

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK 2021

FROM:

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager, Public Works

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the period May 16 – 22, 2021, as “National Public Works Week” (NPWW) in the City of Vaughan and to provide information on the scheduled events.

Report Highlights

- Proclaim May 16 – 22, 2021 as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan.
- The National Public Works Week flag will be raised on Tuesday, May 17, 2021 at both the Joint Operations Centre and City Hall.
- Council Chambers will be illuminated orange Tuesday, May 17, 2021.
- 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 host a virtual event on Friday May 21 and consider alternate ways to celebrate our Public Works professionals.

Recommendations

1. That the period from May 16 - 22, 2021, be proclaimed 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 from May 16 - 22, 2021, to commemorate National Public Works Week;
3. That Council Chambers be illuminated orange on May 17, 2021;

4. That this proclamation be posted on the City's website and published on City Page Online; and
5. That these recommendations be ratified by Council.

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 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.

Public Works staff promote and support Service Excellence

The Public Works portfolio strives to deliver on five key objectives that allow our team to provide critical services the citizens of Vaughan rely on each day. These five key objectives center around Vaughan's 2018-2022 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
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 is able to consistently provide 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

- 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 2021 National Public Works Week is “Stronger Together”

This year’s theme, “Strong Together”, challenges Public Works members and their citizens to think about the role Public Works plays in creating a great place to live. By working together, the impact citizens and Public Works professionals can have on their communities is magnified and results in the ability to accomplish goals once thought unattainable. The theme is also fitting for the past year 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.

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

Planning for this year’s National Public Works Week commences annually each February. An organizing committee, made up primarily of the Public Works Leadership team, has traditionally implemented formalized activities that take place during NPWW each year. These activities included:

- In-person Public Works flag raising event
- Staff Appreciation BBQ
- Public Works Open House
- 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 Public Works team explores alternative methods to recognize staff

Although typical NPWW activities cannot take place this year, the Public Works team has explored alternative methods to recognize and honour staff for their diligent and tireless work over the last year. The team implemented the “Golden Pylon Awards and Recognition Program” where staff could nominate and vote for their peers and teams to

win awards centered around the portfolio's key objectives. We would like to congratulate the 2020 winners for their incredible work and look forward to enhancing and improving the program for 2021.

Golden Pylon Award Winners 2020:

1. **The WOW Award:** The Street Sweeping Team - John Bascio, Paolo DiLecce, Joe Durso, Terry Fisher, Sam Yirenkyi, Rick Rotundo, Marc Provost, Mike Morabito, Luigi Mirabelli, Anthony Cafarelli, Matthew Mendes, Daniel Sepe, Stephen Marcantonio – Transportation and Fleet Management Services
2. **The Health and Safety Award:** Andre Jacobelli - Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations
3. **The Innovation Award:** Shathli Shaif - Environmental Services
4. **The Leadership Award:** Carmine Mainella - Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations, Mike Perin – Environmental Services, Kewal Kharbanda, Environmental Services
5. **Best Supporting Department:** Corporate and Strategic Communications

The National Public Works Week Committee will host a Virtual Event for this year's celebration

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 be hosting a Virtual Event on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. to highlight the great work done by our Public Works professionals and will demonstrate how the team makes Vaughan an amazing place to work and live. The celebration will be promoted throughout the City of Vaughan's social media channels and broadcast on the City of Vaughan website.

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.

However, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the City will not be proceeding with NPWW events in May 2021. National Public Works Week will be celebrated via a virtual event on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. that will be available to the public through the City of Vaughan website.

For more information, please contact:

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Attachment

1. National Public Works Week Poster 2021.

Prepared by

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Approved by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Zoran Postic', with a stylized, looped design.

Zoran Postic, Deputy City Manager
Public Works

Reviewed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jim Harnum', with a stylized, looped design.

Jim Harnum, City Manager