



MINUTES
GENERAL COMMITTEE
May 7, 2012
Meeting No. 13

Finance & Administrative Issues

Chair: Mayor Frank Scarpitti
Vice Chair: Councillor Carolina Moretti

Environment & Sustainability Issues

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

Community Services Issues

Chair: Councillor Alex Chiu
Vice Chair: Councillor Howard Shore

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 Alan Ho
Councillor Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Catherine Conrad, Town Solicitor
Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer
Kimberley Kitteringham, Town Clerk
Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Kishor Soneji, Senior Accountant
Raj Raman, Senior Manager, Financial Reporting & Purchasing
Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning
Alison Yu, Senior Financial Analyst
Paul Wealleans, Director, Revenues
Dennis Flaherty, Director, Communications & Community Relations
Bill Wiles, Manager By-law Enforcement & Licensing
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

Regrets

Councillor Colin Campbell

The General Committee convened at the hour of 9:12 a.m. with Mayor Frank Scarpitti in the Chair and Councillor Alex Chiu Chaired Community Services item #13. Councillor Howard Shore Chaired Community Services items #14 to 17.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

1. CANADIAN AWARD FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING (12.2.6)

Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Members of Council congratulated Kishor Soneji, Senior Accountant; Raj Raman, Senior Manager Financial Reporting & Purchasing and Joel Lustig, Treasurer and all the staff involved in the budgeting process for achieving the Canadian Ward for Financial Reporting.

2. DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD (12.2.6)

Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Members of Council congratulated Andrea Tang, Manager Financial Planning; Alison Yu, Senior Financial Analyst and Joel Lustig, Treasurer and all the staff involved in the budgeting process for achieving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

3. PORTAL PROJECT UPDATE – PHASE II (7.0)
[Presentation](#)

Mr. Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an update regarding the Portal Project - Phase II.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Incremental costs associated with on-line payments using credit cards and interac
- Potential efficiency and other opportunities for the Corporation with high uptake on online services/payments
- Overall approach and policy on online payment including partial cost recovery, minimum amount requirement to use on-line payment etc.
- Continue to investigate opportunities/services that will provide improved customer service experience
- Include a disclaimer as well as provide additional descriptive information (definition) on the "Property Search" page

Moved by Councillor Howard Shore
Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Nasir Kenea, Chief Information Officer, entitled “Portal Project Update – Phase II” be received.

CARRIED

**4. MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2012
GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the April 23, 2012 General Committee be confirmed.

CARRIED

**5. MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2012
SPECIAL GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the April 26, 2012 Special General Committee be confirmed.

CARRIED

**6. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2012
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SUB-COMMITTEE (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the March 23, 2012 Communications Committee & Information Technology Sub-Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**7. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2012
CANADA DAY COMMITTEE (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the February 27, 2012 Canada Day Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**8. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2012
PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the March 26, 2012 Public Library Board be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**9. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2012
MARKHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the Minutes of the March 15, 2012 Markham Environmental Advisory Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

10. 2012 TAX RATES AND LEVY BYLAW (7.3)

[Report](#)

There was brief discussion regarding the tax rate.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That a by-law to provide for the levy and collection of property taxes totalling \$536,674,466 required by the Town of Markham, Regional Municipality of York, Boards of Education and Business Improvement Areas in a form substantially similar to the attached Appendix and satisfactory to the Town Solicitor and to provide for the mailing of notices requesting payment of taxes for the year 2012, as set out as follows, be approved;

Town of Markham:	\$116,830,026
Region of York:	\$228,459,421
School Boards:	\$190,970,192
Old Markham BIA:	\$215,327
Unionville BIA:	<u>\$199,500</u>
Total	<u>\$536,674,466</u>

- 2) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

11. **ADOPTION OF CITY STATUS FOR MARKHAM (7.0)** [Report](#)

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer summarized the details outlined in the report.

There was considerable discussion with respect to holding a Public Information meeting to obtain feedback from Markham residents. It was suggested that a Public Information meeting be scheduled for Tuesday May 29, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chamber. The Committee suggested that this recommendation be considered at the May 29, 2012 Council meeting.

The Committee discussed potential dates that the by-law would come into effect and to consider July 1, 2012. The Committee suggested that staff provide a supplementary report outlining proposed by-law effective dates (e.g. listing of significant dates such as Berczy's Birthday); include Markham's total employment numbers and the total assessed residential figure.

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

1. That the report dated May 7, 2012, titled “Adoption of a By-law to Change the Name of The Corporation of the Town of Markham to “The Corporation of the City of Markham” be received; and;
2. Whereas Markham’s motto “Leading While Remembering” will continue to underscore our future direction; and,

Whereas Markham’s communities such as Markham, Milliken Mills, Thornhill and Unionville **including villages and hamlets** will remain integral to Markham’s identity, and our rich heritage will continue to reflect who we are and where we have come from regardless of our municipal status; and,

Whereas Markham has its own thriving local economy and has demonstrated leadership in information technology, telecommunications and life sciences with more than 900 high-tech and life-sciences companies and employing more than 31,000 people; and,

Whereas Markham’s Green Print, community sustainability plan, positions Markham among other leading world cities who are dedicated to sustainable management of growth - balancing the pillars of economy, social/culture, and environment; and,

Whereas as a Corporation the Markham brand represents innovation and entrepreneurialism in our service delivery approaches – from roads to leisure services to public safety and energy security; and,

Whereas Markham is successfully leveraging the global economy through our international business missions, partnerships, our diverse people and investments in a highly competitive environment among other cities; and,

Whereas Markham has the potential to continue to grow as a tourism destination based on its rich sports, entertainment and cultural venues, and world class retail opportunities; and,

Whereas Markham is the only Town among the 16 largest municipalities in Canada; and,
Whereas Markham is: fiscally responsible and financially sound, globally connected, strategically focused, diverse, leads while remembering, and is sustainable; and,

Whereas Markham is a City in every way but name;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council approve the adoption of City status for Markham; and further,

3. That in accordance with the Municipal Act, staff bring forward a **supplementary report including the** by-law to change the name of “The Corporation of the Town of Markham to “The “Corporation of the City of Markham” **to the May 29, 2012 Council meeting;** and,
4. **That a Public Information Meeting be held on May 29, 2012 at 6:00 PM (prior to the Council meeting) to obtain public input on City Status for Markham; and,**
5. That a copy of the name change by-law be sent to the Director of Titles appointed under the Land Titles Act and to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing **and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** after its passage; and further,
6. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

12. MARKHAM’S SIGN BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (2.16)

[Memo](#)

Bill Wiles, Manager By-law Enforcement & Licensing summarized the details outlined in the memo.

Moved by Councillor Howard Shore
Seconded by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

- 1) That the Memo by Mr. Bill Wiles, Manager, By-Law Enforcement & Licensing, entitled “Markham Sign Memo” be received.

CARRIED

**13. INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT
MASTER PLAN PHASE 1 UPDATE (5.1)**
[Presentation](#)

Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services and David Gordon, York Region delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an update with respect to the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan Phase 1.

The Committee discussed the diversion rates for York Region compared to the Region of Peel, City of Toronto, etc and requested that York Region staff forward the percentage figures of the diversion rate to Members of Council.

The Committee also discussed the following:

- High rise residential buildings and challenges to recycle
- Benefits of the Community Environmental Centres (CEC)
- Compostable bags
- Target date for the York Region incinerator
- Markham's polystyrene foam densifier project and the potential to partner with York Region
- Improvement needed with the biodegradable plates

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services , entitled “Integrated Waste Management Master Plan Phase 1 Update” be received.

CARRIED

**14. BUTTONFIELD ROAD PROPOSED
PARKING PROHIBITION (5.12.4)**
[Report](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

- 1) That the staff report entitled “Buttonfield Road Proposed Parking Prohibition”, be received; and,

- 2) That Schedule “C” of Traffic By-law 2005-188, be amended by including the east side of Buttonfield Road, between 16th Avenue and a point 30 metres south of Cavalry Trail; and,
- 3) That Schedule “C” of Traffic By-law 2005-188, be amended by including the west side of Buttonfield Road, between 16th Avenue and a point 55 meters south of 16th Avenue; and,
- 4) That the Operations Department be directed to install the appropriate signs at the subject locations, funded through the Operations Department account # 083-5399-8402-005; and,
- 5) That the Operations Department be directed to maintain the signs at the subject locations; and,
- 6) That the Parking Control Department be directed to enforce the parking prohibition upon approval of the By-law amendment and installation of the signs; and further,
- 7) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

**15. PROPOSED ALL-WAY STOP CONTROL
AND SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AT CORNELL
CENTRE BOULEVARD & WHITE’S HILL AVENUE (5.12.2)**
[Report](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

- 1) That the report entitled “Proposed All-way Stop Control and Speed Limit Reduction at Cornell Centre Boulevard & White’s Hill Avenue”, be received; and,
- 2) That Schedule “B”(60 km/h) of Speed By-law No. 105-71 be amended by removing Markham Road By-pass, between 9th Line to a point 100 metres north of Highway 7; and,
- 3) That Schedule “D”(70 km/h) of Speed By-law No. 105-71 be amended by removing Markham Road By-pass, between 9th Line to a point 100 metres north of Highway 7; and,
- 4) That Schedule “F” (50 km/h) of Speed By-law No. 105-71 be amended to include Cornell Centre Boulevard, between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue; and,
- 5) That Schedule 12 (Compulsory Stops) of Traffic By-law 106-71 be amended to include the intersection of Cornell Centre Boulevard & White’s Hill Boulevard; and,

- 6) That the Operations Department be directed to install the appropriate signs and pavement markings at the subject locations, funded through the Operations Department account # 083-5399-8402-005; and,
- 7) That the Operations Department be directed to maintain the signs at the subject locations; and,
- 8) That York Region Police be requested to enforce the posted speed limit and all-way stop control upon installation of these signs and passing of the By-law; and further,
- 9) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

**16. LANGSTAFF ROAD RAILWAY CROSSING
WARNING SYSTEM MODIFICATION AGREEMENT (5.13)**
[Report](#)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

- 1) That the staff report entitled Langstaff Road Railway Crossing Warning System Modification Agreement, be received; and,
- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Standard Funded Crossing Warning System Modification Agreement between Canadian National Railway and the Town of Markham based on the principles set out in the draft Agreement (Attachment 'A'), for the construction and future maintenance of the Langstaff Road railway crossing warning system. Said agreement to be in a form satisfactory to the Town Solicitor and Commissioner of Community and Fire Services; and,
- 3) That upon execution of the Agreement, the Commissioner of Community and Fire Services be authorized to issue payment to Canadian National Railway (CN) for the Town of Markham's portion of funding for the installation of the CN railway warning system upgrade at Langstaff Road and funded as per Financial Considerations; and further,
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

17. MARKHAM PUBLIC ART POLICIES (6.5)
[Report](#) [Attachment A](#) [Attachment B](#)

John Ryerson, Director Culture delivered a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the details in the Markham Public Art Policies report.

There was discussion regarding the proposed private sector contributions for Public Art of up to one percent of new residential and non-residential construction projects. Staff noted the importance of having an endorsed policy even with voluntary contributions.

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Mayor Frank Scarpitti

- 1) That the staff report titled Markham Public Art Policies be received; and,
- 2) That the Public Art Policy – Markham Municipal Projects attached as Appendix A be approved; and,
- 3) That Council approve an allocation of up to one percent of construction cost of new municipal construction budgets and municipal renovation projects over one million dollars for the purpose of public art; including but not limited to new buildings, parks and open spaces, major street reconstruction/streetscape projects, new or major upgrades to bridges, fences, walls and barriers; and,
- 4) That the Public Art Policy - Private Sector, attached as Appendix B, be approved to encourage a contribution of up to one percent of new residential and non-residential construction projects from the private sector for Public Art; and,
- 5) That Council approve the creation of a Public Art Acquisition Reserve Fund that will receive cash contributions and fund projects in accordance with Markham Public Art Policies as identified and approved; and,
- 6) That Culture staff report back to Council annually on the activities in the fund; and,
- 7) That the cost to sustain the public art program be brought forward annually for inclusion during the capital budget process; and,
- 8) That the Public Art Policy – for both the voluntary Private Sector and the Municipal Projects be reviewed in three years with a report back to Council on outcomes of the program; and further,
- 9) That staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to these resolutions.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

18. STRATEGIC LAWSUIT AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SLAPP) LEGISLATION

Councillor Valerie Burke advised that SLAPPs are lawsuits that silence public discussion on important public issues. She suggested that staff prepare a report requesting the Province of Ontario to review the *Rules of Civil Procedure* with respect to SLAPP lawsuit to provide protection to citizens against such lawsuits and protect citizens' right to participate in democratic discussions.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

That staff be directed to prepare a report on Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) Legislation.

CARRIED

**19. OUTDOOR PATIOS ON MAIN STREET UNIONVILLE &
MAIN STREET MARKHAM**

Councillor Carolina Moretti requested that staff bring forward a report and by-law permitting boulevard patios on Main Street Unionville and Main Street Markham.

Mr. Rob Kadlouski, Old Firehall Confectionary addressed the Committee with respect to permitting boulevard patios along Main Street Unionville and Main Street Markham and spoke in support.

Moved by Councillor Carolina Moretti
Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That staff prepare a report and by-law for the June 25, 2012 General Committee meeting with respect to permitting boulevard patios along Main Street Unionville and Main Street Markham.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The General Committee meeting adjourned at 1:14 PM.