permanent user surcharge as the dome will need to be replaced in 20 years.

Staff were requested to further investigate both the option for a private operator to install and operate the dome, and the option for the City to install and operate the dome, and to report back at the end of January.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That Council proceed towards the construction of a soccer dome in 2016 at the Mount Joy artificial turf field; and,

That staff continue its negotiations with FSTM for the construction and operation of the dome; and,

That staff continue its investigation of the City constructing and operating the dome; and,

That staff report back on the matter by the end of January 2016, at which point a decision will made with respect to the construction of the dome.

CARRIED

5. B. Storage Shed Behind the Unionville Bandstand

The Committee could not support spending \$40k on a heritage style shed. Staff advised that the estimate of \$40K is to build a small heritage style building to be used for storage. The Committee requested that staff look at purchasing a pre-fabricated heritage style shed up to \$5K.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve up to \$5K to be spent on a storage shed to be located behind the bandstand on Main Street Unionville. The project will be funded from the remaining Councillor Request placeholder of \$99,000.

CARRIED

5. C. Strategic Regional Research Alliance Project

The Committee agreed to support the Strategic Regional Research Alliance Project. The project was supported in 2014 and 2015. Currently, Markham is the only local municipality in the York Region supporting the project.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

The Budget Committee approve \$30K for the Strategic Regional Alliance (SRRA) project to be funded from the Development Charge reserve.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the Budget Committee recess for 30 minutes at 3:28 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chui

That the Budget Committee re-convene at 4:04 p.m.

CARRIED

5. D. By-Law Enforcement Service Level

Christopher Alexander, Acting Manager of By-Law Enforcement, presented a briefing note entitled "By-Law Enforcement Service Levels".

The Committee discussed the hiring of 2 additional by-law officers on a contractual basis to help manage the increasing workload of enforcement staff. The new officers would focus on licensing inspections. The salary plus benefits of the new officers is \$98,000 per officer totalling \$196,000, partially offset by additional revenues of \$160,000 to a net cost of \$36,000. New Officers have not been hired since 2011, and the population of Markham has grown by more than 40,000 residents since this time. Staff were requested to look at opportunities to share vehicles, as the officers will be hired on a contractual basis for a one year term and the Committee did not support purchasing additional vehicles at this time.

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Budget Committee approve the hiring of two contract by-law officers with a net costs of \$36,000 to be added to the 2016 Operating Budget, and \$6,000 for equipment to be funded from the remaining Councillor Request placeholder of \$94,000 (after funding \$5,000 for the storage shed at the Unionville Bandstand).

; and,

That the status of the positions be reviewed in one year.

CARRIED

5. E. Streetlights on laneway behind Main Street Unionville

The Committee agreed to postpone the installation of streetlights on the laneway behind Main Street Unionville until the study on the decorative LED lighting is complete. Staff will report back to General Committee on the matter in the first quarter of 2017.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the streetlights on the laneway behind Main Street Unionville be postponed until the review of the LED decorative lighting is undertaken.

CARRIED

5. B. Public Washrooms on Main Street Unionville

The Committee thought that the quote for the construction of the washrooms was too high. Staff advised that the higher quote is due to the washrooms being located on a flood plain and in a

heritage district. A Committee Member mentioned that a pre-fabricated heritage style washrooms can be ordered for about \$18K.

It was agreed that a feasibility study for the public washrooms on Main Street Unionville will be conducted in 2016. The Committee noted that washroom should be heritage style on the outside, and it will be efficient and functional on the inside. Once more detailed information is gathered, staff can do a more accurate cost assessment of the washrooms.

Staff asked if they could look at different locations/options for the washrooms. Staff were given permission to look at other options for the washroom as long they are located in the same vicinity.

The Committee discussed options for the maintenance of the washroom. It was estimated that it will cost \$40K to have a private company clean the washrooms. The Main Street Markham public washrooms are maintained by workers hired by the Markham Village Business Improvement Area for approximately \$25k per year. The City reimburses the BIA for the service. A Committee Member noted that the City should improve the tender process so that it is easier for small businesses to submit a quote for contacts like cleaning the washrooms, as this may bring the cost of these types of services down and it helps support small business.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve \$35K for a feasibility study for public washrooms on Main Street Unionville. The project will be funded from the remaining Councillor Request placeholder of \$88,000 (after funding \$5,000 for the storage shed at the Unionville Bandstand and \$6,000 for equipment for the additional 2 By-law officers).

CARRIED

6. Operating Budget

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning provided an update on the status of the 2016 Operating Budget. The budget shortfall as presented on November 10, 2015, was reduced from 2.46% to 2.41% by not providing winter maintenance on the cycling track located on Highway 7. . A report will be brought forward in January 2016.

Based on the Budget Committee's decision to include the net costs of \$36,000 for the additional two By-law Officers, the proposed 2016 tax rate increase is at 2.44%.

Budget Committee

December 7, 2015

Page 7 of 7

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Regional Nirmala Armstrong

That the Budget Committee approve the Building, Planning & Design, and Engineering Departments budgets.

CARRIED

7. Responses to Questions from the Previous Budget Committee

The Committee received the responses from previous budget meetings.

8. Abeyance list

The Committee received the Budget Committee abeyance list.

9. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 4:54 p.m.