

**POST BUDGET APPROVALS**

**Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services recommends:

That this report be received for information purposes.

**Economic Impact**

There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

**Purpose**

To address Council request for staff to report on the resolution for post budget approvals.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council at its meeting directed staff to report on the following resolution:

“Whereas each year a number of worthwhile capital projects are not approved by Council due to finite capital resources;

Whereas the projected costs of approved capital projects in any given year may exceed the actual costs of those projects, particularly in respect of projects tendered on a competitive bid basis; and

Whereas such surpluses from the aforementioned approved capital projects may be realized well before the end of the fiscal year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That as part of the annual capital budget approval process, Council will identify five unapproved capital projects as potential “post-budget approval” projects;

That no more than one project will be identified from each of the five wards;

That the priority ranking of these five projects will be established randomly, as by lots drawn by the Clerk or his/her deputy in the presence of Council; and

That the “post-budget” approval(s) of one (or more) of these projects will depend upon the identification of confirmed surpluses by the Commissioner of Finance in respect of one or more approved capital projects, subject to confirmation by Council.”

**Staff Comments**

The practical implementation of this resolution presents a number of difficulties. These issues are summarized as follows:

1. Project surpluses are often required throughout the year for approved projects which require additional funds;
2. Many projects have multiple funding sources and therefore the process of identifying projects and surpluses is complex;

3. Using surpluses in this manner restricts funding that may be required for emergency works that require funding during the year;
4. The resolution ignores the importance of corporate projects and those projects that are not Ward related;
5. At any point in time there is a significant amount of prior year's capital work approved but outstanding. This is in addition to new capital projects which may be approved as part of the annual budget process. Therefore it is unlikely that any additional projects that are approved throughout the year would actually get started prior to the next budget cycle.

Considering the above issues, staff do not recommend adopting the resolution.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

Not applicable.

**Conclusion**

Staff do not recommend proceeding with the resolution.

**Attachments**

None

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton D. Harris, CA  
Commissioner of Finance & Corporate Services