



**Minutes
General Committee
February 27, 2015
Meeting Number 7**

Finance & Administrative Issues

Chair: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Vice Chair: Councillor Colin Campbell

Community Services Issues

Chair: Councillor Alan Ho
Vice Chair: Councillor Alex Chiu

Environment & Sustainability Issues

Chair: Councillor Valerie Burke
Vice Chair: Councillor Karen Rea

Building, Parks, & Construction Issues

Chair: Councillor Colin Campbell
Vice Chair: Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Karen Rea
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Amanda Collucci
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Kimberley Kitteringham, City Clerk
Martha Pettit, Deputy City Clerk
Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Bill Snowball, Fire Chief
Phoebe Fu, Director of Asset Management
Bob Nicholson, Acting Director of Operations
Sharon Laing, Director of Human Resources
Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Services
Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications & Community Engagement
Stephen Chait, Director of Economic Development
Alan Brown, Director of Engineering
Biju Karumanchery, Director of Planning & Urban Design
Mohammed Hosseini-Ara, Acting Director of Culture
Meg West, Manager Strategic Initiatives
Fred Rich, Manager, Strategy & Insurance Risk
Mona Nazif, Senior Manager, HR Client Services
Don Taylor, Manager, Executive Operations
Tim Moore, Director Building Standards
Sara Tam, Manager, Business Planning & Innovation
Catherine Biss, CEO Markham Libraries
Graham Seaman, Senior Manager Sustainability Office
Rick Dominico, CAO's Office
Raj Raman, Chief of Staff
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

The General Committee meeting convened at the hour of 9:07 AM with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath in the Chair.

General Committee recessed at 12:18 PM and reconvened at 12:50 PM.

Disclosure of Interest

None disclosed.

1. EDUCATION AND TRAINING SESSION - BUILDING MARKHAM'S FUTURE TOGETHER (16.23) [Attachment 1](#) [Attachment 2](#)

Mayor Frank Scarpitti addressed the Committee and provided some opening remarks regarding the purpose of today's education and training session on Building Markham's Future Together.

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer addressed the Committee and introduced Peter Stravropoulos, President & CEO, FlexITY Solutions.

Peter Stravropoulos, President & CEO, FlexITY Solutions, delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Smart + Connected Communities - Aligning Business and Technology." The presentation included financial performance, economic prosperity, quality of life and public service excellence.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Potential long term cost savings with investing in the technology
- How to ensure personal information is kept secure
- Expectations when there is the ability to access individuals 24/7

Meg West, Manager, Strategic Initiatives, addressed the Committee and provided a high level overview of Building Markham's Future Together accomplishments.

The Chief Administrative Officer and Commissioners delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview regarding the proposed goals, objectives and key actions for the 2015-2018 Council term.

There were break out sessions to obtain feedback on:

- Exceptional Services by Exceptional People
- Engaged, Diverse and Thriving City
- Safe & Sustainable Communities
- Stewardship of Money & Resources

Mayor Frank Scarpitti introduced Warren Jestin, Senior Vice-President & Chief Economist Specialist, Scotiabank.

Warren Jestin, Senior Vice-President & Chief Economist Specialist, Scotiabank addressed the Committee and spoke about the Canadian dollar, interest rates and an economic forecast. He spoke about the following:

- European investment
- United States strong economy versus European weak economy
- Weak Canadian dollar
- BRIC = Brazil, Russia, India, China
- Currency volatile
- Governments adding to growth
- Change in consumer confidence south of the border
- Consumers spending more
- Businesses investing in United States of America again
- Future will have less retail investment, commercial space in Canada
- Low Canadian dollar is not enough for viable economic growth
- Exporting doing well
- US - holding down interest rates by having the government buy their own bonds - government stopped buying and global agencies start investing
- US sets the north American standard rate
- Long range borrowing costs will remain low for the next year
- Low interest rate are bonus to borrower, but not to investors
- Bank of Canada - short term interest rates remain very low in the next 1.5 year
- Canadian currency will continue to fluctuate
- Oil prices much lower than anyone anticipated
- Ontario and British Columbia will be the strongest provinces leading the growth
- Housing market, Financial Services, Universities & Colleges have advanced Ontario
- Need a good rounded infrastructure
- Small, medium size businesses that are not impacted by a 5 cent move in Canadian dollar
- Currently over retail for the future trends we are seeing
- Widening of income disparity

There was discussion regarding the importance of job creation within technology sector that will result in sustainable jobs. It was noted that older adults are choosing to remain in the workforce longer. There was discussion regarding the lack of job creation for adults under the age of 35 years and that will potentially create problems in the future.

Mayor Frank Scarpitti addressed the Committee to provide some closing remarks. He thanked everyone involved in organizing today's session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the General Committee meeting adjourn at 2:45 PM.

Carried