

## CITY OF VAUGHAN

### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2014

Item 36, Report No. 18, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 6, 2014.

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#### PROCLAMATION - 2014 NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, dated April 29, 2014:

##### Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That Council proclaim the period of May 18-24, 2014, 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 systems and programs such as water distribution, wastewater collection, street maintenance, and solid waste collection; 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 Department 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 18- 24, 2014, 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 City's Public Works public event is being held on Saturday, May 24, 2014, and will be advertised on the City's website, in the Public Works' Spring newsletter, and on mobile signs throughout the City. In addition, a media release will be issued.

##### Purpose

To request that Council proclaim the period of May 18 - 24, 2014, as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Vaughan, and to present an overview of the City's Public Works Week public event to be held at the Joint Operations Centre on Saturday, May 24, 2014.

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#### 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 public works departments did, 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.

2014 is the 54th anniversary of National Public Works Week, and this year's theme "Building for Today, Planning for Tomorrow" represents the classic idea of stewardship embodied by the profession of public works and the professionals that practice it. Focusing on the communities; "**building**" points out the day to day aspect of public works that is quality of life, while "**planning**" references the sustainable practices that ensure that quality of life for future generations.

On Saturday May 24, 2014, the Public Works Department will host a National Public Works Week public 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, and “Greening Vaughan” 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:

- The promotion of the City's waste management program and the sale of blue boxes, green bins, in-house kitchen containers and backyard composters (City of Vaughan – Public Works Department)
- The promotion of kraft paper bags for leaf and yard waste material (City of Vaughan - Public Works Department)
- Displays about Water Quality & Roads Maintenance (City of Vaughan – Public Works Department)
- GIS and Survey displays (City of Vaughan - Engineering Services Department)
- The Mulch Give-Away (City of Vaughan – Parks & Forestry Department)
- Promotion and education of other City initiatives related to Public Works (Bylaw Enforcement and Economic Development)
- Emergency Preparedness information (City of Vaughan - Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services)
- Water for Tomorrow and Waste Management (York Region)
- Ontario One Call
- Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (Safety for utility digging)
- Lion's Club – Electronic Recycling
- Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests
- Waste collection vehicle display (Miller Waste Systems)

In addition to Public Works Day, the City's Public Works Department 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 21 at the Town of Richmond Hill's facility on Elgin Mills Road.

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As part of Public Works Week, the City will also hold its annual Public Works barbeque at the Joint Operations Centre for all Public Works, Engineering and Parks Operations employees.

#### **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 departments.

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:**

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