



**2014 WATER AND WASTE WATER PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 26, 2013**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Chair Deputy Mayor Heath Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Colin Campbell Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Carolina Moretti Councillor Howard Shore</p> <p>Regrets: Regional Councillor Gord Landon</p>	<p>Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Joel Lustig, Treasurer Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability Office Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Water and Wastewater Public Information Meeting convened at 6:05 p.m. with Mayor Frank Scarpitti presiding as Chair.

1. PRESENTATION ON 2014 WATER/WASTEWATER RATES

Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning provided a presentation on the 2014 Proposed Water/Wastewater Rates.

2. DEPUTATIONS

Deputation 1

The resident raised concern regarding the affordability of the rate increase.

The resident questioned whether the figure of 75,000 shown on slide 3 of the presentation represents Markham's population. Staff advised that 75,000 represents the number of residential water meters servicing Markham's population (over 300,000 residents).

The resident inquired about the funding source for the water usage at the Markham Pan Am Centre. Staff advised that the costs to operate the Markham Pan Am Centre will be funded from the Operating Budget, and 70% of the costs incurred by the Recreation Department are recovered through user fees and 30% is subsidized to reduce barriers to participation in recreational programs.

The resident identified an issue regarding the quality of their neighbour's water. It was recommended that the homeowner contact Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services, to discuss their concerns.

Deputation 2

The resident raised concern regarding the affordability of the rate increase, particularly for residents on fixed incomes such as seniors.

It was advised that there are basic costs to deliver water and sewer treatment services, such as the maintenance and replacement of pipes, personnel costs to operate the systems, and quality inspection/testing costs. Hence, there are underlying factors that contribute to the rate increase, notwithstanding efforts to conserve water.

It was questioned how long residents will be required to pay the debt retirement charge on the water bill. Staff advised that the debt retirement charge is a levy from the Provincial Government. Staff advised that the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation estimates the Debt Retirement Charge will likely end between 2015 and 2018.

Deputation 3

The resident raised concern regarding the affordability of the rate increase.

The resident questioned why Peel Region's water rate is lower than other municipalities and Regions as shown in the presentation. Staff advised that Peel Region's water rate is lower likely due to its proximity to Lake Ontario.

The resident questioned why Markham's water rate increased steadily since 2007. Staff advised that the water rate increased steadily for the following reasons: the need to replace aging infrastructure; York Region's rate increases; inflation; and the need to maintain a sustainable water reserve to fund the future replacement and rehabilitation of Waterworks infrastructure.

The resident inquired what the shortfall would be if there was no rate increase in 2014. Staff identified that just the Region's 10% rate increase would represent a \$5.6M shortfall in funding.

The resident questioned if Gas Tax Revenues can be used as a funding source to reduce the water rate. It was advised that Council had already made decisions on the Gas Tax Revenue allocation.

It was advised that funds collected from the water bills are used to fund the Waterworks operations and capital programs including replacement and rehabilitation of watermain and sanitary sewers. The Waterworks budget is separate from the Operating Budget.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Alan Ho

That the presentation by Andrea Tang entitled ``2014 Proposed Water & Wastewater Rates`` be received; and,

That the depositions on the proposed 2014 Water & Wastewater Rates be approved.

CARRIED

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Alex Chui

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the Water and Wastewater Public Information Meeting Adjourn 7:01 p.m.

CARRIED