



**CITY OF VAUGHAN
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA**

Monday, March 30, 2020

5:15 p.m.

Council Chamber

2nd Floor, Vaughan City Hall

2141 Major Mackenzie Drive

Vaughan, Ontario

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1. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA	
2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	
3. COMMUNICATIONS	
4. CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS	
5. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION INCLUDING MEMBERS RESOLUTION(S)	
1. CITY OF VAUGHAN WATER PROGRAM DEFERRALS IN RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC Report of the Acting City Manager and Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer with respect to the above.	3
2. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CITY MANAGER Report of the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer with respect to the above.	9
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7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION	

8. PRESENTATIONS AND DEPUTATIONS
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10. NEW BUSINESS
11. ADJOURNMENT

ALL APPENDICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
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AND VIDEO BROADCAST

www.vaughan.ca (Agendas, Minutes and Live Council Broadcast)

Special Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

**TITLE: CITY OF VAUGHAN WATER PROGRAM DEFERRALS IN
RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (COVID-
19) PANDEMIC**

FROM:

Mary Reali, Acting City Manager

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Treasurer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

The following recommendations are meant to provide support to the local economy while easing strain for local citizens as they manage the repercussions from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Enacting these recommendations will provide relief to businesses and citizens and demonstrate to the local business community and consumers that the City of Vaughan is committed to ensuring the well-being of citizens and the economy.

Report Highlights

- The global COVID-19 pandemic is causing significant disruption to residents
- The City of Vaughan has an opportunity to support its businesses and citizens by deferring Stormwater Charges and canceling the planned 2020 water and wastewater rate increases

Recommendations

1. That initiation of the Stormwater Charge billing be deferred for 60 days.
2. That wastewater By-law 87-2016, as amended by By-law 196-2019, be amended to replace the *Wastewater Discharge Rate* and the *Minimum Invoice Charge per*

Month in Schedule 'A' with the Wastewater Discharge Rate and the Minimum Invoice Charge per Month that were in effect for 2019.

3. That the water By-law 177-2016, as amended by By-law 195-2019, be amended to replace the *Water Consumption Rate* and the *Minimum Invoice Charge per Month* from Schedule 'A' with the Water Consumption Rate and the Minimum Invoice Charge per Month that were in effect for 2019.
4. That Council request York Region to help support City of Vaughan residents by cancelling or deferring the 2020 planned regional 9% wholesale water and wastewater rate increases.
5. That staff be authorized to bring effect to the recommendations in this report, and related operational and administrative matters presented in this report.

Background

Residents are reaching out to all levels of government for support, including local governments such as the City of Vaughan as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Declarations of states of emergency and provincially mandated closures of non-essential businesses in Ontario, to help flatten the COVID-19 curve, have created economic uncertainty for Vaughan residents. Deferring the Stormwater Charge for 60 days and cancelling the City's planned 2020 rate increases for water and wastewater are actions Council could take to support Vaughan residents in this time of uncertainty.

On March 17, 2020, Council approved to waive the late penalty charge on the interim tax bills, providing immediate relief to the City's residents and businesses.

Payments for the Thursday, March 26, Monday, April 27 and Wednesday, May 27 due dates will not be subject to any late payment fee or interest until Monday, June 1. Further extensions may be granted thereafter.

On March 17, 2020, the City's Economic Development Department introduced its Vaughan Business Action Plan with a series of temporary measures to safeguard and support small businesses throughout the City.

These measures include:

1. Support the restocking of store shelves - suspending noise by-laws and weight restrictions on roads to assist with ensuring stores have items people need.
2. Enhance the movement of goods – suspending by-laws restricting the loading and unloading of commercial vehicles, transport trucks, and other vehicles between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. This will allow for 24-hour delivery.

3. Improve business ground-transportation - suspending the weight and size of vehicles that can travel on certain roads throughout Vaughan. To ensure the sufficient safe supply of goods to stores.
4. Suspend the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) - to support the travel and tourism industry by not requiring accommodation providers to charge the MAT at Vaughan properties.
5. Maintain small business services - by ensuring, where possible, Small Business and Entrepreneurship frontline services are continued (either online or by phone).
6. A grace period of 90 days for business license renewals - deferral of license renewals for existing business by up to 90 days past the expiry date of the license. New businesses are still required to be licensed.

Previous Reports/Authority

[By-law 87-2016](#) (Sanitary system)

[By-law 177-2016](#) (Water system)

[By-law 196-2019](#) (Amendment to By-law 87-2016)

[By-law 195-2019](#) (Amendment to By-law 177-2016)

Analysis and Options

Several Water, Wastewater and Stormwater relief options have been considered based on three key principles: Feasibility, Speed and Fiscal Impact

With the COVID-19 situation changing on a daily, if not hourly, basis, Staff had to not only consider what relief could be provided and its impact on the City's fiscal situation and reserves but the speed at which it could be implemented.

Since the City relies on Alectra to bill for water, wastewater and stormwater services, consideration had to be made with respect to the billing systems that are in place and integrated with electricity charges. Some options could not be considered further due to the technical limitations of the billing system.

Of the options considered, deferral of the Stormwater Charge and foregoing the Water and Wastewater rate increase for 2020, were the most expeditious, technically feasible while providing relief for our residents and businesses.

Foregoing Water and Wastewater rate increase for 2020 provides quick relief to the City's residents and businesses

City water and wastewater rates are to rise on April 1, 2020 by 9%. By cancelling the City's 2020 rate increases, the City will forego approximately \$12.0 million in combined water and wastewater reserve contributions through December 31, 2020. Regional costs for water and wastewater treatment account for approximately 75% of the City's annual costs for water and wastewater services. If attained, a cancellation of York Region's April 1, 2020 increase would further mitigate financial impacts to the City.

Deferral of the Stormwater Charge will provide relief to property owners affected by COVID-19, while providing the City's share of funding to fully avail itself of a grant under the Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund *The Stormwater Charge for 2020 remains at the same rate as the 2019 charge, a 0% increase year-over-year.*

Approximately \$10 million is raised from the annual Stormwater Charge each year. These funds are critical to cover ongoing annual maintenance and capital improvements to the City's stormwater infrastructure including ponds, stormwater mains, ditches and culverts. Further, the City of Vaughan successfully secured grant funds under the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund (DMAF). DMAF provides 40% for each dollar spent which equates to approximately \$17 million with the City funding the remaining 60% or approximately \$24 million over ten years. To ensure the City supports our residents during this time of uncertainty and continues to benefit from DMAF funding, the Stormwater Charge could be deferred for 60 days, from May 11 to on or about July 11, 2020.

Financial Impact

Deferral of the Stormwater Charge will have minimal impact to the City's fiscal position and Stormwater Reserves

The Stormwater Charge for 2020 remains at the same rate as the 2019 charge, a 0% increase year-over-year. Deferring the Stormwater Charge billing for 60 days will have minimal impact on the Stormwater program.

Foregoing the 2020 Water and Wastewater Rate increase will reduce reserve contributions by \$12 million

Cancelling the City's 2020 rate increases for water and wastewater consumption will have a financial impact, specifically on the planned contribution to reserves. Eliminating the 2020 rate increases will have the following impact in 2020:

Assuming no rate increase for 2020	
\$M	Combined
Budgeted 2020 Reserve Contribution	\$ 22.0
Reduction to 2020 Reserves	\$ (12.0)
Adjusted Reserve Contribution (City Only)	\$ 10.0

Impact to Water and Wastewater Reserves contributions can be mitigated if York Region foregoes their planned Wholesale Rate Increase

Approximately 75% of the City’s costs for water and wastewater are directly related to water purchases and wastewater collection from York Region. If the Region eliminates their combined 2020 increase of 9%, the impact upon the City’s reserves will be reduced, approximately, as follows:

\$M	Combined
Adjusted Reserve Contribution (City Only)	\$ 10.0
Elimination of 2020 Region Increase	\$ 10.5
Adjusted Reserve Contribution (City & Region)	\$ 20.5

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Approximately 75% of the City’s costs for water and wastewater are directly related to water purchases and wastewater collection from York Region. York Region budgeted a 9% increase to their wholesale water and wastewater rates for 2020 which are planned to be applied on April 1. City residents would directly benefit from planned Regional rate deferral or decreases for water and wastewater.

Conclusion

COVID-19 has presented international, national, provincial, regional and local governments with unprecedented challenges. The City of Vaughan has contributed to ‘Team Canada’ with measures to support Vaughan residents.

Deferring the Stormwater Charge billing by 60 days will help residents in the short term. Cancelling the City’s planned 2020 rate increases for water and wastewater will help residents and businesses in the longer term.

Deferral or cancellation of York Region’s planned 2020 water and wastewater wholesale rates would provide further support for City residents.

Both the City and the Region have the ability to recoup the forgone 2020 revenue via future rate increases after the pandemic ends.

There will be no changes to the safety or security for residents as a result of the deferral to the Stormwater Charge and the cancellation of the 2020 water and wastewater rate increases.

For more information, please contact: Dean Ferraro, Director of Financial Services / Deputy City Treasurer (dean.ferraro@vaughan.ca ext. 8272); Sean Skinkle, Finance Manager, Water/Wastewater/Stormwater(sean.skinkle@vaughan.ca ext. 8486)

Attachments

None

Prepared by

Sean Skinkle, Finance Manager, Water/Wastewater/Stormwater, ext. 8486

Special Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CITY MANAGER

FROM:

Michael Coroneos, Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek Council's direction on the next steps with respect to the position of the Acting City Manager.

Report Highlights

- At the Special Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) Council on February 13, 2020, it was decided that that the Acting City Manager be appointed on a 2-month rotation, based on the tenure of employment of the organization, from the Deputy City Managers (DCMs).
- DCM, Community Services Mary Reali, was placed into the Acting City Manager position for the period February 15 until April 14, 2020.
- Council's direction on next steps is required with respect to the position of the Acting City Manager as the appointment for Mary Reali is reaching the end of its term.

Recommendations

1. That Council provides direction on the next step with respect to the position of the Acting City Manager for The Corporation of the City of Vaughan.

Background

At the Council meeting on February 13, 2020, Council appointed DCM, Community Services Mary Reali, into the Acting City Manager position for the period February 15 until April 14, 2020. Council decided the following:

- 1) The Acting City Manager be appointed on a 2-month rotation, based on the tenure of employment of the organization, from the Deputy City Managers;
- 2) That these recommendations be made public; and
- 3) That the verbal report of the Chief Human Resources Officer, be received.

Previous Reports/Authority

N/A

Analysis and Options

Given the declared state of emergency with respect to COVID-19 and that the Corporation is in the midst of pandemic response, this report is brought forward seeking Council's direction on the next step(s) with respect to the Acting position of the City Manager.

Council can consider the following options:

1. For continuity in pandemic response, extend DCM, Community Services, Mary Reali in the Acting City Manager role for an additional 2 month rotation until June 14, 2020 and then review at a later date to determine if the assignment should be extended further or to continue rotation of DCM's into the Acting City Manager role.
2. Allow Mary Reali's acting assignment to end on April 14, 2020 and continue with rotation of Acting City Manager appointment on a 2-month rotation, based on the tenure of employment of the organization, from the Deputy City Managers.

Financial Impact

N/A

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

Council has given direction that Mary Reali's appointment as Acting City Manager is to end on April 14, 2020. As such, Council's direction on the Acting City Manager position commencing April 15, 2020 is required.

For more information, please contact: Christine Gianino, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer, extension 8331

Attachments

None.

Prepared by

Christine Gianino, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer, extension 8331

Special Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: CHANGES TO THE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FROM:

Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Administrative Services and City Solicitor

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval to change the 2020 Committee and Council Meeting Schedule in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Report Highlights

- To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the provincial government has mandated closure of all public facilities, banned public gatherings of more than 5 people and recommended practicing social distancing.
- These measures have impacted the ability of the public to attend Committee and Council Meetings in person to provide input.
- Staff is seeking Committee's approval to defer the Special Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM and other changes to the upcoming meeting schedule to respond to public health concerns.

Recommendations

- 1) THAT the Special Committee Meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM be rescheduled to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to be held in the evening; and,
- 2) THAT the proposed changes to the Committee and Council Meeting Schedule be approved, as follows:

- a. The April 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting be rescheduled to April 21, 2020 at 1:00 PM;
- b. The April 21, 2020 Council meeting scheduled at 1:00 PM be rescheduled for the same day at/about 5:00 PM; and,
- c. No Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) meetings in April. A second Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) be considered for May 2020 to address the volume of planning applications requiring public hearing.

Background

On March 11, 2020, Council ratified the following recommendation (in part) of the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) held on March 3, 2020 regarding “CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS INC. OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT FILE OP.19.014 ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT FILE Z.19.038 DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION FILE 19T-19V007 VICINITY OF CLARENCE STREET, ISLINGTON AVENUE, NORTH OF DAVIDSON DRIVE”.

“The Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) recommends:

- 3) That the report of the Acting Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management, dated March 3, 2020, be referred to a Committee of the Whole meeting to be scheduled for April 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and a report regarding the following matter be provided at the meeting...”

On March 17, 2020, the City of Vaughan and the Province of Ontario declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. During the pandemic, the provincial government mandated the closure of all public facilities and banned public gatherings of more than 5 people. Public health officials also recommend: the practice of social distancing (to maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from other individuals); limit non-essential travel; limit, postpone or cancel gatherings; and, other restrictions.

Previous Reports/Authority

[CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS INC. OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT FILE OP.19.014 ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT FILE Z.19.038 DRAFT PLAN OF SUBDIVISION FILE 19T-19V007 VICINITY OF CLARENCE STREET, ISLINGTON AVENUE, NORTH OF DAVIDSON DRIVE](#)

Analysis and Options

Restricted public access to City Hall, the ban on public gatherings, and the practice of social distancing have impacted the ability of the public to attend City facilities, and

more specifically meetings. This limits the opportunity for individuals to provide input in person. Many individuals are also either in quarantine or self-isolation.

At the March 3, 2020 Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) Meeting, a total of 47 individuals made deputations at the meeting. Several hundred attendees were present, and 143 Communications were received relating to the applications by Clubhouse Development Inc.

Considering the health and well-being of its citizens and staff, the City of Vaughan is working closely with all levels of government to assess the daily changes of the COVID-19 pandemic and the precautionary measures being implemented to break the chain of its transmission. Given the large public interest in these applications, it is recommended that the Special Committee Meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020, at 7:00 PM be re-scheduled to a future Committee of the Whole meeting to be held in the evening.

To ensure business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, staff is also proposing further changes to the meeting schedule in April 2020 to reduce the number of meetings, as follows:

- April 15 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 1:00 PM to be rescheduled to April 21 at 1:00 PM.
- April 21 Council Meeting at 1:00 PM be rescheduled to +/- 5:00 PM on the same day;
- No Public Hearing meetings in April. A second Public Hearing meeting be considered in May 2020 to address the volume of planning applications requiring public hearing.

As the City continues to assess the situation and follow the guidelines from public health officials, staff will work with Council if further changes to the upcoming meeting schedule are necessary to reduce the number of meetings during the pandemic. Staff will prioritize time sensitive matters to be placed on the agenda.

The Office of the City Clerk will work with Corporate and Strategic Communications to ensure the public is aware of the changes to the Committee and Council Meeting schedules in a timely manner. Limited public participation at meetings can be done electronically or through other channels if in-person attendance is not permissible.

Financial Impact

Not Applicable.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

Not Applicable.

Conclusion

Considering the health and well-being of Vaughan citizens, staff and Council, staff is seeking approval to defer the Special Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM until further notice. Staff also recommend further changes to the meeting schedule in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please contact: Todd Coles, City Clerk, extension 8281;
Caterina Facciolo, Deputy City Solicitor, Planning and Real Estate, extension 8662

Attachments

None.

Prepared by

Isabel Leung, Deputy City Clerk & Manager, Administrative Services, extension 8190.