SEVENTH MEETING OF THE
2018 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 31, 2017

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair	Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath	Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate
Regional Councillor Jim Jones	Services
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong	Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community
Councillor Alex Chiu	& Fire Services
Councillor Karen Rea	Brian Lee, Acting Commissioner of
Councillor Don Hamilton	Development Services
	Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor
Regrets:	Joel Lustig, Treasurer
Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair	Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation
	Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial
	Planning
	Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Budget Committee convened at 9:05 am with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton
Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Minutes from the October 19, 2017 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Responses from the Previous Budget Committee Meeting

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning reviewed the responses from the previous Budget Committee meetings. The responses were attached as "Appendix B" of the agenda package.

The following additional information or feedback was provided:

<u>National Rouge Park</u>

A Committee Member requested that staff keep track of all City resources being provided to the National Rouge Park.

<u>Planning for Higher Order Transit Station</u>

Staff advised that a Sub-Committee meeting will be set up for the 'Planning for a Higher Order Transit Station' in next two months.

<u>Capital Budget Item 18261 "Public Realm – Markham's Shared Places Our Places"</u>

Staff clarified that the budget allotment of $36K is to be provided to the school to cover the cost of supplies, and instructors that need to be brought in to teach the students specialized skills. The students participating in the project will be carving 15 to 20 benches.

<u>Briarwood Park</u>

The spelling of the park name was corrected.

3. **Operating Budget**

Andrea Tang presented the City's proposed 2018 Operating Budget.

<u>Fee Increase</u>

A Committee Member asked if Markham's hockey and skating clubs have been notified with respect to the proposed increase to ice rental fees.

Staff advised that the City is unable to increase these fees right away, as it has contractual agreements with these clubs. The new fees will be introduced later in 2018 when the contracts are being renewed. The clubs will be notified of the new fees in advance.

<u>Stormwater Management Fee</u>

Committee asked when Council will be reviewing the stormwater management fees. Staff advised that report will be brought forward on this matter in 2018.

<u>Water Rate</u>

Committee asked why the Region is increasing its water rate. It was suggested that the Region may be increasing its water and wastewater rate for the following reasons: the Region having to pay more for water, as it purchases water from Peel Region and Toronto; to replace or repair aging water infrastructure; and to build up the Region's reserve.

4. Bill 140 – The Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act

Staff are continuing to review the details of the program as part of the due diligence process, therefore Staff recommended that no funds would be included in the 2018 Budget. Staff will report back in Q1 2018 with final recommendations including staffing implications, fees and Official Plan/Zoning by-law amendments.

It was noted that Markham receives 44 to 55 second suite complaints a year. Comparable municipalities that currently permit second suites have about 50 registrations per year on average.

The pros and cons of having full cost recovery for second suites were discussed. Staff noted that the objective is to have safe second suites and that if the City adopts a full cost recovery model it may discourage residents from complying with the legislation, as the registration fee could be greater than $5K.

A staff report on second suites will be brought forward to the Development Services Committee in Q1 2018.

5. Staffing Requests

Andrea Tang presented the 2018 staff request. 8 of the 9 positions being requested were to support the new Future Urban Area.

Committee asked if the work for the Future Urban Area could be absorbed by existing staff and it questioned if the City should be increasing engineering and planning staff when their reserves are in a negative balance.

Staff advised that these position requests were carefully considered by staff and it has been determined that the positions are required to support the new Future Urban Area.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Jack Heath

That the Budget Committee approve the 2018 staffing requests.

Carried

6. 2018 Building, Planning & Design, Engineering and Waterworks Operating Budget

Andrea Tang presented the 2018 Building, Planning & Design, Engineering and Waterworks Operating Budgets.

7. Approval of User Fees

The Budget Committee requested that a Special Council Meeting be booked on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 1:00 pm to approve the proposed increases to the user fees. Committee also requested that the meeting be advertisement with a notice that user fees are being raised to manage the impacts of *Bill 148, Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act*.

The Committee asked if the date for the third reading of the proposed legislation has been determined and if the City will be providing its position on the legislation during the public consultation period. Staff advised that the date of the third reading has yet to be determined and that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario will be providing a response to the legislation on behalf of Ontario municipalities.

8. Next Steps

Andrea Tang reviewed the next steps.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Alex Chui

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the Budget Committee adjourn at 10:20 am.

Carried