



GENERAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 3, 2011, 9:00-2:30 p.m

Canada Room

Meeting No. 22

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 Logan Kanapathi
Councillor Alex Chiu

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Catherine Conrad, Town Solicitor
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services
Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services
Joel Lustig, Treasurer
John Ryerson, Director Culture
Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning
Eric Lariviere, Manager Markham Theatre
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

The General Committee convened at 9:04 AM with Mayor Frank Scarpitti in the Chair; Councillor Alex Chiu Chaired Community Services related items; and Councillor Valerie Burke Chaired Environment and Sustainability related items.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None disclosed.

1. **LYME DISEASE PETITION (2.0)**

Jessica Bell Taliana

Background Documents

[Petition & Municipal Supporters](#)

[Letter from The Hon. Julian Fantino P.C., M.P.](#)

[Supporting information](#)

Ms. Jessica Bell Taliana delivered a PowerPoint regarding Lyme Disease. She is requesting that Markham Council endorse her petition.

The Committee discussed the importance of proper diagnosis for Lyme Disease at the General Practitioner level.

The Committee thanked Ms. Taliana for her presentation.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti

- 1) That the presentation by Ms. Jessica Bell Taliana entitled “Lyme Disease Petition” be received; and,
- 2) WHEREAS, the tick-borne illness known as Chronic Lyme Disease, which mimics many catastrophic illnesses, such as Multiple Sclerosis, Chohn's, Alzheimer's, arthritic diabetes, depression, Chronic Fatigue and Fibromyalgia is increasingly endemic in Canada, but the scientifically validated diagnostic tests and treatment choices are currently not available in Ontario, forcing patients to seek these in the United States of America and Europe; and,
- 3) WHEREAS, the *Canadian Medical Association* informed the public, governments, and the medical profession in May 30, 2000 edition of their professional journal that **Lyme Disease is endemic throughout Canada**, particularly in Southern Ontario; and,
- 4) WHEREAS, the Ontario Public Health system and the Ontario Health Insurance Plan currently do not fund those specific tests that accurately serve the process for establishing a clinical diagnosis, but only recognize testing procedures known in the medical literature to provide false negatives 45 to 95% of the time; and further,
- 5) THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Markham request the Minister of Health to direct the Ontario Public Health system and OHIP to include all currently available and scientifically verified tests for Acute and Chronic Lyme diagnosis, to do everything necessary to create public awareness of Lyme Disease in Ontario, and to have internationally developed diagnostic and successful treatment protocols available to patients and physicians.

CARRIED

Moved by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
Seconded by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

- 1) That the Council of the Town of Markham requests York Region's Community & Health Services Committee hear the presentation regarding Lyme Disease as soon as possible; and,
- 2) That York Region prepare a response to the concerns regarding Lyme Disease and report back to York Region Council and York Region local municipalities on the results of their staff findings.

CARRIED

2. PROPOSED 2012 WATER & WASTEWATER RATE (7.0)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Proposed 2012 Water & Wastewater rate.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Rates for Peel Region seem lower than York Region rates
- Importance of maintaining the required infrastructure on a yearly basis
- The need for reserves for future repairs to the infrastructure
- York Region water rate is a fixed cost
- Ensure that the public presentation includes a slide on the reserves
- Provide Members of Council with the reserve information
- Have York Region come to a future General Committee meeting to make a presentation outlining the need for a 10% increase per year
- Highlight work that has been done to the infrastructure and what is required in the next 3 to 5 years in the future Workshop

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

- 1) That the presentation by Ms. Andrea Tang, Manager, Financial Planning entitled "Proposed 2012 Water & Wastewater Rate" be received.

CARRIED

**3. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
GENERAL COMMITTEE (16.0)**
[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

- 1) That the Minutes of the September 26, 2011, General Committee be confirmed.

CARRIED

**4. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2011
CYCLING & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (16.0)**

[Minutes](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

- 1) That the Minutes of the June 16, 2011 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be received for information purposes.

CARRIED

**5. PROPOSED 2012 WATER/WASTEWATER
RATE INCREASE (7.0)**

[Report](#)

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

- 1) That the report dated October 3, 2011 entitled "Proposed 2012 Water/Wastewater Rate Increase" be received; and,
- 2) That staff be authorized to hold a public meeting on October 25, 2011 at 6:30p.m. on the proposed 2012 Water/Wastewater rate increase; and,
- 3) That the 2012 Town of Markham's ("Town") Water/Wastewater rate increase be equivalent to the Region of York's ("Region") monetary increase of \$0.1487 per cubic metre (m³) based on Region's approved increase of 10%; and,
- 4) That in addition to the Region's increase, the 2012 Water/Wastewater rate increase includes a surcharge of \$0.0626/m³; and,
- 5) That effective April 1, 2012, the 2012 Water/Wastewater rate will be \$2.6277/m³, an increase of \$0.2113/m³; and further,
- 6) That Staff be authorized and directed to do things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

CARRIED

6. WATERMAIN DEAD END IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (5.4)

[Presentation](#)

Mr. Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding Watermain Dead End Improvement Program.

There was brief discussion regarding potential reutilization of flushed water.

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Howard Shore

- 1) That the presentation by Mr. Peter Loukes, Director, Environmental Services entitled “Watermain Dead End Improvement Program” be received.

CARRIED

7. THEATRE ENDOWMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE (6.5)

[Report](#) [Attachments A-C](#)

Mr. Eric Lariviere, Manager Markham Theatre addressed the Committee and summarized the key outcomes of the proposed policy.

The Committee discussed and suggested the following:

- Need to reach the Chinese community
- Is the amount of the endowment fund appropriate
- Provide some examples of the types of endeavours that the Theatre Endowment reserve fund would support (add to Appendix A)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon

Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

- 1) That the report titled Theatre Endowment Terms of Reference be received; and,
- 2) That the document entitled “Theatre Endowment – Terms of Reference” as outlined in Appendix A, **as amended at the October 3, 2011 General Committee meeting** be approved; and,
- 3) That the Theatre Endowment comprises of *the Theatre Endowment Reserve Fund* and *Capital Improvement Reserve Fund*; and,
- 4) That the funds in the *Capital Improvement Reserve Fund* be utilized for funding of new capital projects other than those projects funded either from Life Cycle Replacement and Capital Reserve; and,
- 5) That the *Theatre Endowment Reserve Fund* and the *Capital Improvement Reserve Fund* receive equal share of the allocated \$1.00 ticket handling fee (currently at \$1.00 out of a \$3.50 handling fee); and,
- 6) That the *Theatre Endowment Reserve Fund* and the *Capital Improvement Reserve Fund* receive equally the proportionate increase in allocated ticket handling fee for any future increase to fees; and,
- 7) That an amount of \$25,000 be transferred from the *Theatre Endowment Reserve Fund* to the Theatre operating account annually for a period of four years (2012-2015), to fund special initiatives (as per terms of Reference); and,
- 8) That a report be provided to Council on the usage of the funds annually; and further,

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

CARRIED

8. POLYSTYRENE DENSIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE (5.0)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management delivered a PowerPoint presentation providing an update regarding Polystyrene Densification Program.

The Committee briefly discussed the unit cost for processing polystyrene materials.

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Colin Campbell

- 1) That the presentation by Ms. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management entitled "Polystyrene Densification Program Update" be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

**9. TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE LOSS
IN UNIONVILLE (9.0)**

Councillor Don Hamilton advised the Committee that there was a loss of telephone and internet service last week in Unionville and wanted to thank Mayor Frank Scarpitti and Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer for their assistance in getting the problem resolved. He would like to ensure that Bell Canada has an improved response time for these situations.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Carolina Moretti

That the Chief Administrative Officer arrange a meeting with the Mayor, Councillor Don Hamilton and representatives from Bell Canada to discuss the protocol used when there is loss of telephone and internet service.

CARRIED

10. IN-CAMERA MATTERS (16.0)

Moved by Regional Councillor Gord Landon
Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That, in accordance with Section 239 (2) (a) of the Municipal Act, General Committee resolve into an in-camera session to discuss the following confidential matters (11:49 AM):

- 1) The security of the property of the municipality or local board.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Alan Ho

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Committee rise from the in-camera session (12:02 PM).

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

That the General Committee meeting adjourn at 12:07 PM.