

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 1, Report No. 4, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 5, 2009.

1

2009 SMOG SUMMIT, JUNE 3, 2009

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Director of Economic Development, dated April 14, 2009:

Recommendation

The Director of Economic Development recommends that:

1. This report be received; and
2. The completion and adoption of the Community Sustainability and Environmental Master Plan (CSEMP) be announced at the 2009 Smog Summit.

Economic Impact

There are no economic impacts resulting from the receipt of this report.

Communications Plan

On approval of this report, the Corporate Communications Department will prepare a media advisory on the City's involvement in Smog Summit to be issued on the day of the Summit.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Environment Committee on draft strategy for the 2009 Smog Summit and suggest potential items to be announced at the 2009 Smog Summit.

Background - Analysis and Options

2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the Smog Summit. The City of Vaughan has been showcasing new environmental initiatives and participating in the Smog Summit since 2004. This year's event will take place on Wednesday, June 3rd at Toronto City Hall and will include a municipal leaders roundtable, leadership awards and a best practices exchange. A draft of the 2009 Smog Summit Agenda and the Declaration are attached.

According to the Smog Summit protocol, the announcement must pertain to an initiative that is to be undertaken starting in the coming year (roughly between June 2009 – June 2010) that has a staff and budget allocation and ideally, will have measurable results.

The Clean Air Council has indicated there are four categories of announcements:

- Transportation Announcements
- Clean Air and Climate Change Planning Announcements
- Urban Form and Land Use Announcements
- Energy Announcements

It is recommended that the completion and adoption of the CSEMP be announced at the 2009 Smog Summit under the Clean Air and Climate Change Planning category. The CSEMP is an important initiative for Vaughan as it represents the first formalized environmental policies in the City's history, with vast impacts across a broad spectrum of sustainability issues.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 1, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 2

Similar to the 2008 Smog Summit, announcements will be video-recorded beforehand and played during the Summit. As the official launch of the CSEMP will occur on April 21st, arrangements will be made to tape the City of Vaughan Smog Summit announcement on this day, taking advantage of the launch to gather additional footage.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The 2009 Smog Summit is an excellent opportunity for the City to announce new programs that have a direct impact on air quality. It is recommended that the Environment Committee select the CSEMP as its initiative.

Attachments

1. Draft 2009 Smog Summit Agenda & Strategy
2. Draft 2009 Smog Summit Declaration

Report prepared by:

Rebekah McGurran, Economic Developer – Environmental Sector

(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.)

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Report No. 4, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 5, 2009.

2 PROMOTION OF MUNICIPAL TAP WATER IN CITY FACILITIES

The Environment Committee recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, and the Commissioner of Community Services, dated April 14, 2009:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, and the Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Senior Management Team recommend that:

1.
 - i. As the City has received a 100.0% rating in the recent inspection of the City's drinking water systems by the Ministry of the Environment, municipal tap water is to be promoted as a safe and economical means of obtaining drinking water;
 - ii. Unflavoured bottled water no longer be sold in any City owned community centre upon the expiration of contract RFP07-050 on August 31, 2010;
 - iii. Upon the opening of the new Civic Centre cafeteria, unflavoured bottled water not be sold in the new Civic Centre;
 - iv. The Building & Facilities Department continue with their ongoing program of installing refrigerated drinking fountains, complete with water bottle filling spouts, in all municipal buildings to promote the consumption of municipal tap water;
 - iv. The use of the stand-alone water coolers that are not connected to a municipal water supply, be removed from all municipal buildings no later than June 1, 2009, unless potable water is not available in that particular building; and,
 - iv. That all City employees be provided with a stainless steel refillable water bottle to promote the consumption of municipal tap water, funded through reduced operating budget expenditures for contracted bottled water supply.

2.
Council adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the municipalities across Ontario are in the business of supplying safe, tested, and economical drinking water to its residents and businesses; and,

Whereas the cost for bottled water can be 240 – 3,000 times the price of municipal tap water; and,

Whereas approximately 40% of all single use plastic water bottles end up in landfill, and are not recycled through blue box programs; and

Whereas a significant amount of roadside litter is often found to be single use plastic bottles; and

Whereas the fossil fuels used to generate the millions of single use plastic bottles has significant environmental and resource depletion impacts; and

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 2

Whereas the Province has already set a precedent by requiring a deposit return system be implemented for glass wine and spirit bottles;

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. The Province of Ontario be formally requested to require all manufacturers and producers of products using single use polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and other types of plastic bottles, to implement a deposit return system for all such products;

2. That upon the implementation of such a deposit return system, the Province amend Regulation 101/94 such that single use (PET), and other types of single use plastic bottles, be specifically identified as a product that is not required to be collected in municipal blue box collection programs in Ontario;

3. That the City Clerk circulate this resolution through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), seeking their support for such a deposit return system to be implemented.

4. That such a deposit return system be implemented no later than January 1, 2011.

Economic Impact

With the removal of selling unflavoured bottled water in community centres, the economic impact to the Recreation and Culture operating budget could be approximately \$30,000 per year, recognizing that 13.8% of sales and 19.3% of gross profit currently comes from the sale of unflavoured bottled water via contract RFP07-50 for vending machines and concession services.

As a new contract for the supply of cafeteria services for the new Civic Centre will be put out for tender, the economic impact on banning bottled water from the Civic Centre once it is opened cannot be determined at this time.

Currently, the City spends approximately \$12,000 per year for the supply of contracted refrigerated water coolers and large water bottles. The cost of supplying each employee with a stainless steel refillable water bottle is estimated to cost \$6,000. As such, there is a net positive budget impact in the first year, with ongoing savings in each and every year afterwards.

Communications Plan

Public education is necessary to promote tap water as a safe and economical source of drinking water, as there is a popular misconception that bottled water is of higher quality, and has no environmental impact since the bottle can be recycled. The communications strategy would need to be coordinated through Corporate Communications and include the City's web site, information to schools, community centres, and libraries.

Vending and Concession Service contractors will be advised through a Request for Proposal (RFP) expected to be issued in July 2010 for the provision of services in community centres.

With the provision of refillable drinking water bottles to employees, an educational component will be produced outlining the advantages of consuming municipal tap water, as well as outline the negative environmental impacts associated with bottled water.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide information with respect to the promotion of municipal tap water as a safe and economical means of obtaining drinking water

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 3

- outline a plan whereby the sale of unflavoured bottled water in City facilities is eliminated
- request the Province of Ontario to implement a deposit return system for single use plastic containers.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of September 8, 2008, Council agreed to cease the use of single serving plastic water bottles at all meetings sponsored by the City.

The initial report brought forward by Councillor Shefman recommended, in part, that the City cease the sale of single use plastic water bottles in all City-run buildings, arenas, and community centres. The report also required staff to:

- “Report to the Environment Committee, addressing the concerns raised by Members of Council with respect to the economic impact and communications strategy” (as a result of eliminating the sales of bottled water in all City of Vaughan buildings);
- “Report back to the Environmental Committee on the potential for seeking provincial support to impose a deposit on single use plastic bottles.”;
- “Report back to the Environment Committee on the implementation plan for this recommendation and that an implementation schedule be established that will put this recommendation into full operation no later than December 31, 2009.”; and,
- “Report back on a public awareness strategy relating to this recommendation by October 2008”

This report is designed to report back on those requests, as well as provide additional information with respect to bottled water in general, and the promotion of municipal tap water.

Bottled Water

Nearly one third of all Canadian households are choosing bottled water over municipal tap water and the data indicates the numbers are on the rise (Statistics Canada 2008). Dispelling misconceptions and stating the environmental and economic case against bottled water clearly is important in light of this disturbing trend.

There is resistance to bans from the Bottled Water Association, so it is necessary to be able to respond to bottled water claims with facts. Municipally supplied tap water in Vaughan is of very high quality. As the retailer and supplier of water, it is important to encourage the residents to consider the benefits of using tap water as much as possible.

Those benefits include:

1. **Price** - Tap water is significantly cheaper. It costs about 1/8th of a cent for a litre of Vaughan’s tap water. Bottled water may range from \$0.30 to \$4.00 per litre. Prices for bottled water will vary substantially due to sales, discounts and location. Based on the above range, bottled water is 240 to 3,000 times more expensive than water from the tap.
2. **Tap water has a much lower environmental impact.** Among the most significant concerns about bottled water, are the resources (energy and water) required to produce the plastic bottles and to deliver filled bottles to consumers. The Pacific Institute estimates that if you fill a one litre bottle of bottled water one quarter full of oil, you have illustrated the energy embedded (production and recycling) in the use of that bottle. It

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 4

also estimates that three litres of water are required for every bottle of bottled water produced. Further, the bottled water industry relies on trucks to transport the products to the final markets. This use of fossil fuels contributes to greenhouse gases and global warming.

3. **Tap water is subjected to a broader range of quality standards.** A glass of drinking water is tested and safeguarded to a much more rigid standard than bottled drinking water bought in stores. More than 130 organic and inorganic parameters are routinely tested to safeguard the quality of the municipal drinking water system. It is important to recognize that bottled water is not regulated to the same standards as municipally supplied tap water.
4. **Tap water creates value for Vaughan residents in many other ways.** Beyond the high quality needed to meet drinking water standards, Vaughan residents receive additional value for their investment such as a water supply system that is reliable with standby pumping and emergency storage provided; piping and hydrant systems that increase fire safety in the community; connections to the Great Lakes ensures an abundant supply and delivery ; and the convenience of the water supply system ensures such quality of life functions as cooking, bathing, sanitation and irrigation, plus essential inputs into the industrial sector.
5. **Tap water does not generally create an empty container that needs to be recycled.** Recycling is good for the environment, but it is more important to recognize that if you do not have the container in the first place, you do not have to pay to have it recycled. The cost of managing single-use plastic bottles along with other recyclable materials in the Blue Box program, after material revenue has been removed is currently paid in part by industry stewards, with the majority of the costs paid by Vaughan taxpayers. When the single-use plastic bottles and other recyclable materials are sent to landfill, industry stewards (e.g. the Canadian Bottled Water Association) do not pay any of the costs. It is important to note that in a letter to the City of Vaughan dated December 3, 2008, the President of Nestle Waters Canada, Gail Cosman, has indicated that, "On average, about 60 percent of plastic water bottles are recovered through municipal recycling programs." That leaves 40% of these bottles being sent to landfill that others must pay the cost of.
6. **Tap water does not generally create an empty container that all too often ends up as litter or directly in a garbage container.** Although single-use bottles are easily recycled in the City's recycling program, a significant percentage tend to end up in the garbage stream and are ultimately delivered to landfill. Many also contribute to a growing litter problem.

Testing of Tap Water

City of Vaughan Public Works staff take over 1,700 samples of municipal tap water per year for chemical analysis and to confirm that the quality of water meets the requirements contained in the Safe Drinking Water Act. This is over and above the thousands of samples taken by Toronto, York Region, and Peel Region before their water reaches the City of Vaughan. In addition to the above, over 300 additional samples are taken in Vaughan and tested for lead. All of the samples are taken by trained, and licenced Public Works Water Distribution staff, and are taken to a laboratory that has been accredited by the Ministry of Environment to perform water sample analysis.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment recently completed its annual inspection on the Vaughan Water Distribution System and the Kleinburg Water Distribution System, and gave the City of Vaughan a perfect score of 100.0% for each of these distribution systems. Similar audits and inspections are not in place for bottled water companies.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 5

Definitions of Bottled Water

The target of the ban is bottles that contain a product that is similar to municipal tap water. The Canadian Bottled Water Association (CBWA) indicates that “Bottled water cannot contain sweeteners or chemical additives and must be calorie and sugar free.”

The CBWA offers the following definitions of water that is routinely bottled and is the focus of the Vaughan proposal:

- *Spring Water* - According to the current federal food regulations, spring water is potable water that comes from any underground source but not from a public community water supply. The spring water collected and bottled is considered natural water and must have all the same properties and be of the same composition and quality as the water underground. Normally, spring water is expected to contain fewer than 500 parts per million (ppm) of total dissolved solids (minerals).
- *Mineral Water* - Respects the same definition as spring water except that it is normally expected to contain more than 500 ppm of dissolved solids.
- *Purified Drinking Water* - Bottled water that has been produced by distillation, deionisation or reverse osmosis. The water can come from a spring, or a public community water supply. Other suitable terms for bottled water produced by one of the above processes include “distilled water,” “deionised water,” and “reverse osmosis water.” These waters have no added minerals.
- *Carbonated Bottled Water* - Bottled water that contains natural or added carbonation. Soda water, seltzer water and tonic water are considered soft drinks, not bottled waters.”

Eliminating the Sale of Bottled Water in Community Centres

At the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 8, 2009, Mr. Joe Aiello representing Fontana Gardens Express, made a deputation expressing his concerns over the removal of bottled water sales at community centres. He cited that his contractual obligations were based on the inclusion of bottled water sales and that the proposed removal of these products will adversely affect his business and ability to meet the contractual obligations.

The Recreation and Culture Department has a contract (RFP07-050) with Fontana Gardens Express for the provision of vending machines and concession services at its community centres. The term of the contract expires August 31, 2010, with an option to renew on an annual basis for two, one year terms, at the discretion of the City.

Recreation and Culture staff met with Mr. Aiello and determined that eliminating the sale of unflavoured bottled water, would result in a potential loss of \$30,000 to the Recreation and Culture operating budget, recognizing that 13.8% of sales and 19.3% of gross profit currently comes from the sale of unflavoured bottled.

In consultation with the Purchasing Department, it is recommended that the current contract be allowed to expire prior to eliminating the sale of unflavoured bottled water from community centres.

Once the recommendation to eliminate the sale of unflavoured bottled water be approved, it does not mean that bottled water would be prohibited in any of the City's facilities. Rather, the City would no longer be in the business of selling unflavoured bottled water in its community centres.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 6

Making Tap Water More Available In Municipal Buildings

To promote the use of municipal water for drinking purposes, the City's Building & Facilities Department has already installed 10 water bottle filling stations in the following locations/facilities:

Civic Centre (2),
Joint Operations Centre,
Woodbridge Yard,
Concord Seniors,
Beaverbrook House,
Al Palladini Community Centre, Maple Community Centre,
Garnet A. Williams Community Centre,
Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre and
MNR Building A.

These units use municipal tap water as the source, and this water is cooled prior to dispensing.

Since the installation of these units in the buildings, there appears to be a significant number of staff who are using refillable water bottles at their desks. The balance of the facilities are currently underway with retrofitting of the fountains to this type, and all new facilities will be equipped with these as a standard.

Stand Alone Large Bottled Water Dispensers/Coolers

Throughout various work areas in the Civic Centre and off-site locations, there are a number of stand alone bottled water dispensers/coolers. These units also cool the water, but they use the large 18-20 litre bottles for water supply. At some off-site locations and work sites, potable water is not always available, and as such, these units are acceptable in those circumstances. However, potable water is available in the Civic Centre, Tigi Court, JOC, and other sites where there are a number of these units in operation.

Given that the City is in the business of retailing and distributing tap water to its businesses and residents, the continued use of these bottled water dispensing units in unwarranted work locations not only sends the wrong message to the public, but to staff as well. Therefore, it is recommended that all units in unwarranted locations be removed no later than June 1, 2009.

Promotion By Example - Provision of Refillable Stainless Steel Water Bottles to Staff

At the same time that the stand alone water coolers are removed, it is recommended that each full-time and permanent part-time City employee be provided with a stainless steel refillable drinking water bottle to promote the use and consumption of municipal tap water. In this way, employees can refill their bottle with municipally supplied tap water from either the drinking fountains in their buildings, or from the taps in the kitchenettes. Providing stainless steel refillable drinking water bottles to staff is not just symbolic in nature. It also will result in savings to the corporation by not paying for the rental and supply of the above noted stand alone bottled water dispensers. The estimated cost to supply these to staff is approximately \$6,000. This is based on supplying all full-time and permanent part-time staff, including Vaughan Fire Rescue Services, but does not include Library, Seasonal, Temporary, or Recreation summer students. The initial purchase of these containers could be funded from reduced operating budget expenditures in less than one year.

Provision of Tap Water In Municipal Parks

At the same Committee meeting, the matter was raised about fountains in municipal parks. Obtaining drinking water in parks can be an issue. Stand alone fountains in parks normally do not

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 7

have enough water turn over in the supply pipes to ensure that the water will meet the Province's quality standards 100% of the time. As such, many fountains in City parks have been removed, or are no longer operational. However, this issue has been addressed to a certain extent by providing water fountains in parks where there is a permanent building situated, and there is enough turn over in the pipes to that building to ensure that the drinking water at the fountain will meet the Provincially mandated drinking water quality standards. Due to the potential risk of the water not meeting the standards 100% of the time, staff do not support placing any previously disconnected water fountains back into service.

Deposit on Single Use Water Bottles

Council directed staff to investigate the potential for seeking provincial support to impose a deposit on single use water bottles.

The Province has been requested by numerous municipalities, numerous times, to implement a deposit return system for certain blue box materials. In all cases, the Province has rejected the concept of implementing a deposit return. Instead, the Province promotes blue box recycling as a means of collecting these materials.

In 1999, the Province set up the Waste Diversion Organization (WDO), as the group that supports Blue Box and other waste diversion programs, and deals with ensuring product producers pay a share of the costs for municipal recycling programs. This organization was established with members coming from provincial government, municipalities, and industry. Given the Province's past stand on implementing a deposit on such blue box materials, there appears to be little opportunity for such a request to be successful.

Notwithstanding the above, the Province has since set a precedent by implementing a deposit return system for wine and spirit containers. Given the significant negative environmental impacts that such single use plastic containers have, a deposit return system for these types of containers should be implemented. Such a system would significantly improve recovery rates, as well as reduce roadside litter issues. Once such a system is implemented, the province should also revisit Regulation 101/94, as amended by Regulation 107/07, to identify and remove such items from the list of materials required to be collected by municipalities in their blue box programs. Accordingly, a resolution has been provided for Council's consideration.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and relates to Vaughan Vision 2020's Goal of "Service Excellence", and the Objective of "Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability".

Regional Implications

The Region of York is the wholesaler of water to the City. As such, they also promote municipal tap water as being a safe and economical means of providing drinking water.

Conclusion

One of the primary goals of Vaughan Vision 2020 is for the City to lead and promote environmental sustainability. Eliminating the sale of bottled water in City facilities, along with the provision of refillable water bottles to each employee, is a responsible initiative in pursuit of that goal.

Corporate Communications, along with Public Works, would develop a communications awareness strategy to inform staff and the public of this and other initiatives the City is taking to promote the use of municipal tap water, and reducing materials going to landfill. Such a strategy

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 2, Environment Report No. 4 – Page 8

would include, but not be limited to, provision of refillable water bottles, media/press releases, photo opportunities, postings to the City's web pages, information provided to schools, community centres, and libraries, and the circulation of the proposed resolution.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech, Director of Public Works ext 6116
Mary Reali, Director of Recreation and Culture ext 8234
Jeff Peyton, Director of Building and Facilities ext 6173

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 3, Report No. 4, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 5, 2009.

**3 UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
 DRAFT PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND PLANS FOR THE APRIL 21, 2009 LAUNCH EVENT**

The Environment Committee recommends that the verbal reports of the Manager of Corporate Policy and the Manager of Corporate Communications, be received.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2009

Item 4, Report No. 4, of the Environment Committee, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 5, 2009.

4

**PRESENTATION – MR. KEITH DAVID BENJAMIN,
WATCHORN ARCHITECT INC./BTW GROUP, WITH RESPECT TO
ASPEN RIDGE RESIDENTIAL HOME PROJECT
INCORPORATING PASSIVE ENERGY PRINCIPLES**

The Environment Committee recommends that the presentation by Mr. Keith David Benjamin, Associate and Director of Architecture, Watchorn Architect Inc./MBTW Group, 255 Wicksteed Ave., Unit 1A, Toronto, M4H 1G8, be received.