



**FIFTH MEETING OF THE
2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 27, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: 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 Guests: Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Colin Campbell Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho	Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Phoebe Fu, Director of Asset Management Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:12 a.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Continuation of the Review of the Capital Budget

The Committee continued its review of the Capital Budget.

	<i>Asset Mgmt -Environmental Assets</i>		
16206	Don Mills Channel - Minor Rehabilitation	101,800	
16207	Storm Sewer Pipes - Rehabilitation	619,700	
16208	Stormwater Management Pond - Condition Inspection	51,700	Staff provided an overview of the process it undertakes to inspect the condition of stormwater management ponds. The ponds

				<p>are only cleaned once the sediment reaches a certain level.</p> <p>A Committee Member suggested that the City needs to think about how it will bring its storm water management ponds into its park system, especially how it will fit into the Rouge National Park.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked if the windmills that were installed at some of the stormwater management ponds are working. Staff will look into this inquiry and report back.</p>
	16209	Water Quality - Swan Lake and Toogood Pond	87,800	<p>The Committee discussed the water quality of the ponds.</p> <p>Staff were asked to provide metrics and report back on whether the City's geese control is working.</p>
	16210	West Thornhill Flood Control Construction - Phase 2A	5,941,200	
	16211	West Thornhill Flood Control Design - Phase 3	641,100	
<p>Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci Seconded by the Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the Environmental Assets Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>				
		<i>Asset Mgmt – Right-of-way Assets</i>		
	16212	Bridges and Culverts – Condition Inspection	62,000	<p>The Committee asked if the pedestrian bridges were included under the item. Staff advised that the condition inspections will be undertaken on motor vehicle bridges/culverts. The inspections are mandatory under the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i>. The conditions of pedestrian bridges are also inspected by the City, but less frequently.</p> <p>The Committee asked if the City has a list of all of its pedestrian bridges. Staff were</p>

				<p>confident that the City has a fairly comprehensive list of its pedestrian bridges. Although there may be some bridges it is unaware of.</p> <p>Staff were asked to report back to Deputy Mayor Heath on pedestrian bridge program (how many, how often they are inspected etc.).</p>
	16213	Culverts Rehabilitation (5 Structures) - Design & Const.	1,187,600	
	16214	Erosion Restoration at 85 Steelcase Road (Const)	516,400	
	16215	Former Sabiston Landfill - Equipment Maintenance	206,600	
	16216	Former Sabiston Landfill - Management	82,600	
	16217	MNR Monitoring for Capital Projects	15,500	
	16218	Pedestrian Bridge Rehab (7 Structures) - Design & Const.	238,300	
	16219	Retaining Wall Rehabilitation (B043) - Design & Const.	174,000	The Committee asked why the work is being undertaken. Staff advised weeping tiles need to be installed because water is leaking into the building. The cost of the work is not covered under the building's warranty, as it has expired.
	16220	ROW Assets - Structures Program-FTE	134,100	Staff confirmed that this project is to fund 1 Project Engineer to manage the City's structures program, and it is being funded from the capital program.
	16221	Sewer Invert Data Quality Assurance-Year 4 of 5	51,700	
	16222	Streetlights - Miscellaneous Requests	152,600	<p>The Committee asked for clarification on the budget item. Staff advised that the budget request is to address dark spots that arise from resident enquiries.</p> <p>The process for inspecting and maintaining streetlights was reviewed. Staff provided information on streetlight maintenance standard.</p>

				The Committee asked if all streetlight items could be grouped together. Staff advised that the capital budget items are currently grouped by department, but agreed to include a summary on the total amount spent on streetlights in next year's capital budget.
	16223	Streetlights - Pole Replacement Program	211,800	
	16224	Streetlights - Underground Cable Replacement/ Repair	2,231,000	Staff explained the process it undertakes for inspecting the underground cables. Staff perform condition assessment of the cables, and identify lengths that requires replacement/repair, therefore, this is a continuous project. Only deficient cables through condition assessment are replaced/repared, which is approximately 25% of the cables inspected . It is anticipated that with technology advancement, there will be more efficient ways to replace/repair the cables in the future.
	16225	Survey Monument Replacement	27,400	
<p>Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the Asset Management – Right-of-Way Assets Capital Budget Items as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>				
	Waste & Environmental Mgmt			
	16226	Replenishing the MESF Reserve - Annual Program	60,000	<p>A Committee Member asked why the funding for the program was being decreased. Staff advised the program will be topped up to \$100K in 2016, rather than to \$150K, as not all of the funds previously being allocated to the program were being granted.</p> <p>It was requested that Staff to report back on the program in 2016.</p>

	16227	Textile Recycling	130,100	<p>It was requested that an Environmental Issues Waste Diversion Committee meeting be held to discuss the project.</p> <p>A Committee Member suggested doing a pilot project of the program in Thornhill prior to launching it City wide program.</p> <p>The Committee asked for clarification on the type of textiles it would be collecting. Staff advised that the program will aim to collect the 7% of textiles that currently gets thrown in the garbage. It anticipates that it will also get some of the textiles that are currently being given to charities.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the drop box for the textiles should be placed in a convenient location.</p> <p>A report will be brought forward to the General Committee on the matter. The report will outline the anticipated revenue to be generated from the program.</p>
<p>Moved by Councillor Karen Rea Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the Waste & Environmental Management Capital Budget Items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>				
	Waterworks			
	16228	12 Month Wastewater Flow Monitoring - Ph 4 of 8	81,400	
	16229	Advanced Water & Wastewater Asset Management	503,700	<p>The Committee asked for an overview of what the project entails. Staff advised that the project entails hiring a consultant to develop an asset management plan for the City. The cost is based on the price other similar sized municipalities paid for their plans.</p> <p>The Consultant will review the City's water</p>

				& wastewater management system. The review will provide recommendations with respect to when condition assessments should be conducted on various types of assets in order to maximize the lifecycle of the asset.
	16230	Automated ICI High Consumption Water Meter Data Logging	155,600	
	16231	Cathodic Protection of Iron Watermains Program - Annual Prog	555,500	
	16232	District Metering Area (DMA) – Design (Ph 1 of 4)	208,200	Staff advised that the budget request was withdrawn, as a business case for the item still needs to be created.
	16233	IMS - Data Processing Phase 1 of 2	110,000	
	16234	Manhole Sealing - Phase 2 of 5	100,700	
	16235	Sanitary Lateral Inspection - Annual Program	153,900	
	16236	Sanitary Sewer Construction	563,000	
	16237	Sanitary Sewer System Upgrade/Rehab Program	1,024,300	
	16238	Sanitary System Downspout Disconnection Prog phase 4 of 4	300,000	
	16239	Sanitary Trunk Sewer and Manhole Inspection	108,600	
	16240	SCADA Master Plan	69,500	
	16241	SCADA System Software Enhancement Phase 1 of 2	25,000	
	16242	SMA / DMA data Management and Analysis	87,300	
	16243	Water Meter Replacement/Upgrade - Annual Program	655,000	The Committee asked if the discrepancy between York Region and the City on its water invoices has been resolved. Staff advised that the matter was resolved through an audit that was conducted by the Region. The audit provided Markham, the Region, and Toronto with recommendations on the tracking and replacement of water metres. The City is also keeping better track of its top fifteen water users, and it is looking at

				<p>how it can leverage technology to better understand how water circulates through the water system.</p> <p>The Committee asked for the percentage of the City's non revenue water usage. Staff advised that it averaged about 11% over the last 36 months. The 2015 budget for NRW is 11%.</p>
	16244	Water System Process Audit - Non Revenue Water	101,800	
	16245	Water System Upgrade Program - Annual Program	316,100	
	16246	Watermain Construction and Replacement Program	4,231,200	The Committee asked if the work needs to be done now. Staff advised that the work is being done now, as the watermain construction is being timed with roadwork that is being done.
	16247	Watermain Construction Design for 2017	803,800	
	16248	WW - Environmental Services Overall data Strategy Ph 2/2	76,000	
<p>Moved by Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the Waterworks Capital Budget items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>				

The Committee briefly discussed the renovation plans for the third floor of Civic Centre. The renovations are being undertaken to improve the efficiency of the workflow of the Legal Services Department. Councillor Don Hamilton and Councillor Karen Rea requested the opportunity to review the plans.

2. Responses to Questions from the Previous Meeting

The Committee reviewed the responses to questions from the previous Budget Committee meetings. The responses were circulated with the agenda package.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chui
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Heath

That the Budget Committee approve the responses from questions 1 and 2 from the previous meeting.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci
Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve the response to question 3 from the previous meeting.

CARRIED

The Committee requested that a breakdown of the employee future benefits liabilities be provided.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Heath

That the Budget Committee approve the response to question 4 from the previous meeting.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea
Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Budget Committee approve the responses to questions 5 to 8 from the previous meeting.

CARRIED

3. Councillor Requests

The Committee started its review of the Councillor requests.

#	Councillor's Requests	Discussion	Committee Recommendation
1	Windrow service for all Residents		Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 1. CARRIED

#	Councillor's	Discussion	Committee Recommendation
2	Improving park maintenance by hiring more 150-day staff	<p>The Committee discussed the need to improve the maintenance of parks, boulevards, and flower beds at Community Centres.</p> <p>Staff agreed to review the number of 150-day staff being hired and to look at ways to make these areas less resource intensive to maintain. It was noted that in the early spring or during a rainy period it is very difficult to maintain the corporate standard for parks, as the ground is too wet to mow.</p> <p>Staff were asked to look at the new island located on Vinegar Hill, as it is filled with weeds.</p>	<p>Moved by Councillor Karen Rea Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
3	Include an emergency insert in Markham Life.	<p>Staff advised that an emergency insert was included in the winter issue of Markham Life and that sponsorship funds were obtained to help cover the cost of the insert.</p> <p>A Committee Member requested that staff investigate having Canada Post deliver the Markham Life Magazine rather than the local newspapers, as there was some concern that the magazines were not being delivered to residents doorsteps.</p>	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci</p> <p>That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

#	Councillor's	Discussion	Committee Recommendation
4	Beautification & maintenance of bus shelter	Councillor Karen Rea requested that the Region's response on the matter be provided to her.	Moved by Councillor Karen Rea Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 4. CARRIED
23	Continued support for Keeping Markham Beautiful pilot projects/ initiatives.	The Committee discussed the current basket and barrel model and agreed that it needs to be reviewed to ensure the model is fair and equitable. It supported continuing the beautification pilot project for one year, but it did not support allocating funds permanently to the project until the model was reviewed more holistically.	Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 23; and, That \$2,000 be allocated to the pilot project in 2016. CARRIED
24	Splash pad at Grand Cornell		Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 24. CARRIED
25	More toddler swings in Grand Cornell Park		Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 25. CARRIED

#	Councillor's	Discussion	Committee Recommendation
26	Addition (or conversion) of a number of Parks in Cornell to accommodate Basketball Nets for older		Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendation for Councillor Request Item No. 26. CARRIED

Councillor Colin Campbell asked for an extra speed radar board to be placed in Ward 5 in the school zones. The matter was referred to the staff response under Councillor request No. 13.

4. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:01 pm.