

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2009

Item 1, Report No. 11, of the Budget Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 14, 2009.

1 BINDERTWINE TENNIS COURTS

The Budget Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Director of Reserves & Investments, dated December 14, 2009:

Recommendation

The Director of Reserves & Investments in consultation with the City Manager recommends:

That this report be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable

Economic Impact

This report as written has no economic impact on the Proposed 2010 Capital Budget.

Communications Plan

Not applicable

Purpose

This report is in response to Budget Committee direction of December 7, 2009 to report on potential opportunities to add funds to the Parks Infrastructure Reserve to fund the Bindertwine tennis courts.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Budget Committee at its meeting of December 7, 2009 recommended:

“That staff report on potential opportunities to add funds to the Parks Infrastructure Reserve to fund the Bindertwine tennis courts.”

The Parks Infrastructure Reserve is used for the funding of major park repair costs. The source of funding for this reserve is provided from an annual contribution in the amount of \$275,000 from the operating budget.

There are no other funding sources to finance this reserve other than an annual contribution from the operating budget.

Staff have also reviewed previously approved parks infrastructure reserve funded projects to determine if there are available surplus funds. Staff have identified approximately \$50,000 in available funding from completed and closed parks infrastructure reserve funded capital projects. A Council endorsed guideline is the requirement of funds to be on hand from the funding source prior to the approval of any proposed capital project. This project is currently below the proposed funding line. Even with this identified funding, there is insufficient funding available in the Parks Infrastructure Reserve to fund this project in the amount of \$235,000 in 2010.

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Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

The Parks Infrastructure Reserve is for the funding of major park repair costs. The only source of funding for the Parks Infrastructure Reserve has been provided from an annual contribution from the operating budget (taxation). Even with the identified surplus funding from completed and closed capital projects funded from the Parks Infrastructure Reserve, there is insufficient funds available in the Parks Infrastructure Reserve to fund this project in 2010.

Attachments

None

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Item 2, Report No. 11, of the Budget Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 14, 2009.

2 ANIMAL SERVICES SHELTER – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Budget Committee recommends that Option 2 contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and City Solicitor and the Director of Enforcement Services, dated December 14, 2009, be approved:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and City Solicitor and the Director of Enforcement Services, in conjunction with the Director of Reserves and Investments, and in consultation with the Director of Building and Facilities recommend:

1. That the report on Animal Services Shelter be received;
2. That staff request direction; and
3. That should direction be to proceed with this project that Building and Facilities retain a cost consultant to perform a review associated with the renovation costs to determine whether the renovation costs are reasonable.

Contribution to Sustainability

By locating the Animal Shelter in the City of Vaughan the public will not be required to drive to another municipality to recover or adopt a pet, therefore reducing automobile usage.

Economic Impact

The report as written has no economic impact. However, should Budget Committee choose option 1, \$309,000 will be added to the proposed 2010 Capital Budget. Option 2 will have impact on future capital budgets.

Communications Plan

As the shelter prepares to open, information will be provided on the City's website.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Budget Committee in order to assist the Budget Committee establishing an Animal Shelter in the City of Vaughan in 2010.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan, along with other adjacent municipalities, has been diligently searching for alternatives for animal services given known constraints and limited time horizon of the City's current service provider.

Over the past number of years municipalities have worked together in ad hoc committees, independently, and in focus groups. A consultant was retained by the Town of Richmond Hill to study and report on the preferred next steps in creating a joint animal shelter facility. The Town of Aurora, Township of King and the City of Vaughan were contributors to that study.

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Options explored included establishing a joint facility. Following the presentation of that report, it appeared that Richmond Hill preferred building their own animal shelter, and on October 22, 2007, Council directed that staff provide Richmond Hill with an Expression of Interest to purchase animal shelter services from them.

Ultimately, Richmond Hill backed away from their intention to create an animal shelter, opting for a service contract with the OSPCA.

Staff reviewed sites already owned by the City for a location to build a shelter. At that time, no suitable sites were available.

Staff was also directed to contact the Township of King to review opportunities to provide animal sheltering services for both municipalities. These discussions were not successful in locating a suitable location for a shared shelter.

Subsequently, Council, at its meeting of June 15, 2009 directed

“that staff explore options in existing City leased premises for the creation of an animal shelter facility in the City of Vaughan, including opportunities for the provision of animal services such as, dog grooming, pet supplies, and veterinary clinic...”

As a result of the direction above, staff began discussions with the owner of the property located at 70 Tigi Court. This location is currently the work site for several City departments pending the completion of the new Civic Centre.

Staff also, in an attempt to ensure fair market value for the creation of an animal shelter, had previously issued a Request for Expressions of Interest through the Purchasing Department. This process, RFEOI 09-164, closed without any suitable proponents.

Staff continued to work with the owners of 70 Tigi court. These discussions identified a 6,200 sq. ft. space that would be suitable for an animal shelter at the east end of the complex.

Design

Staff had discussions with the current Animal Control Contractor, the OSPCA, and Ministry of Agriculture, who administers the Animals for Research Act (legislation which provides the minimum specifications for an animal shelter) to ensure the designs for the new shelter met all legal requirements.

The design of the shelter needed to have sufficient capacity to deal with the large number of dogs and cats which are impounded annually. In 2008, 520 cats and 220 dogs were impounded from Vaughan.

There also needed to be facilities to deal with sick animals and quarantined animals separately from the strays and those available for adoption.

There will also be facilities for the public to attend the shelter and adopt animals, and for staff to work from.

Also important, due to the industrial location of this facility, was the creation of a place to exercise the dogs. As such, an indoor exercise area will be created to allow the animals to get some exercise time.

There is also a requirement for an air exchange unit, capable of 12 complete air changes per hour. It is expected that one unit will be suitable for this requirement.

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Costs

The cost estimates for the renovations of the proposed property at Tigi Court were initially estimated at \$350,000-\$400,000. This cost was arrived at using the estimates from 2006/2007 when a study on creating an animal shelter was conducted for Richmond Hill, King, and Vaughan.

The proposed 2010 Capital Budget includes Capital Projects By-2508-10 and BY-2509-10 for the Animal Shelter Services in the amount of \$412,000, funded \$274,600 Taxation and \$137,400 City Wide Development Charges – General Government. This project funding in the amount of \$412,000 is currently above the proposed funding line.

An estimate of the actual proposed work, which staff had been awaiting, was received late November 30th and indicates the cost for the renovations for the proposed facility \$824,000 (includes 3% admin.) or \$129 per square foot. The increase in renovation cost from the original 2007 estimate is in part due to new legislative requirements for air exchange units, and increases in the cost of building materials and trades to complete the work.

Staff have reviewed the plans for the new shelter to determine if the shelter could be made smaller to reduce the costs. A smaller shelter is not feasible, and would not significantly reduce the renovation costs, as the air exchange units, and other costly renovations would still be required. The renovation costs would likely be the same or higher depending on the location in need of renovation.

However, based on further discussions with the landlord, the costs of the required leasehold improvements for the animal shelter have been revised to \$721,000 (includes 3% admin) or \$113 per square foot, an increase of \$309,000 over the original estimate. The proposed funding for the additional costs in the amount of \$309,000 would be \$103,000 City Wide Development Charges – General Government and \$206,000 Taxation. Funding is available with the exception of Taxation.

The leasehold improvements will be completed by the landlord.

Building and Facilities staff have reviewed the proposed revised costs and advise that the renovation costs are reasonable as proposed. As the leasehold improvements will be completed by the landlord and for greater certainty on the costs, Building and Facilities staff recommend that a cost consultant be retained to review the proposed renovation costs to determine whether these costs are reasonable. The fees associated with this review can be funded from Capital Project EY-2508-10 Animal Shelter Services.

The \$90,000 cost for operating the facility, including rent, utilities and management contract will be within the 2010 Operating Budget amounts submitted. The ongoing costs will be dependent upon the results of the tendering process.

The management of animal control and the shelter will be circulated early in the New Year to allow enough time for any proponents to respond, and new contracts be developed.

Renovation Costs Funding Options

Option 1

Should Budget Committee wish to proceed with this project in 2010, the funding for the additional costs in the amount of \$309,000 (subject to cost consultant review) would be \$103,000 from City Wide Development Charges – General Government and \$206,000 from Taxation.

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Option 2

Should Budget Committee wish to proceed with this project in 2010, the landlord has agreed to a five year payment schedule at an interest rate of 6% on the additional costs (subject to cost consultant review) for the years 2011 to 2015. The monthly payment would be estimated \$5,800 (\$69,600 annually). Total financing costs for the five years is estimated at \$47,990. The proposed annual funding in each of the five years (2011 – 2015) is \$23,200 from City Wide Development Charges – General Government and \$46,400 Taxation.

Other Information

Discussions with the owner of 70 Tigi Court resulted in an agreement to provide the city with first right of refusal for the space immediately next to the animal shelter. This will provide potential future expansion of the shelter, or expansion into a pet grooming or veterinary facility.

King Township has provided the City a letter expressing their interest in exploring some type of agreement for animal space. King Township is also a customer of Kennel Inn Inc. and is in need of an animal control/shelter solution. Staffs have commenced preliminary discussions with King Twp., and it would appear as though a business arrangement is possible the objective would be to accommodate their needs within the existing plan.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

A viable animal shelter solution has been identified at 70 Tigi Court. This location can be operational by the end of August 2010. A potential “customer”, King Township, has been identified, which may offset some operating costs.

Should Budget Committee wish to proceed with this project in 2010, staff have provided two (2) funding options.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Tony Thompson, Director of Enforcement Services
Ferrucio Castellarin, Director of Reserves and Investments

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Item 3, Report No. 11, of the Budget Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 14, 2009.

**3 THORNHILL WOODS TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT
WARD 4**

The Budget Committee recommends:

- 1) That the pedestrian crossings in Thornhill Woods around the traffic circles as recommended in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works dated December 14, 2009, with enhanced signage at the subject locations, be approved; and
- 2) That staff provide with all future traffic calming requests an impact of future costs associated with the traffic calming works requested.

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That this report be received.

Contribution to Sustainability

The implementation of either the curb extensions and/or the relocation of the pedestrian crossing areas will improve the overall traffic safety and operations.

Economic Impact

This report, as written, has no economic impact. However, should Budget Committee wish to proceed with this project in 2010, \$90,000 funded from taxation will be added to the proposed 2010 Capital Budget. The on-going costs to maintain the signs and pavement markings would be incorporated in future year Operating Budgets.

Communications Plan

The residents will be notified of Council's final decision on this matter. Engineering Services staff will contact the external consultant to discuss further detail strategies regarding the proposed improvements.

Purpose

To incorporate operational improvements on Summeridge Drive and Autumn Hill Boulevard based on the findings of the external consultant's recommendations to be incorporated in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting on December 7, 2009, the Budget Committee requested;

“That Engineering staff review the Thornhill Woods Traffic Calming project and provide a report identifying those measures that need to be implemented in 2010.”

The traffic calming project was completed in early October 2009. City Staff received several resident complaints regarding the implementation of the traffic circles. There were two main concerns expressed by the residents:

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1. Drivers are not familiar with navigating through a traffic circle;
2. The safety of pedestrians crossing at these intersections.

The following traffic circles were installed.

On Autumn Hill Boulevard	@ Seurat Place/Shemer Drive
	@ Chopin Boulevard
	@ Schuster Lane
	@ Piedmont Drive
	@ Knightshade Drive

On Summeridge Drive	@ Bathurst Glen Drive
	@ Loire Valley Drive

The Engineering Services Department retained the services of Sernas Transtech to provide an operational review of the recently installed traffic calming measures on Autumn Hill Boulevard and Summeridge Drive, specifically the traffic circles. A meeting was held on November 9, 2009, with the Ward Councillor, Engineering Services staff and Sernas Transtech to discuss possible improvements for pedestrian safety and overall traffic operation.

Sernas Transtech submitted their report with possible proposals for improvements to the overall operation of the traffic circle and the safety of pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

Curb Extension Proposal

A curb extension has been proposed on the main streets approaching the traffic circles. The horizontal deflection will narrow the travel lane to assist with the vehicle speeds approaching the traffic circle. The estimated cost for all seven intersections is \$60,000.00.

Pedestrian Crossing Areas

The existing crossing areas have been proposed farther back from the intersection to be consistent with a traditional roundabout design. The original estimate for this work is approximately \$40,000.00. Based on staff's review, there is some flexibility to relocate the crossing areas closer to the intersection where the painted yield lines exist, which will provide additional protection to pedestrians. The revised estimated cost for the relocation of the crossing areas at all seven intersections is \$30,000.00.

The recommendations by Sernas Transtech do not address the issue with respect to drivers that do not yield the right-of-way at the traffic circles, as observed by staff and received through complaints by area residents.

The revised estimated value of these operational improvements is approximately \$90,000, funded from taxation. These works have not been included for consideration in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan 2020, the recommendations of this report will assist in:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery;
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness; and
- Lead and Promote to Environmental Sustainability.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

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Regional Implications

There are no Regional implications resulting from this report.

Conclusion

The revised estimated value of these operational improvements is approximately \$90,000, funded from taxation. These works have not been included for consideration in the 2010 Capital Budget.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Mike Dokman, Supervisor Traffic Engineering, ext. 3118
Jack Graziosi, Director of Engineering Services, ext 3101

MD:mc

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Item 4, Report No. 11, of the Budget Committee, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 14, 2009, as follows:

By congratulating staff and especially Finance staff and the members of the Budget Committee for the work in considering the draft budget and serious consideration of the requests from members of the public.

4

2010 ON-LINE BUDGET FORUM RESULTS

The Budget Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated December 14, 2009:

Recommendation

The City Manager in consultation with the Director of Budgeting & Financial Planning recommends:

That the following report be received for information purposes.

Contribution to Sustainability

Sustainability by definition focuses on the ability to maintain a function over a period of time. Responsible budgeting allocates resources in a responsible way to sustain the City's operations and aspirations, balancing both current and future requirements. The process of obtaining public input into the budget process is essential to validate the needs of the community and balance them within available resources. The 2010 budget approach seeks to minimize the current year requirements, while continuing to meet the requirements of the future.

Economic Impact

There are no direct implications of this report.

Communications Plan

Comments will be consolidated by Commissioner so they can be received and the comments considered in future planning and decision making within the Commission. Comments relating to other organizations or levels of government will be shared with them.

Purpose

The purpose of this item is to report on the input received from the On-line Public Budget Forum, held from November 23rd to December 6th 2009, and its impact on the overall forum results for the benefit of the members of the Budget Committee and Council.

Background – Analysis & Options

Engaging our Citizens

Public consultation and input is an important element of the 2010 budget process. On Monday November 16, 2009 the City hosted a budget forum to educate and inform the public and to receive public input into the 2010 budget process. A report on the results of the public budget forum was provided to Budget Committee on December 1st, 2009.

Recognizing that a number of residents would be unable to attend the Budget Forum and in the interest of obtaining maximum participation and feedback, a video of the Budget Forum

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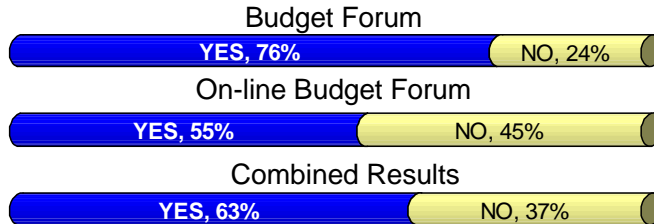
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presentation, a copy of the hand-out, and a brief survey based on the forum questions were made available on the City’s website for public consumption. The deadline to participate in the on-line survey was **December 6, 2009**. This event was promoted on the City’s website and through news releases and e-newsletters. The above event is consistent with the City’s current and prior year approved budget processes.

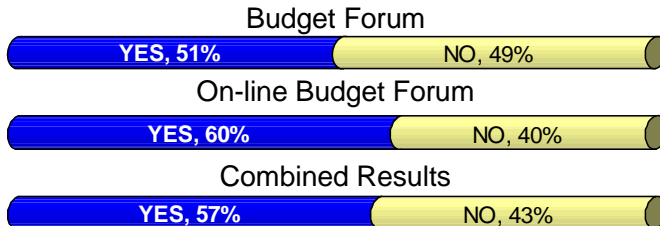
Forum Results & Community Feedback

Approximately 70 residents completed the on-line survey. Of the residents participating in the survey, the majority responded that Vaughan is focusing on the right improvements, taking the right approach, and providing the right local services. These results are reflective of the input received during the Budget Forum on November 16th. Illustrated below are the survey results for both the Budget Forum and the On-line Budget Forum. Also included, is a combined total reflecting all participant responses.

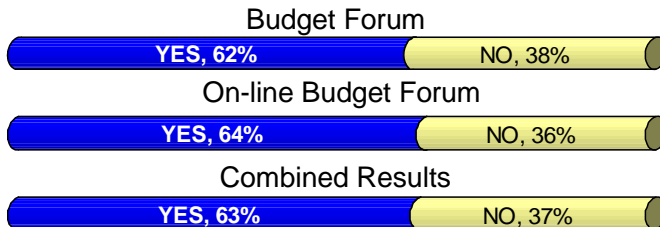
Is the City focusing on the right improvements?



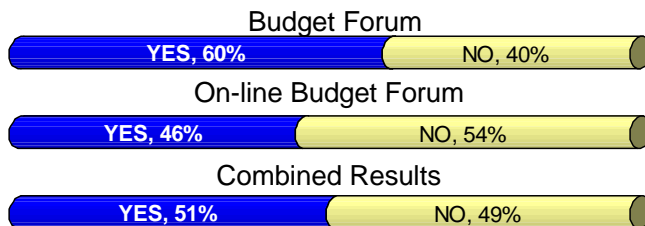
Is the City taking the right approach?



Are we providing the right local services?



Overall are you getting value for your local tax dollars?



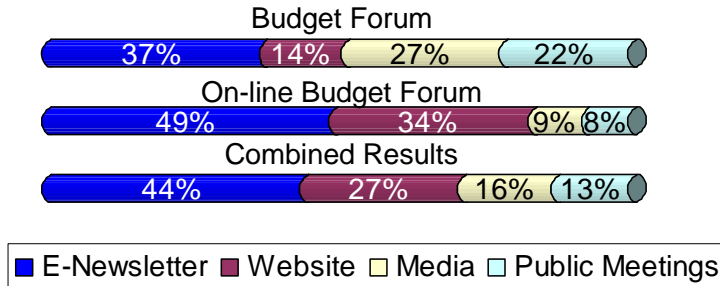
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In addition to the above, on-line participants were asked a final question to better understand which method of communication they found most effective. Similar to the Budget Forum results, the majority of the On-line Budget Forum respondents, almost 50%, preferred the electronic newsletter medium as the most effective communication method. Not surprisingly, given the environment of the on-line survey, the City’s website ranked second at 34%. Media coverage and public meetings ranked low at 9% and 8% respectively. These results will be useful in planning future events. Illustrated below are the survey results for both Budget Forum and the On-line Budget Forum. For reference purposes, a combined total reflecting all responses is included:

Which method of communication would you find more effective?



Resident

Comments

In addition, the On-line Budget Forum participants were encouraged to provide further comments if responses selected to the above questions were either “no” or “false”. Most respondents provided comments to one or more of the questions asked. Resident comments are organized by question and provided as *Attachment 1* for Budget Committee/Council consideration. Listed below are the main budget topics provided by residents through the On-line Budget Forum survey.

Reoccurring Themes (mentioned by more than one resident):

- Road conditions
- Traffic congestion
- City development and planning
- City cleanliness
- Job creation
- Many other general comments

Of particular interest are comments received that relate to services provided by the Region of York or Province of Ontario. Although, outside of the City’s area of responsibility, the majority of these comments largely focused on the following:

- Regional road network issues i.e. Dufferin, Rutherford, etc.
- Provincial road network issues related to Hwy 7 and 427
- Regional transit issues
- Provincial school board or hospital concerns

Public Engagement

Two-way communication is important. Many opportunities for public input have been and are continuing to be provided throughout the budget process using a mixture of public engagement activities. These are further expanded below.

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The Budget Process On-line

The City website is the City's primary communication vehicle. Recognizing that many residents have busy lives and are unable to attend the scheduled budget meetings, an effort was made to make each major step of the budget process available to the community on the City's web-site. Listed below are items posted on the City's Website:

- Summer 2009 - Budget guidelines and timetable with a request for comments on whether the City is taking the right approach.
- On-going - Budget Committee meeting dates, items and extracts
- November 2009 - Budget Forum and feedback survey
- December 2009 - Vaughan Chamber of Commerce presentation
- January - Special Council presentation and final approved budget (This meeting is scheduled for January 18th, 2010)

Chamber of Commerce Event

A draft budget overview was presented to the Chamber of Commerce by the Budget Chair/City Manager to inform and engage Chamber members. This event was held on December 4th, 2009.

Budget Committee Meetings

Throughout the budget process, scheduled Budget Committee meetings were open to the public. A number of Vaughan residents attended these meetings and provided their input into the process through deputations and discussion. These meetings were held on the following dates:

Scheduled Budget Committee Meetings

- Nov. 3 9:00 – 11:30
- Nov. 10 9:00 – 11:30
- Dec. 1 9:00 – 10:30
- Dec. 7 9:00 – 11:30
- Dec. 14 11:00 – 1:00

In addition, the City of Vaughan is undertaking a number of strategic initiatives, which incorporate significant public engagement. Although separate processes, public feedback obtained through these events have migrated into recommendations and the budget decision-making process.

Special Council – Final Public Input Meeting Before Adopting the Budget

In addition to the Budget Committee meetings and budget forum, there is a final opportunity for the public to provide input at a Special Council meeting scheduled before the budget is approved. This meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2010. To ensure citizens are aware of this event public notification consistent with the City's public notification by-law will be provided.

Communicating to the Community

The City will be communicating key messages on the budget through various communication vehicles. They will be used to inform residents, businesses and the media on budget developments, successes, and key highlights.

Editorial coverage – The budget process will be featured in several stories for publication, including Council columns in local newspapers. As the budget process unfolds, editorials and updates will be added to the City's website to keep the public informed.

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E-newsletter – The corporate e-newsletter list, with its current circulation of approximately 6,000, will be used to issue e-blasts or bulletins on budget successes and developments. E-newsletter content may also be included in newsletters from Council.

Media Relations - The media will be informed of any related events through media advisories and news releases will be issued for all major milestones of the budget process.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020 / Strategic Plan

The process of obtaining public input into the budget process is critical. The budget process is where Council allocates resources and establishes priorities to achieve its vision.

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications as a result of this report.

Conclusion

As part of the City's 2010 budget process and consistent with the previous year's process, a Budget Forum was held to educate and inform the public and to receive public input into the 2010 budget process. To obtain maximum community feedback a video of the public forum and a survey, based on the budget forum interactive questions, were created and posted on the City's website.

The Budget Forums were open to all citizens and the intent was to get feedback with respect to the services provided by the City and whether or not residents believe they are getting value for their property tax dollar. Citizens were engaged through the use of audience response technology, on-line survey and deputations. Overall, the majority of residents participating in the events responded that:

- Vaughan is focusing on the right improvements
- Vaughan is taking the right approach
- Vaughan is providing the right local services
- Residents are getting value for their tax dollars

The resident feedback indicates a high degree of satisfaction with the City's operations and the efforts of Council and staff. However, there were a number of resident comments provided for Budget Committee and Council consideration. These are provided in the enclosed attachment.

Attachments

Attachment 1– 2010 On-line Budget Forum Resident Comments

Report prepared by

John Henry, CMA,
Director of Budgeting & Financial Planning
Ext. 8348

(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.)