

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2012

Item 1, Report No. 32, of the Special Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on August 1, 2012.

1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT

The Special Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer, dated August 1, 2012:

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Finance & City Treasurer, in consultation with the City Manager and Senior Management Team, recommends:

1. That the attached list of prioritized projects (Attachment #1) be endorsed by Council for submission to the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund grant program; and
2. That the list of prioritized projects be forwarded to the local Members of Parliament.

Economic Impact

This report as written has no economic impact. However, if any projects that are submitted are approved, municipal two thirds co-funding will be required and appropriate funding must be approved. The proposed funding is illustrated on Attachment #2 – Detailed List of Projects.

Contribution to Sustainability

Not applicable

Communications Plan

Communication, including news releases and the City website, will take place when the City receives approval for projects from FedDev Ontario.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is provide Committee with a list of potential capital projects meeting the criteria of the recently announced Community Infrastructure Investment Fund grant program.

Background – Analysis and Options

On July 5, 2012, the Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario launched the Ontario allocation of the Community Infrastructure Investment Fund (CIIF). The Fund will provide \$49.6 million over two years for the repair and upgrade of community and recreational facilities across Ontario. The CIIF may provide up to 50% grant funding for eligible projects, but will give priority to projects that require a CIIF contribution of only 33.3%.

The CIIF program of \$150 million (\$49.6 million for Ontario) is small in comparison to the \$4 Billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) announced in 2009, therefore it is expected that project applications receiving approval will be very selective. The guidelines do not set out any maximum amounts that may be approved to any one municipality, other than indicating that the maximum per project would be \$1 million. In 2009, the City received approval for projects totalling approximately \$30 million from the ISF fund. Based on the City's proportionate share of the ISF funds, and the City's relative percentage of Ontario's population, an equivalent grant would range between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Also worth noting is that the CIIF grant will cover 33.3 to 50% of project costs, whereas the ISF grant covered 67% of the project costs.

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The CIIF Guidelines are attached and provide detailed information regarding eligibility criteria etc. In summary, eligible projects must be for the rehabilitation or improvement, including expansion of up to 50%, of existing community infrastructure that is non-commercial in nature. The projects must be substantially completed by March 31, 2014. Eligible project categories are as follows:

- Community centres
- Cultural centres
- Parks & recreational trails
- Recreational facilities
- Tourism facilities
- Docks
- Other community infrastructure

Over the past several years, the City has been developing multi-year financial plans, and annual budgets have been presented to Council on that basis. In 2012, the budget included capital projects for 2012 and 2013. Staff reviewed the 2013 and 2014 capital plans submitted to Council as part of the 2012 Budget process to identify priority projects that may be eligible. The total 2012 approved capital budget was \$49.3 million, and a 2013 capital plan totalling \$41.9 million was recognized. Projects totalling \$110 million that were submitted for 2012 or 2013 were deferred to 2014 and beyond, due to lack of funding.

Given these funding challenges, the additional criteria were used by staff in submitting and evaluating potential projects:

- Mitigate future taxation funding impact
- Focus on infrastructure replacement and renewal
- Projects that are included in the City's existing capital plans

These internal criteria are similar to those used for the recent ISF grant program and help to focus the CIIF grant opportunity on mitigating already existing funding challenges. The benefits of multi-year capital projects is apparent, as capital project sheets have already been prepared, costs have been estimated, project descriptions have been documented and Council has had the opportunity for a preliminary review through the 2012 budget discussions.

Council Members have forwarded some suggestions for potential projects. The suggested projects were cross referenced to the CIIF Guidelines and the City's internal criteria. Projects meeting the criteria have been included in the priority listing.

Staff have recommended the attached Prioritized List of Projects as staff's review of the CIIF Guidelines indicates that these projects are eligible for the grant, can be substantially completed by March 31, 2014 and are within the City's multi-year capital plan, but not approved or funded.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

Not applicable

Regional Implications

No Implications

Conclusion

Staff recommend that the attached list of projects be endorsed by Council and applications be submitted for CIIF grant consideration.

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Attachments

- Attachment #1 – Prioritized List of Projects
- Attachment #2 – Detailed List of Projects by Category
- Attachment #3 – Project Summaries
- Attachment #4 – Council Suggestions
- Attachment #5 – CIIF Guidelines

(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.)