

**Feedback from the
November 4, 2009
2010 Budget Public Information
Meeting**

**November 9, 2009
General Committee**

Feedback from the November 4, 2009 Budget Public Information Meeting

1. Council and staff were congratulated on achieving the proposed zero percent tax increase for 2010. The hard work and the Town's obvious commitment to fiscal responsibility, especially in the present economic climate was appreciated.
2. A request was made that additional funds beyond what's included in the 2010 budget be added for storm sewer upgrades and concern was raised on the available funding for storm water protection.

Response: Staff are currently completing the West Thornhill Stormwater Flood Remediation Class Environmental Assessment Study to assess the existing stormwater system conditions and alternative solutions to improve its performance. Various options and alternative strategies are being developed and will be presented to Council for discussion. The Town is prioritizing and investing in infrastructure and maintenance work on assets included in the reserve study based on condition assessments.

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3. A request was made to create a new staff position whose responsibility would be to examine and make recommendations on policy, planning, design standards, methodologies, risk management and implementation strategies, related to Climate Change.

Response: Council indicated that the Town created the Sustainability Office in 2008 and one of the positions is Manager of Climate Change.

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4. The Unionville BIA indicated that they were not involved in the purchase of flowers and greenery on Main Street Unionville this year, and the BIA wishes to be included early next year before decisions and purchases are made for 2010.

Response: Operations staff will contact the BIAs within the next month to review the barrel and basket display and planting plan for 2010. Current service levels provided for Markham and Unionville BIA's were approved by Council in 2009. Any deviation to service levels will require Council approval.

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5. A request was made that more trees be planted on Unionville Main Street.

Response: Operations staff have had several discussions with the Unionville BIA regarding boulevard tree planting within the BIA district. The Forestry Division has advised that, due to constraints imposed by the presence of utilities and municipal services, there is insufficient space to promote tree planting within the boulevards. Subject matter expert reports presented at the recently held Trees for Tomorrow symposium further supports staff's position that there is insufficient soil capacity to support healthy tree growth within the boulevard areas.

6. It was indicated that there is no BIA for Yonge Street and one would be desirable.

Response: Staff will be working with the local Councillor regarding the establishment of a BIA on Yonge Street.

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7. A request was made to increase the flowers on the Markham side of Yonge Street to be similar to the Vaughan side.

Response: Funding for this program in the 2010 budget has been budgeted at the same level as 2009. The issue will be reviewed as a component of the public realm program which will be discussed at the Beautification Sub-Committee. The 2010 Capital Budget includes \$150K for a Town-wide public realm initiative.

8. A request was made for holiday lights on the Markham side of Yonge Street.

Response: This request will be considered at part of the public realm initiative. The 2010 Capital Budget includes \$150K for a Town-wide public realm initiative.