



**2015 BUDGET PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
March 23, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

| | |
|--|---|
| Members Present: Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Mayor Frank Scarpitti Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Karen Rea Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Colin Campbell | Staff Present: 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 Alan Brown, Director of Engineer Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Dennis Flaherty, Director of Corporate Communication & Community Relations Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Matt Vetere, Senior Business Analyst Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator |
|--|---|

The Budget Public Meeting convened at 7:10 p.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. 2015 BUDGET MEETING PRESENTATION

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning was in attendance to provide a presentation on the proposed 2015 budget. The presentation included the following: an overview of the 2015 budget process and communication plan; an overview of the citizen budget tool; a economic and fiscal scan; an overview of the proposed 2015 capital and operating budgets; the 2015 capital budget highlights; and the next steps.

2. DEPUTATIONS

Deputation 1

A representative from the Unionville Historical Society, inquired if there are funds allocated in the 2015 budget for washrooms on Main Street Unionville. Staff confirmed that there are no funds in the 2015 Budget for washrooms on Main Street Unionville. The vision for Main Street Unionville included design plans for washrooms on Main Street Unionville. Staff are currently reviewing the designs. Several options for washrooms on Main Street Unionville were investigated in the past without success.

The Unionville Historical Society demonstrated an interest in working with the City to find a cost efficient option for installing washroom on Main Street Unionville.

Deputation 2

The resident spoke in opposition to the proposed tax rate increase due to stagnant incomes and many residents living on fixed incomes. He inquired how much of the proposed tax rate increase was due to increases to personnel costs and suggested that the City is growing too quickly and not benefiting from economies of scale.

Staff advised that the 2015 incremental increase in personnel costs represents approximately 3.5% increase to the 2014 personnel budget.

There was a discussion on how market value property assessment works. MPAC is responsible for assessing the property value and Markham is responsible for setting the municipal tax rate. Markham's combined tax rate increase over the past 6 years is 5.49%.

Staff will prepare a communication that explains the difference between a municipal tax rate increase which is controlled by the municipality and changes to the assessed value of a property which is managed by Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

Deputation 3

The resident suggested the following:

- Join other municipalities, and the Province to change the way municipal taxes are calculated due to stagnant incomes and residents living on fixed incomes;
- Reduce street cleaning cost by having residents clean their own streets once a week;
- Have committees adhere to the rules to avoid unnecessary costs;
- Update existing aging infrastructure as it is needed;

- Ensure houses are not being built with deep basements, which require water to be pumped from the ground;
- Stop trying to help businesses at the tax payers expense;
- Stop revitalizing areas of Markham that do not require revitalization;
- Do less snow plowing on streets that do not require frequent plowing.
 - **Staff are currently investigating this inquiry.**

Deputation 4

The resident inquired if the City is budgeting for the proposed change to Provincial legislation regarding greenhouse gas emissions. It was advised that the City would budget for the change in legislation if passed by the Provincial Legislator.

Staff will contact the resident to discuss the impact of the potential carbon tax changes under consideration by the Province.

The Committee thanked staff for their hard work on the 2015 budget.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the deputations be received.

CARRIED

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the Budget Public Information Meeting adjourn at 8:39 pm.

CARRIED