



MINUTES
GENERAL COMMITTEE
March 18, 2013
Meeting No. 7

Finance & Administrative Issues

Chair: Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Vice Chair: Councillor Carolina Moretti

Community Services Issues

Chair: Councillor Alex Chiu
Vice Chair: Councillor Howard Shore

Environment & Sustainability Issues

Chair: Councillor Valerie Burke
Vice Chair: Regional Councillor Joe Li

Building, Parks, & Construction Issues

Chair: Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Vice Chair: Councillor Colin Campbell

Alternate formats are available upon request.

Attendance

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Regional Councillor Joe Li
Councillor Valerie Burke
Councillor Howard Shore
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Carolina Moretti
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Alan Ho
Councillor Alex Chiu

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services
Gary Adamkowski, Director, Asset Management
Paul Ingham, Director, Operations
Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning
Jeff McMann, Supervisory Parks Operations
Paul Wealleans, Director, Revenues
Graham Seaman, Senior Manager, Sustainability Office
Katie Burns, Sustainability Coordinator
Stephen Huycke, Acting Deputy Clerk
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Councillor Logan Kanapathi

The General Committee convened at the hour of 9:04 a.m. with Councillor Carolina Moretti in the Chair. Mayor Frank Scarpitti assumed the Chair at 9:09 a.m. Councillor Alex Chiu Chaired Community Services related items and Sustainability and Councillor Colin Campbell Chaired Building, Parks and Construction related items.

The General Committee recessed at 12:18 p.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

**1. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2013
GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the March 4, 2013 General Committee be confirmed.

CARRIED

**2. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2013
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 20, 2013 Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**3. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2013
LED STREET LIGHTING TASK FORCE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 7, 2013 LED Street Lighting Taskforce be confirmed.

CARRIED

**4. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2013
MARKHAM SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT
AND CULTURAL CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 11, 2013 Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre Sub-Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**5. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2013
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the January 30, 2013 Public Art Advisory Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**6. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2013
RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 4, 2013 Race Relations Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**7. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2013
SENIORS HALL OF FAME AWARDS COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 13, 2013 Seniors Hall of Fame Awards Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**8. INFORMATION REPORT- UPDATE ON
THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO (9.0)**
[Report](#) [Attachment A-K](#)

The Committee stated their disappointment with the outcome of the proposed federal ridings.

The Committee suggested that the Federal Boundary Commission should consider re-naming the riding of "Markham-Stouffville" to include the name Rouge Valley. The Committee also suggested that the "Vaughan-Thornhill-Markham" riding should be re-named to Thornhill.

- 1) That the report entitled "Information Report – Update on the Federal Electoral Districts Proposal for the Province of Ontario" be received; and,
- 2) **That the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario be requested to re-name the riding of "Markham-Stouffville" to "Markham-Stouffville-Rouge Valley; and,**
- 3) **That the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario be requested to re-name the riding of "Vaughan-Thornhill-Markham" to "Thornhill"; and further,**
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

**9. PROPERTY TAX WRITE-OFFS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 354
OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001 (7.3)**
[Report](#)

**Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath**

That the following recommendation be deferred:

- 1) That property taxes totalling \$326,502 (excluding penalty and interest) as set out in this report be written off pursuant to the provision of Section 354 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of which the City's portion is estimated at \$80,612; and,
- 2) That applicable penalty/interest charges (estimated at \$300,000) be written-off accordingly; and,

- 3) That the Treasurer be directed to remove the property taxes from the Collector's Roll based on the date of write-off; and,
- 4) That the Markham portion of taxes be charged to Tax Write-off Account 850 850 7051;
- 5) That the Treasurer be authorized to write-off taxes levied annually for properties 1 to 6 on Appendix A every year in a tax write-off report; and further,
- 6) That staff be authorized to and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

10. PROPERTY TAX RATIOS (7.3)
[Presentation](#) [Report](#)

Paul Wealleans, Director, Revenues delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding Property Tax Ratios.

There was considerable discussion relative to revenue neutrality and the importance of achieving Regional support for this.

The Committee requested that staff provide the base value used to calculate the average tax impact of shifts in Markham for commercial and industrial class.

Moved by Councillor Colin Campbell
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Paul Wealleans, Director, Taxation entitled "Property Tax Ratios," be received; and,
- 2) That the report entitled "Property Tax Ratios" be received; and,
- 3) That Council support setting tax ratios in 2013 to achieve Region-wide "revenue neutrality" such that the relative tax burden of each property class is the same after the reassessment as it was before the reassessment; and,
- 4) That this resolution be forwarded to the Region of York; and further,
- 5) That staff be authorized to and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

11. 2012 YEAR END REVIEW OF OPERATIONS (7.0)

[Presentation](#) [Report](#) [Appendices 1-12](#)

Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding the City of Markham 2012 Year End Review of Operations.

There was discussion regarding the year end accounting adjustments.

The Committee inquired whether the winter maintenance budget can have a separate surplus account. Staff advised that the City has a Corporate Rate Stabilization account where surplus money is placed into this account and used for various unforeseen circumstances. It was suggested that the winter maintenance be reviewed in more detail during the budget process for 2014.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti

- 1) That the presentation by Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning, entitled “City of Markham 2012 Year End Review of Operations,” be received; and,
- 2) That the report dated March 18, 2013 entitled “2012 Year End Review of Operations” be received.

CARRIED

**12. CITYWIDE MULTI-PHASE SANITARY
SYSTEM DOWNSPOUT DISCONNECTION
PROGRAM – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PLAN (5.3)**

[Report](#) [Attachment A](#) [Attachment B](#) [Attachment C](#)

Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services addressed the Committee and summarized the details outlined in the report.

Gord Walter, Sherwood Amber Glen Ratepayer Association addressed the Committee regarding the Citywide Multi-phase Sanitary System Downspout disconnection program and spoke in support. He requested some clarification regarding the location involved for the Sherwood area.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Ensure that the entire City is covered
- Provide annual updates to Committee
- Importance of educating the residents
- The need for an intricate communication plan

The Committee requested that staff prepare a memo relative to ensuring that all of Markham is covered and confirming the Milliken area.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

- 1) That the report entitled “Citywide Multi-phase Sanitary System Downspout Disconnection Program – Financial Assistance Plan” be received; and,
- 2) That Council, acknowledge the commencement of the Citywide Multi-phase Sanitary System Downspout Disconnection Program, which is an extension of the Pilot Sanitary System Downspout Disconnection Program completed in 2010; and,
- 3) That Council, approve the financial assistance plan for the Citywide Multi-phases Sanitary System Downspout Disconnection Program; and,
- 4) That the cost for Phase 1 of the Program totaling \$518,510 of which \$251,931 be funded in 2013 from capital project #11382 Downspout Disconnection Program and the remaining amount of \$266,579 be requested as part of the 2014 capital budget process; and further,
- 5) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

**13. PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIONVILLE MILLIKEN
SOCCER ASSOCIATION – MILLIKEN MILLS
SOCCER DOME, ROOM EXPANSION (6.4)**
[Report](#)

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

- 1) That the report “Partnership with Unionville Milliken Soccer Association -Milliken Mills Soccer Dome, Room Expansion” be received; and,
- 2) That Council approves the partnership with the Unionville Milliken Soccer Association, for the room expansion at Milliken Mills Soccer Dome; and,
- 3) That the cost for the expansion in the amount of \$30,000 be funded 50% from the Unionville Soccer Club and 50% from the City; and,
- 4) That the City’s portion in the amount of \$15,000 be funded from the Recreation Facilities Development Charge Reserve in amount of \$13,500 (90%) and Life Cycle Replacement and Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$1,500 (10%); and further,
- 5) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

14. LED STREETLIGHTING- STATUS UPDATE (5.19)

[Presentation](#) [Report](#)

Mr. Bill Smelser, President and CEO, Laurilliam Lighting Technologies Inc. delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing a status update regarding LED Streetlighting.

The Committee discussed the following:

- The importance of cutting down light pollution
- Solar versus LED
- Money and energy saved by the City
- Light dimming - ensure it does not compromise pedestrian safety
- Implementation program
- Potential to only partially dim lighting on an entire street
- Importance to continuously monitor
- Provide update reports to Committee regarding the program

The Committee suggested using this program to bring awareness back to Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan.

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Bill Smelser, President and CEO, Laurilliam Lighting Technologies Inc. entitled “LED Streetlighting – Status Update,” be received; and,
- 2) That the report entitled “LED Streetlighting - Status Update” be received; and,
- 3) That the Council endorse the use of light emitting diode (LED) technology as an alternate to high pressure sodium (HPS) for all City streetlights; and,
- 4) That the staff be authorized to proceed with the procurement tender for the supply and installation of LED luminaires to convert the existing HPS cobra-head style luminaires; and,
- 5) That the staff be authorized to include provisional items in the procurement tender for part-time and constant light output dimming (CLO) and monitoring options; and,
- 6) That the Chief Administration Officer be authorized to award the supply and installation contract(s), if the contract(s) are within budget; and,
- 7) That the selected LED luminaires, LED performance standards and specifications be adopted as City Standards; and,

- 8) That the City apply for the grant for the LED retrofit project from the SaveOnEnergy program administered by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA); and,
- 9) That the Commissioner of Community & Fire Services or her designate be delegated authority, to complete and sign the OPA's SaveOnEnergy application form and, if approved, such agreements and other instruments and documents necessary or advisable to obtain the grant; and further,
- 10) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

15. EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE (5.0)

[Report](#) [Attachment A](#) [Attachment B](#)
[Attachment C](#) [Attachment D](#) [Attachment E](#)

Paul Ingham, Director, Operations summarized the details outlined in the report.

The Committee briefly discussed the importance of engaging with neighbouring municipalities.

There was discussion regarding the disposal program.

The Committee suggested that staff investigate the potential to facilitate ways that can aid areas that have extensive infestation on private properties.

Moved by Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the staff report entitled 'Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Update' be received, and;
- 2) That Operations staff implement an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan that aligns with the recommendations outlined in the draft 'City of Markham Emerald Ash Borer Management Strategy', prepared by the Davey Resource Group, included in Attachment 'B' of report, and;
- 3) That Operations staff continue to engage the services of Davey Resource Group to provide their expertise in the development of the City's tree species selection and wood lot data collection initiatives, and;
- 4) That the Operations Department continue to celebrate and promote tree planting initiatives such as; National Tree Day, National Forest Week, Trees for Tomorrow, Trees for Life, Urban Tree Canopy Coalition, etc., and;

- 5) That the Operations Department report back to Council on an annual basis to provide updates on the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, including annual budget considerations, and further,
- 6) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

16. EARTH HOUR AND EARTH DAY (5.7)
[Report](#)

Staff provided a brief verbal update regarding the promotions and activities underway by the City of Markham for Earth Hour and Earth Day.
The Committee suggested that staff forward their poster advertising these activities to all Members of Council.

The Committee suggested that staff e-mail Members of Council the energy saving results for City facilities.

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

- 1) That the report titled Earth Hour and Earth Day 2013 be received; and,
- 2) That the Sustainability Office continue to work with staff, advisory committees, and community partners to promote events that advance the Greenprint: Markham's Community Sustainability Plan; and further,
- 3) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

17. TREE DAMAGE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY (5.0)

Councillor Alex Chiu inquired whether the municipality can assist residents who ended up with trees damaged on their private property as a result of the last snow fall. Staff advised that they cannot assist with tree damage on private properties, but will continue to monitor if there are any damaged trees on the municipal boulevards.

18. IN-CAMERA MATTERS (16.0, 16.0, 7.3 & 7.12)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, General Committee resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matters (1:34 p.m.):

- 1) General Committee In-Camera Minutes
- March 4, 2013
[Section 239 (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)]
- 2) Markham Sports, Entertainment and Cultural Centre Sub-Committee In-Camera Minutes
-February 11, 2013
[Section 239 (2) (a) (f)]
- 3) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.
[Section 239 (2) (c)]
- 4) Labour relations or employees negotiations.
[Section 239 (2) (d)]
- 5) **A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.**
[Section 239 (2) (c)]

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the General Committee rise from the in-camera session (2:45 p.m.)

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the General Committee meeting adjourn at 2:46 p.m.

CARRIED