



**SIXTH MEETING OF THE
2018 BUDGET COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
October 27, 2017**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Acting Chair Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Councillor Alex Chiu Councillor Karen Rea</p> <p>Regrets: Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair Councillor Don Hamilton</p>	<p>Staff Present: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services Brian Lee, Acting Commissioner of Development Services Catherine Conrad, City Solicitor Joel Lustig, Treasurer Catherine Biss, Chief Executive Officer, Markham Public Libraries Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Morgan Jones, Director of Operations Phoebe Fu, Director of Environmental Services Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Christopher Alexander, Acting Manager of By-Law Enforcement & Regulatory Services Christina Kakaflikas, Manager of Special Projects Eric Lariviere, Manager of the Theatre Cathy Molloy, Manager of Markham Museum Niamh O’Laoghaire, Manager of the Art Gallery Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Budget Committee convened at 10:50 am with Mayor Frank Scarpitti presiding as Acting Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu
 Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Minutes of the October 13, and 17, 2017 Budget Committee be approved as presented.

2. 2018 Budget Committee Presentation – Meeting No. 6

a. Status of the 2018 Operating Budget

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning provided an update on the status of the 2018 Operating Budget.

b. Review Impacts of Bill 148 – Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act

Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning presented the staff recommended option to address the impacts of *Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act*. The option is a hybrid solution where \$680K is funded by a tax rate increase of 0.46% and the remaining amount of \$1.82M is funded through user fees. Charts with the fees being increased by each department were displayed to the Committee. Fees were increased for programs that had significantly lower fees than the City of Vaughan, or the Town of Richmond Hill. Limited fee increases were made to seniors and children's programs. Some of the program fees cannot be increased right away due to contractual agreements. This will cause a \$570K shortfall in 2018, which can be funded from the ramp-up reserve.

General Questions

How was the amount to be borne by taxpayers determined?

Staff advised that the recommended option would bring the City controlled tax rate increase to 2.9% which would meet Budget Committee's mandate of less than 3% tax rate increase.

Recreation Questions

Are Consumer Price Index and utility price increases added to recreation fees annually?

Staff advised that both Consumer Price Index and utility price increases are added to recreational fees each year. This year impact from aquatic wage increases were also added to the fees.

Who uses the non-resident ice slots?

Staff advised that during the off season groups looking for ice time may book a non-resident ice slot. The revenue from this group is approximately \$6K per year. Residents always have first priority with respect to booking of ice time or other City facilities.

Are road closure fees adjusted based on the roads size? And, how are road closures on Regional roads processed?

Staff advised that the fee for road closures is adjusted based on the size of the road being closed. The City consults with the Region and any other stakeholders on behalf of the applicant for Regional road closures. Committee requested that local festival impacted by this fee increase be notified of the increase.

Can clarification be provided on when a road occupancy-construction permit is issued and if the City has to pay this fee?

Staff advised that private construction companies are required to get a permit if they are occupying a road during the construction of a project. The City's fee for road occupancy-construction is being increased to match with other comparable municipalities. The City is not required to pay for the road occupancy-construction permit fee.

Does the City charge the public to replace their recycling, and green bins?

Staff advised that the City does not currently charge for bin replacement, but Staff propose to start charging a \$5 replacement fee for damaged bins.

How many liquor license inspections were conducted in 2017?

Staff advised that approximately 30 liquor license inspections were conducted.

Legislative Services Questions

Could we make some of our fines even higher (e.g. parking fines for parking in an accessible parking spot)?

Staff suggested monitoring the increase to this year's fines and looking at further opportunities to increase fines next year. Staff are hesitate to raise the fine for parking in a disabled parking spot, as many of the violations are a due to the failure to display the disabled parking permit.

Could residents be fined for parking on their front yard?

Staff advised that residents can be charged if a by-law officer catches them parking on their front lawn and that only a picture taken by the by-law officer will be accepted as proof.

Who issues parking tickets on private property and does the City receive the proceeds for these tickets?

Staff advised that private security firms, which are approved by the City and hired by the private landowner will issue the tickets. The City receives all fine revenues from these tickets.

The Budget Committee took a 10 minute break at 12:36 pm.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Councillor Alex Chiu

That the Budget Committee take a 10 minute break at 12:36 pm

Carried

The Budget Committee reconvened at 12:46 pm.

Financial Services Questions

What is the Mortgage Administrative Fee?

Staff advised that it is a fee the City charges the bank when the bank pays the property taxes on behalf of the property owner. The fee is being proposed to increase from \$8.50 to \$14.00 to match the highest rate amongst the City's municipal comparators.

Discussion

The Budget Committee thanked staff for investigating options for addressing the impacts of *Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act*.

Staff advised that the fee increases would need to be brought forward to Council for approval as soon as possible, as the recreation and culture fees are to be included in the next edition of Markham life, which is being printed soon.

The Budget Committee felt that raising the funds through a combination of raising taxes and user fees was the right approach for this year.

Bill 140, The Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act

The Budget Committee asked that staff look at options for mitigating the impact of *Bill 140, The Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act*. It was suggested that the cost should be recovered by those benefiting from having second suites in their homes.

Staff advised that if the cost of inspection fees is to be completely recovered by fees it may deter residents from licensing their basement apartments.

A Committee Member suggested adding a fee to residents adding a walkout to their basement.

Moved by Regional Councillor Jim Jones

Seconded by Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

That the "2018 Budget Committee Presentation – Meeting No. 6" be approved.

Carried

4. Next steps

Joel Lustig, Treasurer reviewed the next steps. The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on October 31, 2017. At this meeting the City's Operating Budget, and the Planning & Design, Engineering, Building, and Waterworks Operating Budgets will be reviewed.

5. Adjournment

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Moved by Councillor Alex Chui

Seconded by Councillor Karen Rea

That the Budget Committee adjourn at 1:29 pm.

Carried