

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015

Item 15, Report No. 17, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 21, 2015.

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PROCLAMATION - 2015 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Public Works, the Director of Environmental Services, Director of Transportation Services and Parks and Forestry Operations, Director of Capital Delivery and Asset Management and Director of Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Services, dated April 14, 2015:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Public Works, the Director of Environmental Services, Director of Transportation Services and Parks and Forestry Operations, Director of Capital Delivery and Asset Management and Director of Development Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Services, recommend:

1. That Council proclaim the period of May 17 - 23, 2015, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS Public Works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizen's everyday lives; and

WHEREAS the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of Public Works services; and,

WHEREAS the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design, construction, and maintenance is vitally dependant upon the efforts and skill of Public Works officials and staff; and

WHEREAS the efficiency of qualified and dedicated personnel who staff the Public Works Commission is influenced by people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proclaim the week of May 17 - 23, 2015, as "Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and request that all citizens and elected officials recognize the contributions which Public Works make every day to their health, safety, comfort, and quality of life in the community.

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Public Works Week Event is being held on Saturday, May 23, 2015, and will be advertised on the City's website, through social media (Facebook and Twitter), and on mobile signs throughout the City. In addition, a media release will be issued.

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Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the period of May 17 - 23, 2015, as “National Public Works Week” in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the City’s Public Works Week Event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1960, the American Public Works Association started a public information campaign to make the general public more aware of the work provided by Public Works, as well as promote the “often-unsung heroes” of our society, the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Since its beginning, agencies, municipalities, and regions have used this week to educate and inform the public about the essential role that Public Works plays in the quality of their community life. Equally important are promoting the choice of Public Works as a career choice for the working force of the future, and recognizing those who currently serve in these crucial public roles.

2015 is the 55th anniversary of National Public Works Week, and this year’s theme is “Community Begins Here”. There would be no community without the quality of life Public Works provides. There would be no community to police and protect, no public to lead or represent. Public Works allows the world as we know it to be. This year’s theme “Community Begins Here” speaks to the essential nature of Public Works services in support of everyday quality of life.

On Saturday, May 23, 2015, the Public Works Commission will host its annual “Public Works Week” event at the Joint Operations Centre located at 2800 Rutherford Rd. This event will provide a public forum to educate, and get feedback from, residents about various road maintenance, water distribution, wastewater collection, stormwater management and “Greening Vaughan” solid waste management initiatives. It will be held at the north-east employee parking lot (rain or shine) from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The event itself will be multi-faceted, and as a result, has the potential to draw a number of people. The event includes:

Public Works Commission

- The promotion of the City’s waste management program and the sale of blue boxes, green bins, in-house kitchen containers and backyard composters
- The promotion of Kraft paper bags for leaf and yard waste material
- Displays about Water Quality & Roads Maintenance Equipment
- Display on GIS and Survey - The Mulch Give-Away (City of Vaughan –
- Communication on the benefits of Mulch
- Display of Forestry Equipment and Climbing techniques
- Q&A with Forestry and Horticulture
- Parks and Forestry Booth – Beautification initiatives including Dazzle Me, Adopt-a-Park, BE- Leaves and Parks Ambassador Program
- Display of Infrastructure Planning Projects and Assessment Tools
- Promotion and education of other City initiatives related to Public Works

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Other City of Vaughan Departments

- Fire and Rescue Services
- The Environmental Sustainability Office will be promoting projects related to energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction and highlighting the implementation progress, as well as potential areas of interest for the next version Green Directions Vaughan, the community sustainability and environmental master plan.

York Region

- Emergency Preparedness information
- Water for Tomorrow and Waste Management

Businesses and Community Groups

- Miller Waste Systems - Waste collection vehicle display
- Lion's Club – Electronic Recycling

In addition to Public Works Day, the City's Public Works Commission will be participating in the 'York Region Area Municipalities Challenge'. This event showcases the talents of staff from the area municipalities in terms of equipment operation and water main repair and service installation activities. As part of the event, the Mayors of the area municipalities also compete against each other, driving trucks and/or other equipment through an obstacle course. This event takes place on May 20, 2015 at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, and complies with Vaughan Vision 2020's Goals and Objectives. The Public Works Week event ties into the Goal of "Service Excellence" and the Objective of "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability".

Participation in APWA and OPWA related events also ties in the Goal of "Staff Excellence" and its Objectives of "Support the Professional Development of Staff", as well as "Value and Encourage a Highly Motivated Workforce".

Conclusion

National Public Works Week provides a venue by which municipalities across North America can inform, educate, and in some cases, give back to the public, initiatives undertaken by Public Works.

To date, the Public Works Events have been well attended. As such, it is important to build on previous year's successes, and use this as another opportunity to promote not only the Public Works Week theme, but also promote the City's environmental initiatives as well.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Amanda Guida, Supervisor of Public Works Administration, x8818