

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION – 2020 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the period of May 17 – 23, 2020, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan and to provide information on the scheduled events.

Report Highlights

- Proclaim May 17 – 23, 2020 as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan.
- Official flag raising on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at both the Joint Operations Centre and City Hall.
- The City will not proceed with the official National Public Works Week activities in May due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Public Works Week committee will consider alternate ways to celebrate our Public Works professionals in the future.

Recommendations

1. That Council proclaim the period of May 17 - 23, 2020, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan;
2. That the National Public Works Week flag be raised at Vaughan City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre for the period of May 17 - 23, 2020, to commemorate National Public Works Week; and

3. That the proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on City Page Online.

Background

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 beginning, 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.

Previous Reports/Authority

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 2020 National Public Works Week is “The Rhythm of Public Works”.

This year's theme, “The Rhythm of Public Works”, challenges our members and citizens to think about their communities as a symphony of essential services, working in concert to create a great place to live. Every community has a rhythm, a heartbeat that reflects its essence and tempo of life.

Public Works staff promote and support Service Excellence through the many services they provide:

- 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 of our parks, open spaces, entry features and urban tree canopy

- Maintenance of our roadway and traffic management
- Maintenance of our fleet and equipment

Traditional National Public Works Week activities will not take place this year.

Planning for this year's National Public Works Week (NPWW) was well underway. An organizing committee, made up primarily of the Public Works Leadership team, had formalized the activities for the week. These activities included:

- Public Works flag raising event
- Staff Appreciation BBQ
- Public Works Open House (scheduled for May 23rd, 2020)
- Variety of planned public works education and outreach events

The NPWW organizing committee, in alignment with the Regional Municipality of York and Public Health Ontario, has decided to cancel the planned activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee will look at determining how we can recognize our public works professionals at a later date.

The National Public Works Week committee will consider alternate ways to celebrate our Public Works Professionals.

Although official activities have been deferred to a later date, the NPWW committee is committed to celebrate the significant contributions and accomplishments of City of Vaughan public works staff, many of which have worked diligently during this difficult time. The committee will consider alternate ways to recognize staff at a future date. We look forward to continuing our trusted partnerships, planning and coordinating activities to celebrate NPWW with our communities 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 beautifully maintained.

However, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the City will not be proceeding with NPWW events in May 2020. The NPWW committee will consider alternate ways to celebrate our Public Works professionals in the future.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachments

None.

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