



**2018 PUBLIC BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKHAM CIVIC CENTRE
November 16, 2017**

MINUTES

Attendance:

<p>Members Present: Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Chair Councillor Amanda Collucci, Vice-Chair Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong Councillor Don Hamilton Councillor Alex Chiu</p> <p>Regrets: Mayor Frank Scarpitti Regional Councillor Jim Jones Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Karen Rea Councillor Collin Campbell Councillor Alan Ho</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 Joel Lustig, Treasurer Morgan Jones, Director of Operations Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation Mathew Vetere, Senior Financial Analyst Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p>
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The Budget Committee convened at 7:04 pm with Councillor Logan Kanapathi presiding as Chair.

1. 2018 PUBLIC BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING PRESENTATION

Councillor Logan Kanapathi, Budget Chief welcomed the public to the 2018 Public Budget Consultation Meeting and thanked staff for their hard work in the preparation of the budget.

Mathew Vetere, Senior Financial Analyst and Andrea Tang, Senior Manager of Financial Planning provided the 2018 Public Budget Consultation Meeting Presentation.

Discussion

A Committee Member questioned how the Province has maintained a 0% tax rate increase for education for the last several years. Staff were unsure how the Province has managed to maintain a 0% tax rate increase for education.

A Committee Member asked if part-time staff receive the same benefits as full-time staff. Staff advised that part-time staff do not receive the same benefits as full-time staff.

A Committee Member asked for examples of E3 projects that have either raised revenue or saved funds for the City. Staff advised that some examples of E3 projects including, the Administrative Monetary Penalty Program which has increased parking fine revenues, and the Textile Recycling Program which resulted in waste tonnage reduction.

A Committee Member asked how the City's Library operating expenditures compares with like size municipalities. Staff advised that the City's Library has the lowest cost per capita when comparing with like size neighboring municipalities. It also has the lowest cost per circulation of its collection.

A Committee Member asked what the impact would be by reducing staffing level to cover the cost of *Bill 148, Fair Work Places, Better Jobs Act*. Staff advised that it would also mean reducing service levels and/or cutting programs. Cutting programs would also lead to reduction in revenues.

A Committee Member asked if permit groups were notified of the fee increases and if any feedback has been obtained. Staff noted that permit groups were notified of the fee increases and that minimal feedback has been received to date.

2. DEPUTATION

Ernest Light provided a deputation. The following topics were raised::

- A City-wide windrow program
- Current value assessment
- Impact of tax rate increase on Seniors
- An opportunity to reduce the tax rate increase

The following answers were provided by Staff:

- Staff advised that a City-wide windrow program was considered; however the cons outweighed the pros. The program would cost approximately \$4.4 million which is equivalent to a 3% tax rate increase
- City of Markham annually recalculates and decreases the municipal tax rate by the equivalent of the City-wide average increase in a property's current value assessment to ensure the City collects the same amount of taxes as the prior year
- Details of the City property tax deferral program were provided
- An opportunity to reduce the tax rate increase was received

Moved by Councillor Amanda Collucci

Seconded by Councillor Don Hamilton

That the 2018 Public Budget Consultation Presentation be received; and,

That deputation by Ernest Light be received.

Carried

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Alex Chiu

Seconded by Regional Councillor Armstrong

That the 2018 Public Budget Consultation Meeting be adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Carried