



**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
MARCH 27, 2015**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) 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 Alan Ho (afternoon session only) Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Guests: Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Valerie Burke</p>	<p>Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer A. Brown, Director of Engineering Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Budget Committee convened at 1:22 Pm with Councillor Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved Councillor Amanda Collucci
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the March 9, 2015 Budget Committee Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. REVIEW OF THE FEEDBACK FROM THE BUDGET PUBLIC MEETING

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning reviewed the feedback from the four deputations made at the Budget Public Meeting and the respective staff responses.

Suggested Amendments to Budget Public Meeting Minutes

The following amendments to the Budget Public Meeting minutes were suggested:

- 1) Change “greenhouse emissions” to “greenhouse gas emissions”
- 2) Re-phrase the sentence

“Staff advised that 3.5% of the proposed budget increase is due to increases in personnel costs” to address the fact that the 2015 incremental increase in personnel costs represents approximately 3.5% increase to the 2014 personnel budget.

Unionville Public Washrooms

A Member asked if there were still funds put aside for washrooms on Main Street Unionville. Staff advised that there were funds in the budget for washrooms on Main Street Unionville several years ago, but these funds were re-directed to the Stiver Mill Restoration Project.

It was suggested that staff should work with the greater Unionville Community to find a solution for putting washrooms on Main Street Unionville.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the March 23, 2015 Budget Public Meeting Minutes be received.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF THE OPERATING BUDGET

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

There was a discussion on the following:

- Challenges York Region is experiencing with the Spadina Subway Extension Project;

- Challenges with the arbitration process the City must use to negotiate fire and emergency services wages;
- Managing costs to minimize tax rate increases due to many residents living on fixed or stagnant incomes;

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

Seconded by Collucci

- 1) That the Budget Committee recommend to General Committee a 2015 Operating Budget of \$199.30M; and,
- 2) That Budget Committee recommend to General Committee a tax rate increase of 2.50 %

CARRIED

4. CELEBRATE MARKHAM GRANTS

The Committee discussed the Celebrate Markham Grants, the following was discussed:

- re-evaluate providing the Kindred Spirit and the Markham Arts Council with \$15K per quarter when staff provide a status update on these groups to Council in May;
- Consider requiring full accounting from Celebrate Markham recipients;
- Consider reducing the Taste of Asia grant from \$15K to \$10K to be consistent with the grants received by other Markham festivals.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

- 2) That the 2015 Celebrate Markham Grants in the amount of \$370,000.00 be approved as attached in Appendix A, with the following amendments:
 - a) That \$5,400.00 from the Tony Roman Hockey Tournament be re-allocated equally to following three events in addition to the amounts outlined in Appendix A:
 - Thursday Night Summer Music Series – Unionville Bandstand
 - Markham Village Festival
 - Markham Jazz Festival
 - b) That \$5,000.00 from the Unity Festival be re-allocated to the Pan AM Global Fest on a one time basis.

CARRIED

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The recipients of the Celebrate Markham Grants should have an opportunity to speak if the City is planning to reduce their grant.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Committee adjourned at 3:25 pm.