



**SECOND MEETING OF THE
2012 BUDGET COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY ACADEMEY
October 12, 2011**

MINUTES

Attendance:

Councillors Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti (ex-officio) Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alan Ho Councillor Logan Kanapathi Councillor Howard Shore	Staff Present: Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services Andrea Guarino, Events Supervisor Karen Liu, Senior Financial Analyst Joel Lustig, Treasurer Peter Loukes, Director of Operations Bob Nicholson, Manager of Business and Technical Services Bill Snowball, Fire Chief Prashanth Srichandramohan, Communications Advisor Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Mathew Vetere, Financial Analyst Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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The 2012 Budget Sub-Committee Community Consultation meeting convened at 7:10 p.m. with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as the Chair.

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair provided opening remarks and highlighted the projects completed in 2011.

2. 2012 BUDGET COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETING

Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager of Financial Planning, presented the preliminary 2012 Budget to residents. The presentation included a review of the 2012 budget process; the economic trends and fiscal scan; a review of the preliminary 2012 capital budget; a review of the preliminary 2012 operating budget; an overview of assessment & property taxes; future budget challenges and the 2012 budget highlights.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Residents indicated their concerns regarding problematic intersections in the Milliken area. The residents were given the contact information of the applicable staff in order to investigate their concerns further.

A resident expressed their concern regarding a condominium being built at 16th Avenue and Main Street Markham. The development was anticipated to increase traffic congestion in the area. Staff advised that this area has been zoned for higher density due to its proximity to the GO station. It was noted that before a development is approved both traffic studies of the area and public consultation are conducted.

There was a question regarding how the value of a property is determined. Staff explained that the Municipal Property Association Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for determining the market value of a home, noting there is an appeal process if property owners do not agree with the assessed value. Staff explained how Markham's property taxes are determined.

There was a question regarding how traffic calming measures are determined. It was explained that traffic is calmed through education, enforcement and engineering, advising that speed bumps cannot be placed on roads serviced by public transit. Consequently, roads are made windy to reduce vehicle speed.

A resident felt that Markham needs a vision regarding what traffic will be like in ten years in order for traffic issues to be managed overtime, noting residents are already feeling the impact of growth on traffic. It was also suggested that traffic lights be better synchronized to resolve some of the current traffic congestion issues.

There was a discussion regarding the widening of major roads in Markham. It was felt that other municipalities in the GTA have wider roads than in Markham. Staff advised that some roads in Markham are being widened (e.g. Markham Road). However, there is also opposition to the widening of roads, as it is believed to encourage the use of vehicles.

A resident noted that both Markham and York Region are very progressive at establishing solutions to transportation issues. The resident felt that getting people to take public transit was one of the solutions to resolving traffic congestion issues.

There was a question regarding whether there are plans to build another east west Hwy to relief some of the congestion on the Hwy 401 and Hwy 407. It was noted that the Province has given consideration to build another east west Hwy. However, the timeline on the plan is not known at this time. There is also a plan to extend the Hwy 407 further east.

Residents asked if York Region would be increasing its tax rate. It was explained that York Region has just started its budget process to determine its tax rate. Markham has no jurisdiction

over the Region's and Province's (for education) tax rates. Province had a 0% tax rate increase over the past years.

There was a question regarding the percentage of capital budget being financed through Development Charges. It was noted that this amount fluctuates from year to year. This year there are two major growth related projects that are consuming a large portion of the capital budget. It was clarified that funds raised through Development Charges can only be used for growth related projects.

An issue was noted regarding congestion in front of Father Michael McGivney Academy and other Markham schools during peak periods. It was noted that is a common issue amongst Markham Schools and that the issue is managed through Markham's Safe Street Strategy. The residents were given the applicable staff contact information so that their concerns could be addressed further.

A resident asked about Markham's fiscal status. Staff advised that Markham is in good financial standing relative to other municipalities. It was noted that Markham places funds into the Life Cycle Replacement & Capital Reserve Fund so that major assets can be repaired /replaced when required without placing a major burden on the budget in anyone year. The Life Cycle Reserve Study and the Water & Wastewater Reserve Study are to identify if there is adequate funds in the reserves to sustain the future replacement and rehabilitation requirements, over the next 25 years. Markham does not use 1 time funds to balance the operating budget.

Concern was expressed regarding Markham not having a windrow snow removal program. It was reported that Council is investigating the possibility of having a windrow snow removal program town wide, noting it would be very costly to taxpayers to provide this service.

There was a question regarding who regulates Hwy 407. It was noted that the Hwy 407 is privately owned and regulated by the Province. Markham does not get revenue from the Hwy 407 toll charges.

There was an inquiry whether there is plan to build more elementary schools on Mingay between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie and whether the lack of parking on the school sites could be addressed. Staff advised that currently there are 3 schools within 5 minutes walking distance in the area. It is the School Board's to identify the school sites & location. In addition, the School Board decides the number of parking spaces.

It was noted that there will be a new community centre in the south east area of Markham.

The Mayor thanked residents for participating in the Budget Community Consultation Meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Community Consultation meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.