



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
2016 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 10, 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 Regional Councillor Joe Li Regrets: Councillor Alan Ho	Staff Present: Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Graham Seaman, Director of Sustainability Barb Rabicki, Director of Operations Ronji Borooah, City Architect Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The Budget Committee convened at 9:09 a.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

The Committee requested that the Seniors Association be invited to an upcoming meeting being held at the City where the Region will be providing a presentation on transportation matters. Brenda Librecz will look into when the meeting is being held and arrange for the Association to attend.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the Minutes from the November 3, 2015 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Status Update on the 2016 Operating Budget

Andrea Tang provided an update on the status of the 2016 Operating Budget. The Committee continued its review of the proposed E3 initiatives:

- a) *Penalty to be charged 4th day after proper tax instalment due date effective the 1st installment date in 2016 - \$300K;*

This E3 initiative was approved at the November 9, 2015 General Committee, pending Council approval on November 10, 2015.

- b) *Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) –revised legislation removing cap of \$100 ticket - \$225K;*

The Committee asked if there were opportunities to add fines other than parking tickets to the AMPs program. It was advised that staff are currently investigating opportunities to expand the program to other penalty types and that a report will be brought forward to the General Committee on the matter in mid 2016. It was anticipated that sign infractions could be added to the program.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Second by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee approve the E3 initiative to remove the cap of \$100 per ticket from the Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) resulting in an estimated increase in revenues of \$225K in 2016, as a result to recent changes to legislation.

CARRIED

- 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 - \$260K;*

- d) *Southeast Community Centre & Library – fund expenses from September to December of 2016 from Ramp Up Reserve if required - \$200K;*

- e) *Sale of surplus Land (operating impact from savings derived from no longer being required to maintain the building)-\$50K;*

- f) *Commission E3s - \$525K*

- *Staff have identified that a total of \$318K Commission E3s has been identified to date, leaving a remaining balance of \$207K.*
- *Additional reduction in waste collection budget (volume driven) – (\$125K, included in the \$318K above)*

The Committee asked which type of waste has reduced in volume and if it is a short term trend. Staff advised that the volume of yard waste increased in recent years due to the ice storm, and has since reduced to normal volumes. It was noted that the City is in its 4th year of its waste contract with Miller and that the contract is for 10 years (7 years + optional extension of 3 years)

- *Additional Waste Diversion Ontario Grant –(\$100K)*

The Committee asked why the City is provided with the grant. Staff advised that the grant was historically given to municipalities as an incentive to start recycling programs.

- *Assessment Grow from 1.91% to 1.98% - (\$93K)*

A Committee Member suggested using another term for assessment growth that is easier for residents to understand. The term “2016, additional properties on the tax roll” was suggested.

Staff will continue to work towards identifying the remaining \$207K of Commission E3s and report back. The Committee will need to approve the shortfall to be presented to the public at the next meeting.

Infrastructure Surcharge

Staff provided a brief overview of the proposed 1% infrastructure surcharge and explained that it would add approximately \$11 to the average tax bill. The Committee requested that a workshop on the surcharge be held in 2016 to better understand it. The surcharge could then potentially be included in the 2017 budget. A list of all of the City’s reserves, the purpose of the reserves, and the balance of the reserves were also requested to be provided at the workshop.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the Budget Committee request that staff hold a workshop on the proposed 1% infrastructure surcharge in the spring of 2016, to be considered for potential inclusion in the 2017 Budget.

CARRIED

A Committee Member inquired why the streetlights at Ninthth Line and Highway 7 remain on during the day. Brenda Librecz advised she will look into this inquiry.

3. Responses from the Previous Budget Committee Meetings

Andrea Tang presented the responses to questions from previous Budget Committee meetings.

Benjamin Marr Park

The Committee asked why the waterplay at Benjamin Marr Park is being replaced. Staff advised that the waterplay was scheduled to be replaced in 2024, but due to ongoing issues with the structure that have led to concrete heaving and cracking, and wiring issues, replacement of the structure is being recommended. Significant maintenance costs are expected to continue if the structure is not replaced.

The Committee asked why these issues are occurring and if staff inspected the structure when it was being installed. Staff advised that park structures are inspected when installed and that the reason for the issues are unknown at this time.

A Member asked if development charges can be used for the replacement of the structure. Staff provided an overview of when development charges can be used, and explained that they cannot be used to replace existing park assets.

A Committee Member asked if the waterplay at Thomson Park will be replaced. Staff advised that the waterplay at Thomson Park is functioning well and does not require replacement in 2016.

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Budget Committee approve Capital Budget Item No. 16177 “Waterplay Replacement”.

CARRIED

4. Councillor Requests

The Committee continued its review of the Councillor Requests. Items 27-32, 37-40, 44, and 46 were deferred to the November 17 Budget Committee meeting, as the Councillors making the requests were not in attendance.

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
17	Construction of washrooms for Main Street Unionville as per Unionville Revitalization Plan.	The Committee discussed the need for washrooms on Main Street Unionville. The funds previously put aside for building washrooms on Main Street Unionville were relocated to the revitalization of	The Committee put the request on hold until all Councillor requests have been reviewed, and until Staff report back on the request on the financial impact on operating costs and the life cycle replacement and capital reserve.

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
		the Stiver Mill, as the community could not previously agree on the location of the washrooms. New funds will need to be allocated to the project if the Committee approves the request.	
18	Street light replacement for Varley Village which currently emit poor light.	It was agreed that the replacement of the streetlights will be reviewed when decorative streetlights are converted to LED.	Approved
19	Completion of park behind Millennium bandstand.		Approved
20	Repair/replace interlocking brick corner of Pomander/Carlton.		Approved
21	Install bike racks for Main Street Unionville.		Approved
22	Install additional lighting for parking area/road behind Unionville Arms	Staff were requested to conduct a safety audit of lighting on the laneway behind the Unionville Arms.	Approved

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
33	Electrical Upgrades at Cedarena	<p>The Committee agreed it would need to see the condition assessment of the properties prior to making any decision on the matter. Staff advised that condition assessments of the properties are currently being undertaken by the City's Asset Management Department. It was anticipated that there would be more costs associated with the project if the City decides to proceed with the project. The Sustainability Office has \$25K in emergency funds for the Rouge Park that can be allocated towards the project. TRCA is currently working on a management agreement for Markham to take over the management of the properties.</p> <p>Part of the City's proposal for the Rouge National Park includes an artificial ice rink. The project is currently unfunded.</p>	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath Seconded by Councillor Collucci</p> <p>That Councillor Request No. 33 be referred to staff and that a report be brought forward to the General Committee on the matter in the first quarter of 2016.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
34	Funding for the Agricultural Advisory Committee	<p>The Committee requested that staff review the current budget allotments for City committees and develop a policy. It was recognized that most City committees need some funds to support their projects.</p> <p>A Committee Member asked if City Committees can apply for a Celebrate Markham Grant. Staff advised that they are eligible to apply for a grant if they are hosting a event that meets the qualifying criteria.</p>	<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong</p> <p>That staff prepare a policy on committee budget allotments and report back to the General Committee in 2016.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
35	Carlton Park Master Study Plan for upgrading the Park		Approved
36	Pathway connection and related work (second phase)		Approved
41	Improvements to Terrance Parkette		Approved
42	Physical Traffic Calming Measures – Rubber Speed bumps		<p>Moved by Deputy Mayor Heath Seconded by Councillor Hamilton</p> <p>That Capital Budget Item Nos. 13 and 42 be deferred to a workshop on traffic safety.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
43	Traffic Island at Fieldside and Donald Cousens Parkway	The Island was displayed on the screen. It appeared that there was a cut in the island for the homeowners to get to their driveway from the other side of the Island. Staff agreed to look at the Island.	Approved
45	Power outlet in Ray Street Park	The Committee asked if electrical plugs should be put at all parks. Staff advised that electrical plugs should only be considered for installation at parks that fit the nature and function of the park and that they should be included in the design plans for the park. Plugs are currently not installed at Markham Parks, as there is a cost associated with having the plug and for noise control reasons.	Staff were requested to provide the costs associated with supplying power outlet at parks.
47	Fix the broken park posts at Berczy Park South.	A Committee Member asked why the posts at the park are taking so long to be fixed. Staff advised that is taking longer to fix, as the issue is more complicated than originally anticipated.	Approved

No.	Request	Discussion	Staff Response
48	Wisner Park - Install adult exercise equipments, drinking fountain and park benches.	<p>The Committee requested the following for Wisner Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider erecting a sign or putting a sticker on the garbage bin prohibiting the dumping of household garbage at the park• Consider erecting a sign encouraging bike safety• See if a light can be put up at the basketball court <p>Staff will look into these requests.</p>	Approved

The Committee will continue its review of the Councillor Requests at the next meeting.

5. Adjournment

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:09 pm