

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 5, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2022 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the week of May 15, 2022, to May 21, 2022, as “National Public Works Week” (NPWW) in the City of Vaughan and to provide an overview of the events that will be held in recognition of this week.

Report Highlights

- City to proclaim May 15-21, 2022, as “National Public Works Week” and join in the North American celebrations acknowledging the dedication and achievements of public works professionals.
- An annual opening ceremony and flag raising event will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 at the Joint Operations Centre and City Hall.
- Council Chambers will be illuminated orange on Monday, May 16, 2022 in recognition of the event.
- The City will proceed with both virtual and in-person activities due to the continued concern around the COVID-19 pandemic and continued closure of city facilities.
- The National Public Works Week Organizing Committee will host a series of virtual events, outreach and educational opportunities for the community to be involved in which will be communicated through social media channels.
- An in-person staff appreciation barbeque will be held on Thursday May 19, 2022 and will be planned in accordance with regional public health guidelines and the City’s business reintegration plan.
- A drive-by community mulch pick-up day is planned for Saturday May 21, 2022.

Recommendations

1. That Council proclaim May 15, 2022, to May 21, 2022, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan;
2. That an opening ceremony and flag raising event be held at Vaughan City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre on May 16, 2022, to commemorate National Public Works Week;
3. That Council Chambers be illuminated orange on May 16, 2022; and
4. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on City Page Online.

Background

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association has sponsored National Public Works Week and more than 30,000 members in the U.S. and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of Public Works

In 1960, the American Public Works Association started a week-long campaign to make the general public more aware of the services Public Works Departments provide, as well as to promote the “often-unsung heroes” of our society; the professionals who serve the public every day with quiet dedication. Since its inception, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate, engage and inform the public about the essential role that Public Works plays in the quality of their community life. Equally important is promoting Public Works as a career choice for the future work force and recognizing those who currently serve in these public roles.

Public Works staff work diligently throughout the year to ensure service excellence to the Vaughan community

The Public Works portfolio strives to deliver on five key objectives that allow our team to provide critical services that the citizens of Vaughan rely on each day. These five key objectives center around Vaughan’s 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan and focus on staff engagement, citizen experience, good governance, and operational performance. The objectives are as follows:

1. Make our people a priority through health, safety, and wellness;
2. Improve employee engagement and culture;
3. Foster a culture of innovation by being business effective;
4. Create WOW moments by keeping our citizens safe and our City clean and beautiful; and
5. Be a Public Works Ambassador.

By developing plans and programs to deliver on these crucial objectives, in addition to focusing on the 2018-2022 Term of Council Priorities, the team consistently provides the following services that include but are not limited to:

- Constant supply of safe, clean drinking water;
- Management of wastewater and stormwater systems;
- Management of Solid Waste, including organics, recycling, yard waste and garbage collection;
- Maintenance and beautification of parks, open spaces, entry features and urban tree canopy;
- Maintenance of roadways and traffic management;
- Winter maintenance of roadways, sidewalks, City facilities and pathways; and
- Maintenance of fleet and equipment to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.

Previous Reports/Authority

Proclamation – 2020 National Public Works Week and Flag-Raising Request

<https://pub-vaughan.escrimemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=32068>

Proclamation – 2018 National Public Works Week and Flag-Raising Request

https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes_agendas/Extracts/14cw0404_18ex_16.pdf

Proclamation – 2017 National Public Works Week and Flag-Raising Request

https://www.vaughan.ca/council/minutes_agendas/Extracts/13cw0404_17ex_20.pdf

Analysis and Options

The theme for the 2022 National Public Works Week is “Ready and Resilient”

This year’s theme, “Ready and Resilient”, highlights the ability of our staff to perform regular public works duties and be ready at a moment’s notice to react as first responders during natural disasters and overcome challenges seen in the field. Public works superheroes help keep communities strong by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities great places to live and work. The theme is also fitting to reflect on the past few years, as the Public Works team has worked tirelessly as one team to continue to provide seamless service delivery throughout the pandemic. The poster for this year’s theme can be found in Attachment 1.

A range of in-person and virtual events for National Public Works Week will take place this year

Planning for this year’s National Public Works Week commenced in February 2022. An organizing committee, made up primarily of the Public Works Leadership team and select staff, has planned a range of virtual and in-person activities that will take place during National Public Works Week which include:

- In-person opening ceremony and flag raising event (May 16, 2022)

- In-person staff appreciation barbeque (Thursday May 19, 2022)
- In-person community drive-by mulch pick-up day (Saturday May 21, 2022)
- Virtual education and outreach events throughout the week (May 15-21).

The NPWW organizing committee, in alignment with the provincial guidelines and city's reintegration plan, has decided to cancel any activities open to the public that may be considered high risk and instead replace them with virtual educational opportunities and a drive-by event.

The Public Works team continues to recognize staff through the annual Golden Pylons Awards Program and publishing of the 2021 Public Works yearbook

The Public Works team continues to recognize and honour leaders and staff for their diligent and tireless work. In 2021, the team continued the "Golden Pylon Awards Program" for a third year where staff could nominate and vote for their peers and teams to win awards centered around the portfolio's key objectives. Golden Pylon Award categories included the WOW award, the health and safety award, the innovation award, and the leadership award. A total of 39 individuals were awarded. The Public Works team also released its 2021 Public Works yearbook celebrating the efforts of all departments, teams and staff in 2021.

Financial Impact

There are no costs associated with this report.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

There are no broader regional impacts or considerations with the adoption of this report.

Conclusion

National Public Works Week provides a venue through which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and promote the vital contributions that Public Works makes to support our communities being safe, clean and beautiful.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachment

1. National Public Works Week Poster 2022.

Prepared by

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Approved by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop at the top and several smaller loops and strokes below it.

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager
Public Works

Reviewed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'N' and 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager