



**2016 PROPOSED WATER & WASTEWATER RATE
AND THE 2016 BUDGET
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
December 7, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present:</p> <p>Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Alex Chiu</p> <p>Regrets:</p> <p>Mayor Frank Scarpitti Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Karen Rea</p>	<p>Staff Present:</p> <p>Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Matt Vetere, Senior Business Analyst Veronica Siu, Senior Business Analyst Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Public Information Meeting on the 2016 proposed water & wastewater rate and the 2016 budget convened at 7:05 pm with Councillor Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. City of Markham 2016 Proposed Water/Wastewater Rates Presentation

Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services, and Veronica Siu, Senior Business Analyst, provided a presentation on the proposed 2016 water/wastewater rates.

Deputations on the 2016 Proposed Water/Wastewater Rates

Mr. Elvis Nurse provided a deputation on the proposed 2016 Water/Wastewater Rate:

- The Deputant inquired about non revenue water and the City's strategy to reduce non-revenue water.

Response: A report will be presented to General Committee in 2016 that will identify strategies to reduce non-revenue water.

2. 2016 Budget Consultation Presentation

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning, and Matt Vetere, Senior Business Analyst, provided a presentation on the proposed 2016 budget.

Discussion

Deputations on the Proposed 2016 Budget

Deputation 1

Mr. Elvis Nurse provided the following feedback on the proposed 2016 Budget Presentation:

- Consider using other ways to measure resident's ability to pay property taxes (slide 13)
- The current value assessment on Markham properties has a significant impact on property taxes (slide 13).

Response: Staff indicated that property values are assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), and tax rates are approved by Council. Staff agreed that both the property assessment value and the tax rate have an impact on the property tax calculations.

- Consider using current data in future budget presentations, as the data on (slide 14) is from 2013

Response: Staff use the most current data that was available.

- Continue the E3 program to ensure new efficiencies are found (slide 24)

Response: The City has embedded the E3 program into its day-to-day operations.

- Consider using the past four years when comparing the tax rate with other municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area with a population over 150,000, as using the last 8 years makes

Markham's tax rate look very favourable compared to other municipalities due to it having a zero percent tax increase in 2009, 2010, 2011 (slide 45)

Response: Staff will consider multiple timeframes in future presentations.

Deputation 2

Ms. Marion Mathias made a deputation regarding additional holiday/Christmas decorations on Yonge Street in Thornhill similar to neighbouring municipalities. She thanked the City for the flowers in Thornhill Village.

Response: The Committee received the deputation.

Deputation 3

Ms. Evelin Ellison provided a deputation on the following matters:

- Advised that many residents are living on fixed incomes, and as a result may have challenges with the increase in property taxes and utilities.
- Why is the City investing in Markham District Energy (MDE) and what is the expected return on the investment?

Response: Staff advised that MDE is a wholly owned subsidiary of the City of Markham. The City currently provides \$4.0M of the Federal Gas Tax revenues to MDE for its capital investment program. The funding provided to MDE is a long term investment with income producing assets and solid investment returns.

- There was an inquiry about the Province assisting in funding growth related costs.

Response: Staff advised that the City has submitted to the Province its suggestion with respect to how key municipal legislations can be improved. Staff provided the example of the City requesting that the *Development Charges Act* be updated to require developers to pay more than 90% of cost of building soft services like a new Community Centres.

- Why is the City spending \$11M on improving Miller Avenue?
- Consider using roundabouts instead of traffic signals on Miller Avenue.

Staff Response: Staff advised that Miller Avenue is being urbanized, which includes widening the road and adding signalization. Signalization is being added to address safety concerns at certain intersections.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the presentation on the proposed 2016 water/wastewater rates be received; and,

That the presentation on the proposed 2016 budget be received; and,

That the deputations be received.

Carried

3. Adjournment

The Public Information Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.