



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 3, 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 Joe Li Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho	Staff Present: Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Phoebe Fu, Director of Asset Management Barb Rabicki, Director of Operations Ronji Borooah, City Architect Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:03 a.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chui

That the minutes from the November 20, 23, and 27 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chui

That the confidential minutes from the November 20, 2015, Budget Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Deputations

Kent Greene and Perry Galamis from the Markham Soccer Club spoke in support of Councillor request no. 44 to build a soccer dome for the Mount Joy turf field in Markham. An overview was provided of the clubs programs, and the challenges it is currently facing finding enough space to practice, especially during the winter months. The club was requesting that the dome be built as an additional soccer facility rather than to replace the current indoor soccer facility located at the Mount Joy Community Centre. It was estimated that the club would be able to rent the turf 66 hours per week during prime time hours. It was discussed that remaining hours could possibly be used by St. Brother Andre High School or for indoor golf . The quote for the budget request was believed to be high. It was identified by the Club that the cost for a used one will be approximately \$300k and \$400k for a new one.

The Committee discussed the deputations and recognized the demand for additional soccer facilities in Markham. The Committee asked staff to report back at the next meeting with options to build the dome and the respective costs to ensure the project is economically viable.

Committee Members made the following suggestions:

- Form a committee to develop a soccer dome strategy for the City
- Identify the payback period
- Consider a full cost recovery model
- Consult with St. Brother Andre High School on the request to build a soccer dome
- Review the request from a City wide perspective
- See if there are other more suitable locations for the dome, which would bring the cost of the project down
- Review the cost of the project

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That Councillor Request No. 44 to build a soccer dome for the Mount Joy Turf Field in Markham be referred back to staff.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Budget Committee receive the deputations from Kent Greene and Perry Galamis from the Markham Soccer Club on Councillor Request No. 44 to build a soccer dome.

CARRIED

Linda Tsang, Cheu Ar Lu, and Mary Zau, from Markham's Seniors Association, spoke about the high cost of the cash bus fare in York Region and requested that the fare be discounted for seniors. Reducing the fare would give seniors more freedom to participate in community activities and it would help them maintain a healthy mindset. It was suggested that York Region consider implementing a \$1 bus fare during non prime times for seniors, similar to the City of Mississauga's program, and that the transfer time be extended, as the current two hour timeframe is not long enough. An 8 page document with signatures from Markham seniors supporting a reduction to the cash bus fare was displayed to the Committee. They also requested that the City put more washrooms in parks and offer more indoor facilities within walking distance to their homes.

The Deputy Mayor will invite the Markham Senior's Association to attend a Regional Budget Committee meeting to speak on the matter, as transit falls under the jurisdiction of York Region. It was noted that a discounted fare is provided when a resident purchases ten tickets and that York Region highly subsidises transit.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the deputations by Linda Tsang, Cheu Ar Lu, and Mary Zau, from Markham's Seniors Association, on transit fares be received.

CARRIED

3. Continuation of the Review of the Councillor's Requests

The Committee continued its review of the Councillor Requests.

#	Councillor's Requests	Councillor	Approved Staff Recommendation
5	Hang flower baskets from the new lights on Vinegar Hill and/or planters similar to Middlefield	The request will be reviewed after a holistic review of the current Barrel and Baskets Policy is conducted by staff.	Approved

6	Paint gazebo on Main St Markham and add public art	<p>Staff advised they would be able to paint the gazebo using an existing operating budget. The high cost of the painting is due to the need to sandblast the gazebo. The work will be done in the spring of 2016. Funds would need to be approved for the picnic table.</p> <p>The Committee discussed whether a heritage style picnic table is required for the gazebo, and agreed that staff should look at the cost of purchasing a regular picnic table.</p>	Put on Hold
7	<u>Beautification & Maintenance</u> Add a bench and some plantings and/or public art to the parkette beside eleven Joseph with the green cone structure	The request will be reviewed after the implementation of the pilot project along the Bur Oak business area, and upon the outcome of the pilot project.	Approved
8	<u>Beautification & Maintenance</u> Parkettes on Main Street Markham	The request will be reviewed after the implementation of the pilot project along the Bur Oak business area, and upon the outcome of the pilot project.	Approved
9	Install more bike racks for Main St and Benches	Staff advised that the bike racks are being installed on Main Street Markham.	Approved
10	Create a Town Square to Main Street Markham	The Committee agreed that the square should be re-looked at when the property is being redeveloped in the future.	Approved

11	Put new benches at the Vet Hall.	<p>The Committee agreed to donate two regular benches to the Vet Hall.</p> <p>Moved Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Seconded Councillor Amanda Collucci</p> <p>That the Budget Committee recommended that a one-time donation of two benches at \$500 each be made to the Vet Hall.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	Approved
12	Beautification & Maintenance of Mount Joy Area	<p>The Committee asked that staff visit the site to see if the inconsistent sidewalk surface on Main Street Markham can be (from Bullock to 16th Avenue) improved using existing budgets. Operations and Engineer staff will conduct a site walk. It was discussed that minor repairs/maintenance on sidewalk will be part of the Operation's program, however, any extended length of replacement will be included as part of the Engineering's Sidewalk improvement program.</p> <p>The Committee asked why the recent improvements to Main Street Markham did not extend to 16th Avenue. Staff advised that the scope of the project was limited to beautifying the shopping area on Main Street Markham only.</p> <p>It was noted that the reconstruction of Main Street Markham (between Bullock Dr. and 16th Ave.) is not included in the Engineering 10 year capital program.</p> <p>A Committee Member agreed that the requirement for reconstruction of Main Street Markham should not be in the short term horizon, but should be included in the 10 year capital program. It was requested that the Engineering 10 year capital program be presented at a Development</p>	Approved

		<p>Services Committee meeting in 2016.</p> <p>The request for flower baskets in the Mount Joy area will be reviewed after the implementation of the pilot project along the Bur Oak business area, and upon the outcome of the pilot project.</p>	
13	Speed Radar Board	<p>The Committee discussed the effectiveness of the speed radar boards and the City's need for a traffic safety program, especially for schools.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that no additional purchase will be considered until the workshop is held.</p>	Put on Hold
14	Off Leash Dog Park in Ward 4	<p>Staff advised that there are funds for the establishment of one off-leash dog park in 2016. The model for establishing the parks is currently being reviewed. The need for a off leash park in Ward 4 will need to be weighed against the demands for off leash dog park in other Wards.</p> <p>It was noted that the City is asking to have two off leash dog parks in the Rouge National Park.</p>	Approved

15	Wood fence and/or hedges along Stargell and Mercer Cres	It was noted that suitable trees and shrubs could possibly be planted in this area through the Trees for Tomorrow Program.	Approved
16	Update Garbage Bins in Ward 4		Approved

Moved by Councillor Karen Rea

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the Budget Committee approve the staff response to Councillor Requests 5 to 16 (excluding 6 and 13)

CARRIED

4. Operating Budget

Andrea Tang reviewed the status on the 2016 Operating Budget. The following operating budget opportunities were presented to the Committee:

- a) Penalty to be charge 4th day after proper tax instalment due date;
- b) Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) –revised legislation removing cap of \$100 ticket;
- c) Reduce operating budget transfer to Long Term Disability reserve, and reallocate budget to fund the year 2 of 4 phase-in increase for health & dental benefits;
- d) Southeast Community Centre & Library – fund expenses from September to December of 2016 from Ramp Up Reserve if required;
- e) Sale of surplus Land (operating impact from savings derived from no longer being required to maintain the building);
- f) Commission E3s.

Discussion

Penalty to be Charge 4th Day after Proper Tax Instalment Due Date

Staff proposed that a penalty of 1% will be applied on the 4th day after instalment due date effective July 1, 2016. The Committee suggested making the change effective in February of 2016 (1st

instalment) rather than in July of 2016. Staff were requested to prepare a memo on the matter for Monday's General Committee.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the operating budget opportunity regarding the penalty to be charged on tax be referred to the General Committee.

CARRIED

The remaining operating budget opportunities will be discussed in detail at the next budget meeting.

Infrastructure Surcharge

A Committee Member spoke in opposition of the 1% infrastructure surcharge.

5. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:09 p.m.