

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – OCTOBER 11, 2005

ENHANCING SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

Recommendation:

Councillor Carella recommends that the Clerks Department be directed to ensure that the agenda for Committee of the Whole (Public Hearings) be available in “hard copy” and posted on the city’s website no later than the close of municipal business on the Thursday immediately preceding meetings of the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearings)

Economic Impact:

Nil.

Purpose:

To ensure that members of the public have access to the agenda of the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) one full business day in advance of the date of the scheduled meetings of the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing)

Background – Analysis and Options:

At present, agenda for the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearing) are available as late as the afternoon of the Friday preceding the regularly scheduled meetings of the committee, usually the first and third Monday evenings of each month. This permits the public only one business day to review the agenda, that day being the same as the date of the meeting.

The practice with respect to the same agenda in two other York Region municipalities was investigated and it was determine that in the case of the Town of Markham, public hearings are held on Tuesdays, with agenda available the previous Friday, reflecting the standard which is embodied in this report. In the case of the Town of Richmond Hill, public hearings are held on Wednesdays, with agenda available the previous Friday, one more day than proposed in this recommendation.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007:

This report is consistent with priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that the public receive timelier notice of the agenda of meetings of the Committee of the Whole (Public Hearings) by increasing by one business day the time available to the public for review of such agenda.

Attachments:

Information from staff of the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted.
Councillor Tony Carella

Legislated Public Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (this is adjusted at times to accommodate holidays). Agendas are available to the public both in hard copy and on the website on Friday afternoon prior to the meeting.

Pat Miller,
Manager, Secretariat Services
Town of Markham

Council Public Hearings are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (except for July and August and when holidays preclude it). Council Public Hearing agendas are currently available the Friday of the week before the meeting both for pick up and on the web. Please note however, that staff reports for Council Public Meetings are not yet available on the web, merely the list of items that will be considered.

Lise Conde,
Assistant Clerk
Town of Richmond Hill