

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Item 6, Report No. 4, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 16, 2016.

6

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

**6.1 2016 PRE BUDGET SUBMISSION TO THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
CITY-WIDE**

The following action was taken by the Committee of the Whole (Working Session):

- 1) The recommendation contained in the following report of the Chief of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations, dated January 18, 2016, was approved; and**
- 2) This matter was referred to the Council meeting of January 19, 2016, for consideration.**

Report of the Chief of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations dated January 18, 2016

Recommendation

The Chief of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, recommends;

1. THAT this report be endorsed as content for submission to the Ministry of Finance, Province of Ontario for the Ontario 2016 Budget deliberations; and
2. THAT the City Clerk submit this report to be incorporated into the Provincial Pre-Budget Submission Process; and
3. THAT the City Clerk circulate this report to the Minister of Finance, the local MPP's, federal MP's and Regional Municipality of York Chair and CAO; and
4. THAT the recommendations of Committee of the Whole (Working Session) in this matter be forwarded to the January 19, 2016 meeting of Council for approval.

Contribution to Sustainability

As described in the City's Strategic Plan, Vaughan Vision 20|20, Vaughan will continue to be a community of choice that promotes diversity, innovation and opportunity for all citizens, fostering a vibrant community life that is inclusive, progressive, environmentally responsible and sustainable.

Green Directions Vaughan embraces a Sustainability First principle. More specifically, Goal four states that sustainability means we make decisions and take actions that focus on "How We Live." Ensuring that actions by Council and Staff "create a vibrant community where citizens, business and visitors thrive".

Economic Impact

There would be a positive financial impact for the City of Vaughan if any initiatives that are outlined in this report were to be included in the 2016/17 provincial budget.

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Communications Plan

Although a formal communication plan is not required, this report will be circulated to Provincial and Federal Members of Parliament, Regional Municipality of York Chair and CAO

Key Messages

- Vaughan Council continues to be committed to working collaboratively with the Province and welcomes the opportunity to provide the Minister of Finance with a strategic list of initiatives that will continue to “Build Ontario Up”.
- Vaughan is one of Canada’s fastest growing cities with a population of more than 320,000 residents and 10,000 businesses.
- The City of Vaughan is building a downtown, Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, which will be home to a minimum of 25,000 new residents and 11,000 jobs by 2031.
- Currently the City, working with the Province and other key stakeholders have major city-building initiatives underway, including the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital, the 427 Highway extension and the Toronto-York Spadina Subway Extension

Purpose

Through strong governance, fiscal accountability and sustainability, the City of Vaughan has become an incubator of the cultural, social, and economic innovation which helps shape the Province.

Recently, the Province has reached out to residents of Vaughan, along with all Ontarians, to participate in the 2016 Provincial budget process by sharing, discussing and voting on opportunities to have their say on how to grow the economy, create jobs and plan for the province's future.

The Province has identified January 31, 2016 as the last day to receive all communication related to the 2016/17 budget engagement process.

This report outlines City of Vaughan initiatives that could be candidates for provincial funding or support. It also outlines the City’s position on provincial policy initiatives that are underway. The report is organized to align with the Term of Council Strategy Map.

Background - Analysis and Options

Support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community

- North Maple Regional Park
- Community Centre and Library – Block 11 and Vaughan Metropolitan Centre

The City of Vaughan embraces the principles of smart growth to ensure we are evolving in a sustainable way that balances the need to expand with opportunities to enrich citizens’ lives through arts and culture, parks and trails, recreation, and more.

Planning is underway for several new parks (including the 80-hectare **North Maple Regional Park**), and the future development of a **community centre in Block 11**. Future investments in Vaughan’s parks, recreation, and library facilities are supported by increasing usage of existing assets and anticipated population growth across all age groups, including youth and older adults.

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Through the public engagement program, it is evident that residents and organizations are pleased with the major strides the City has made in recent years, but are eager for these improvements to continue.

Given the City's new Official Plan and policies for growth, there is a particular urgency to identify funding and construct a **community centre and library in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre** to provide a critical amenity to early VMC adopters (employees and residents) improving their VMC experience and create a social anchor to draw people to the new downtown which will activate the mobility hub and support the Federal, Provincial and Regional transit investments that become operational in 2017/18.

Continue to develop transit, cycling and pedestrian options to get around the City

- Provincial Regional Express Rail initiative/Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan

The City of Vaughan has completed a Transportation Master Plan to support the population and employment growth projected in the City's Official Plan 2010 to a planning horizon of 2031. The Transportation Master Plan was carried out in coordination with the City's new Official Plan to ensure Vaughan's future development is integrated with, and supported by, a more efficient and sustainable transportation system.

The Transportation Master Plan conforms to York Region's Transportation Master Plan. It balances the need for local road improvements with the City's commitment to invest in pedestrian and cycling improvements, while supporting the investments in transit service by York Region and Metrolinx.

The **Block 27 New Community Area** will be designed to be compact, vibrant, inclusive, healthy, sustainable and diverse. It will include a mix of uses, such as commercial, and low and mid-rise residential housing, and will also have community facilities such as schools and parks. The potential GO Rail Station in the vicinity of Kirby Road, will be planned as a multi-modal transit station surrounded by a mix of residential, office and commercial uses designed to support this mobility hub.

The **Concord GO Centre** is a Local Centre in the City of Vaughan that will provide opportunities for a mix of uses that will be developed around a multi-modal transportation network. The centre will be integrated into the surrounding community and will provide places for living, working, recreation and gathering. The area will provide a number of services and amenities through a variety of retail, commercial and community spaces and will provide safe connections for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the area. Access and views to open space will be an important feature of the community.

Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets

- Sustainable infrastructure funding

Development Charges are an important source of revenue for growing municipalities to help fund the capital costs associated with growth. The City is pleased that the Province has removed the 10 per cent discount for transit infrastructure. However, the costs of growth continue to place significant cost pressures on municipalities above the revenue available. The remaining 10 per cent discount on community infrastructure such as libraries and community centers and the cost of ineligible services continue to compromise municipalities' ability to build the infrastructure required to support growth.

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All municipalities continue to be challenged to balance their infrastructure maintenance needs with the limited funding available, primarily through property taxes. Public demand for new infrastructure creates a real and constant funding pressure on Vaughan's annual budget, as does the associated maintenance and operating costs for any new infrastructure that is built.

The **Gas Tax Fund** program has been a crucial revenue source to build and revitalize Vaughan's local public infrastructure systems while creating jobs and long term prosperity. However, to meet the infrastructure demands that are forecast as the City grows to approximately 500,000 in the next 15 years Vaughan is requesting that a **Sustainable infrastructure funding strategy**, involving all orders of government, with associated revenue tools be reviewed and developed for municipalities.

Attract investment and create jobs

- Vaughan International Commercialization Centre

The **Vaughan International Commercialization Centre**, branded the VICC, is assisting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) localize international technologies to create and commercialize new, innovative products in addition to assisting local companies with the expertise required to modify or adapt their products for international export.

The vision behind the VICC is to build a leading business innovation support network focused on increasing export activity, increasing foreign investment, and creating jobs. It will accomplish these goals through its unique programming and one-window portal—or support network—that centralizes the programs, services and resources that businesses need to commercialize products, enter new markets, and achieve growth.

Extensive market research and consultations with over one hundred stakeholders and business leaders has confirmed the viability of the VICC. Of the many innovation facilities across Toronto, York Region, and the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area—which include business incubators, accelerators, and commercialization centres—there is not a single facility dedicated to commercialization and international markets.

Facilitating the development of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre

- Black Creek Renewal

The Black Creek is a tributary of the Humber River and is included in the Natural Heritage Network identified with the City of Vaughan Official Plan 2010. The Black Creek traverses the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre east of Jane Street between Highway 7 and Highway 407.

Through the VMC Secondary Plan, the **Black Creek corridor** is positioned as a signature feature that will create identity for the new downtown, attract investment along its frontage, support urban growth, and add value as the prominent open space amenity and natural heritage for the VMC community. As part of the larger connected network of public spaces, the Black Creek corridor acts as a central linkage and destination point for the new downtown.

Improving the existing condition of the Black Creek channel within the VMC is key to advancing development.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

The City of Vaughan is committed to investing in our community's future and building on the citizen experience to provide the most value to residents. Priorities for this term of Council include

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improving the municipal road network, facilitating the development of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, Supporting the development of the hospital, re-establishing the urban tree canopy, creating affordable housing options, establishing a lobbyist registry, attracting investment and creating jobs, and supporting and promoting the arts, culture, heritage and sports in the Community.

The initiatives described in this report directly assist in fulfilling the following 2014/18 Term of Council priorities:

- Support and promote arts, culture, heritage and sports in the community
- Continue to develop transit, cycling and pedestrian options to get around the City
- Invest, renew and manage infrastructure and assets
- Attract investment and create jobs
- Facilitating the development of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre

Regional Implications

The City of Vaughan supports the Regional Municipality of York 2016 Pre Budget submissions to the Federal and Provincial government. In summary, these include;

- 1. Keeping up with rapid growth and managing traffic congestion is dependent upon the federal and provincial government advancing work on its Big Move Plan**
 - Residents in York Region have identified transportation as the single greatest problem
- 2. Develop a national housing strategy to help increase our housing options**
 - With the level of growth we are seeing, there is significant demand for rental housing in York Region. Only 11.5 per cent of the housing stock is rental. Compare that to Toronto where 45 per cent of the housing stock is rental.
- 3. To achieve our goal we need further investments in water and wastewater innovation.**
 - York Region as an abundance of natural resources. The Region is committed to grow in a responsible way, while preserving a clean environment and building a sustainable economy.
- 4. Catalyze the federal government's interest in supporting public sector broadband initiatives**
 - High speed internet has revolutionized nearly every aspect of life and is vital to the Region's success in this highly competitive global economy.

Conclusion

As the Province is committed to a ten year, \$130 billion plan, The City of Vaughan appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Ontario 2016 pre-Budget consultation process.

With a population of approximately 320,000 residents, the City of Vaughan has been one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. In the next 15 years Vaughan will grow to more than 416,600 people and 266,100 jobs. The tremendous growth that Vaughan has experienced has brought both challenges and opportunities, as City Council strives to manage the fiscal, economic, social, institutional, recreational and cultural requirements of the city's increasingly diverse population.

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This report has identified a number of key initiatives that directly support the Provincial four-part plan that includes investing in people's talents and skills, making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history, creating a dynamic, innovative environment where business thrives, and building a secure retirement savings plan.

The City of Vaughan welcomes the opportunity to continue working with the Federal and Provincial government, however requested, through the 2016/17 Budget process.

Attachment

1. Ontario News Release January 12, 2016: Province Seeking Public Input to Help Develop the 2016 Ontario Budget

Report prepared by:

Tim Simmonds, Chief of Corporate Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations
Laura Mirabella-Siddall, Chief Financial Officer, CPA

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)