



**Minutes
Special General Committee
December 8, 2014
Meeting Number 1**

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath	Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Regional Councillor Joe Li	Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong	Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Councillor Valerie Burke	Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Councillor Alan Ho	Bill Snowball, Fire Chief
Councillor Don Hamilton	Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communications &
Councillor Karen Rae	Community Engagement
Councillor Amanda Collucci	Bob Nicholson, Acting Director, Operations
Councillor Logan Kanapathi	Sonia Singh, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Councillor Alex Chiu	Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Councillor Colin Campbell

The General Committee meeting convened at the hour of 7:06 PM with Mayor Frank Scarpitti in the Chair.

Disclosure of Interest

None disclosed.

**1. ICE STORM 2013 UPDATE
(CITY OF MARKHAM PRESENTATION) (5.7)**

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the actions taken by the City to recover from the December 2013 Ice Storm.

There was discussion regarding how tonight's meeting was advertised. It was noted that tonight's meeting was advertised in the Economist & Sun on November 27, 2014, specifically noting the Ice Storm Update, and the presentations by the City and PowerStream. The December 8, 2014 Special General Committee meeting was advertised in the Economist and Sun, and in the Thornhill Liberal, on December 4, 2014, with a reference to further details being available on the City website. Additionally, an ad for the meeting was listed for two weeks on the City's Portal, displayed on the electronic information boards in all community centres and an e-mail was sent to all City's Ratepayers Associations. The Committee suggested that for future Special meetings staff provide Members of Council with a PDF description/summary of the meeting that they can forward to their constituents as part of the communication plan.

The Committee discussed the role of Members of Council during emergency situations. Staff indicated that they are having the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) in February 2015 to provide Incident Management System (IMS) training for all Members of Council.

The Committee suggested the following relative to the December 2013 Ice Storm and any potential future emergencies:

- An integrated system approach with the various agencies and York Region (everyone can view the same information)
- An Emergency Portal
- Standardized communications
- Utilize the York Region radio station (105.9 FM) - consider developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the radio station with respect to providing updates during severe weather and any other City emergency situations
- Consider providing update messaging in various languages
- Consistency when providing messages - provide an update daily at the same time
- Investigate partnering with organizations such as Places of Worship within the municipality that could be utilized as warming centres when required
- Amend the "Markham Ice Storm 2013 Response Plan" document to be better integrated with the staff presentation
- Consider establishing a data base that provides contact information for vulnerable residents
- Re-evaluate the type of trees that are planted along the above ground hydro lines

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

- 1) That the presentation provided by Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, entitled "Ice Storm 2013 - Update" be received.

Carried

**2. 2013 ICE STORM UPDATE -
OUTAGE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS
(POWERSTREAM PRESENTATION) (5.7)**

Brian Bentz, President and Chief Executive Officer, PowerStream Inc.; Colin Macdonald, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Customer Service, PowerStream and Mike Matthews, Senior Vice President, Operations and Construction, PowerStream delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the outage management improvements relative to the December 2013 Ice Storm.

There was considerable discussion with respect to the vegetation management program. It was noted that PowerStream is altering their 3 year cycle for tree trimming along overhead hydro wires to a 2 year cycle.

The Committee requested that PowerStream provide Members of Council with a summary outlining all the changes to improve their outage management.

There was brief discussion regarding the cost to bury the overhanging hydro lines. It was noted that the cost associated to that is approximately \$4.5 billion.

Eileen Liasi, Thornhill resident addressed the Committee regarding the December 2013 Ice Storm update and stated some concerns with the advertising for tonight's meeting and clean up of debris from the ice storm within watercourses. She believes that there are discrepancies between PowerStream's presentation and information on their website.

Marion Matthias, Thornhill resident addressed the Committee with respect to the December 2013 Ice Storm update and suggested that PowerStream investigate if the Heritage area in Thornhill can be put on the John Street power grid.

David McBeth, Markham resident addressed the Committee regarding the December 2013 Ice Storm and provided some suggestions such as having a tear-out card in the Markham Life magazine that lists the contact phone numbers for all agencies (eg. cable, power, various municipal departments, York Region, etc.). Mr. McBeth is in support of utilizing the York Region radio station 105.9 FM to provide updates to residents during emergency situations.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

- 1) That the presentation titled "Ice Storm Update – Outage Management Improvements" provided by the following staff from PowerStream Inc. be received:
 - Brian Bentz, President and CEO
 - Colin Macdonald, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & Customer Service
 - Mike Matthews, Senior Vice President, Operations and Construction; and,
- 2) That the deputations from Eileen Liasi, Marion Matthias and David McBeth be received.

Carried

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Amanda Collucci

That the General Committee meeting adjourn at 10:24 PM.

Carried