



**FOURTH MEETING OF THE
2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE
CANADA ROOM, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
February 10, 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 Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Guests: Regional Councillor Jim Jones Councillor Valerie Burke</p>	<p>Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Phoebe Fu, Director of Asset Management Linda Irvine, Manager of Parks and Open Space Development Biju Karumanchery, Acting Director of Planning & Urban Design Bob Nicholson, Director of Operations Richard Kendall, Manager of Development, Central Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Budget Committee convened at 11:05 am with Councillor Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS REQUESTS

The Councillor's presented their Councillor requests.

#	Councillor's Requests	Responses	Approval of Staff Response
1	Celebrate Markham Grants - \$ 82,000	<p>After some discussion on whether the Celebrate Markham Grants should be increased, the Committee accepted the staff recommendation to consider the request for additional funds to the Celebrate Markham Grants Program, as a part of the Celebrate Markham Grant Review Process presented to Council on January 12, 2015 with implementation in 2016.</p> <p>A motion was made and lost to increase the Celebrate Markham Grants over the next two years.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ho Seconded by Deputy Mayor Heath</p> <p>That the Celebrate Markham Grants be increased by \$82,000 K over 2 years starting in 2015.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LOST</p>	Yes
2	Victoria Square Community Centre	<p>A Member asked if the review of the Intergraded Leisure Master Plan could be moved up from 2016 to 2015. Staff advised that resources would not be available to undertake the review in 2015 based on the projects that are currently underway.</p> <p>A Member noted that there is no large recreational facility in the Cathedral Town area, and that the construction of parks in the area has been delayed. The delay in the construction of Sir John A McDonald Park was referenced.</p> <p>Staff advised that the construction of Sir John A McDonald Park started later last year and will continue in the spring of 2015 when the weather improves. It is not uncommon to have delays in park construction, as the tender process can take longer than anticipated, and the construction of the park can only occur when weather permits.</p> <p>The City is working at expediting the development of parks in Markham. The 2015 budget for park development is \$12.7M. Staff suggested providing Council with more frequent updates on the expected opening of parks.</p>	yes -

		<p>Staff are also working with the School Board, the YMCA, and other Community Organizations to develop an integrated strategy to providing community space. They are also ensuring there are no barriers to participation in regards to using existing facilities for community purposes.</p> <p>A Member asked if the re-development of the Victoria Square Community Centre could be moved up from 2018. Staff advised that a feasibility study will need to be undertaken. Partnering with other community organizations to provide recreational space will also need to be explored prior to making any decisions regarding the future of the Community Centre.</p> <p>There were discussions on Markham's Satellite Community Centre model. The Committee recognized the benefits of having the community manages its smaller Community Centres, but it also recognized that there could be other alternatives/options for managing these centres. Staff advised that each Community Centre Board has recently been assigned a staff liaison who regularly attends board meetings. Staff will bring forward a report to the General Committee in 2015 on Markham's Satellite Community Centres.</p>	
3	Senior Exercise Area at New Parks	Staff agreed to meet with Councillor Alan Ho to discuss retrofits of existing park.	Yes
4	Mobile Washroom at John Button Park	Staff advised that Council will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the park amenities being proposed for John Button Park at the Development Services Committee. The Ward Councillor will also be consulted on the park amenities.	Yes
5	Parkette at Nicolas Manor		Yes
6	Chinese Chess Tables		Yes
7	Heritage Recognition/Signage for Victoria Square; Cathedral Town		Yes
8	Woodbine Avenue Reconstruction (Between Major Mackenzie & Elgin		Yes

	Mills)		
9	Completion of Park behind Millennium		Yes
10	Replace Big Bellies with conventional heritage style waste and recycling containers on Main Street Unionville		Yes
11	Construction of the Main Street, Unionville Washrooms	The Committee accepted staff's recommendation and discussed the need for washrooms on Main Street Unionville, and the challenges faced by the City.	Yes
12	Installation of additional lighting for the path that goes from the parking lot at the corner of Main/Carlton to the Unionville Library.	.	Yes
13	Replacement of Streetlights in the Unionville Heritage area with LED Heritage Style Street Lights.		Yes.
14	Lighting at Unionville Lane		Yes
15	New Sign Varley Art Gallery		Yes
16	Varley Village Streetlights		Yes
17	Sidewalk replacement at Station Lane	Staff will investigate if there is a possibility of replacing the sidewalk on Station Lane through the City's existing sidewalk replacement program.	Yes

18	Stiver Mill - Second Phase		Yes
19	Replacement or expansion of Unionville Library.		Yes
20	Welcoming feature for Main Street Unionville	There was a discussion on the type of welcoming feature the City may consider for Main Street Unionville. There are no funds in the 2015 budget for the welcoming feature.	Yes
21	Main Street, Unionville Light Replacement with new LED Heritage Lights		Yes
22	South Unionville Meeting Place	<p>The Committee suggested staff to look at how an aging population may use community facilities differently.</p> <p>It was noted that the Pan AM Centre will provide South Unionville with new community space. There may also be partnership opportunities with community organizations to provide additional community space.</p>	Yes
23	Chambery Park – Water play and enhanced features needed at Chambery Park.		Yes
24	Ward 3, Unionville Parks – All Unionville Ward 3 parks to have new concrete Checker boards installed for seniors to use.		Yes
25	Windrow Services	The Committee requested that all previous studies and reports on the windrow be provided to Members of Council. Staff will continue to work with the contractors to improve snow plowing techniques to minimize the windrow. It was also suggested that the public be educated on what a windrow program would cost and what it would achieve	Yes

26	Wood fence and/or hedges along the bottom part of streets: Tunney, Mercer and Stargell.	Staff were requested to re-investigate this Councillor request under the premise that it is on public land. The City could work with GO Transit to plant hedges on land to hide the train if the land is publicly owned.	Staff will re-investigate this request.
27	Improved Park Maintenance	<p>A Member suggested that the City needs to increase the frequency of its grass cutting at Markham parks. Staff advised that the City's process for cutting grass at parks is based on best municipal practices. Grass that needs to be short is cut every 7 days (e.g. sports fields), and grass that does not need to be too short is cut every 7 to 14 days. Slightly longer grass is more environmental and is part of Markham's natural process in controlling weeds. Markham has been recognized for the high quality of its sports fields.</p> <p>It was also questioned why the City has not hired any new full time parks staff in years. The City hires many part time seasonal workers and contracts out some of the parks maintenance. The staffing model is used to reduce labour costs for the City since only seasonal staff are required.</p>	
28	Trees on Main St Markham	A Member asked who is responsible for fixing the geo-watering system, which was recently installed on Main Street Markham. Staff advised that the contractor is responsible for fixing the system and for the trees until the end of the warranty period.	
29	Hiring an Auditor General		Yes
30	Emergency Preparedness Pullout in Markham Life - \$2,800	Staff were requested to investigate options for providing residents with emergency information in a format they can easily access. Some of the options considered were a pullout from Markham Life or a fridge magnet. It was noted that there may be cost sharing opportunities with Powerstream for this initiative.	Staff to investigate request.
31	Supporting Small Businesses/Main Street Markham	There were discussions on whether private businesses on Main Street Markham should be provided with a full page advertisement in Markham Life promoting their businesses in compensation for the financial losses they experienced due to the construction being undertaken by the City on the street.	Yes -

		<p>A total of \$65,000 in funding was provided for the two-year period (2012 and 2013) to the Markham Village BIA to encourage local shopping in the retail business area during Markham Main Street construction. Construction in this area is now complete.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed that the Markham Village Business Improvement Area (MVBIA) incurred a deficit of \$33k in 2014. This resulted from businesses successfully challenged their property assessment values. The City will work with MVBIA to develop a re-payment plan.</p>	
43	Shade Gazebo for Randall Park		Yes
44	Pathway Extension for Randall Park		Yes
45	Berczy Park South Berczy Park South c		Yes
46	Berczy Park North		Yes
47	Wismer Park		Yes
48	Upper Unionville		Yes
49	Angus Glen Neighbourhood Parks		Yes
50	School Crossing Guard at Donald Cousens Public School and at John McCrea Public School		Yes
51	Improvements to Rizal Parkette		Yes
52	Re-visit the Windrow Snow Removal Policy		Yes

53	Physical Traffic Calming Measures		Yes
54	Request for more streetlights on Warden Ave		Yes
55	Request for traffic light at Warden & Glenbourne Parkway	Staff will forward the request to the Region.	Yes
56	Drawbridge road should have more street lights on even side		Yes
57	Request for traffic light at Dickson Hill & 19th Ave area		Yes
58	Request for traffic light at Mingay & Major Mackenzie	Staff will forward the request to the Region.	Yes

Moved by Councillor Collucci

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the Budget Committee approve the staff recommendations for Councillor Requests Nos. 1-31 (excluding Nos. 26 and 30); and

That Staff report back on Councillor Request Nos. 26 and 30; and,

That Budget Committee defer Council Requests Nos. 32 – 44.

CARRIED

2. NEXT STEPS

The Budget Committee will continue its review of the 2015 Councillor Requests at the next Budget Committee meeting. The questions from Budget Committee No. 1 will also be answered.

There was a brief discussion on the proposed tax rate and the water and wastewater rate increase.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Committee adjourned at 12:15 p.m.