HIGHLIGHTS: Barrie City Council meeting

Monday, June 24, 2019

Awards and Recognition

City Council recognized Rutherford Contracting for receiving the Ontario General Contractors Association’s Ontario Builders Award for the construction of Memorial Square and Meridian Place in downtown Barrie.

Memorial Square was significantly increased in size to accommodate larger ceremonies, such as Remembrance Day, and the cenotaph was relocated to make it the central focus of the square.

Meridian Place accommodates large events, showcases local talent and helps connect the downtown to Barrie’s waterfront.

Jean-Maurice Pigeon, Gary Miner and Phil George were recognized by Barrie City Council as recipients of the Governor General of Canada Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers.

This medal recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers.

Motions (from June 17, 2019)

Development Charge Credit Agreement - Mapleview sanitary sewer project

Barrie City Council gave final approval to a motion authorizing the completion and execution of a Development Charge (DC) Credit Agreement with the Hewitt’s Landowner Group. The DC credits will be given to the landowners in exchange for their completion of this project - construction of a sanitary sewer along Mapleview Drive East from the Hewitt’s trunk sewer to the eastern limits of the Bulut property. This $2-million project will be completed at the same time as the Mapleview transmission watermain, which is being completed by both the Salem and Hewitt’s landowner groups.

Development Charge Credit Agreement - Mapleview transmission watermain project

The completion and execution of a Development Charge (DC) Credit Agreement with the Hewitt’s and Salem landowners groups was given final approval by City Council. DC credits will be given to the landowners in exchange for their completion of the construction of a transmission watermain along Mapleview Drive East from Royal Jubilee Drive to Yonge Street in Barrie, at a cost of $3.37 million. This project will be completed at the same time as the construction of a sanitary sewer along Mapleview Drive East from the Hewitt’s trunk sewer to the eastern limits of the Bulut property.

Provincial Government - Audit and Accountability Fund

Council gave final approval to a motion to have City staff apply for provincial funding, from Ontario’s Audit and Accountability Fund, in support of a third party review of the City’s service delivery and modernization opportunities. As part of the expected matching funding by the province for this program, $75,000 will be set aside from Barrie’s strategic priorities reserve.
The $7.35-million Audit and Accountability Fund is a provincial initiative to help Ontario municipalities search for efficiencies and better ways than raising property taxes to balance their budgets.

The City of Barrie does ongoing work finding efficiencies through service reviews and innovation.

**No parking restrictions - Windsor Crescent**

A motion to change the No Parking Anytime schedule in Barrie’s Traffic Bylaw for a stretch of Windsor Crescent was given final approval by Barrie City Council. The north side of the south leg of Windsor Crescent from a point 140 metres east of Birchall Place to a point 56 metres north and east would be added to the schedule, and no parking signs would be located there.

**Motions (from June 24, 2019)**

**City industrial land sale, 44 Hooper Rd. (Ward 8)**

Council gave final approval to a motion to list 44 Hooper Rd. with a realtor and sell it on the open market without the City’s standards and conditions for industrial property, such as construction requirements and buy-back provisions. This is the City’s last remaining parcel of industrial land, 2.5 acres of which approximately 1 acre is usable. The remaining portion is not usable due to its steep grade leading into a ravine. This property was last appraised in 2017 at $220,000. It is located north of Saunders Road and east of Bayview Drive in Barrie.

**City of Barrie Waterfront Pageantry Program**

Final approval of a banner-based Waterfront Pageantry Program along Barrie’s Lakeshore Drive was given by City Council. The program will have a minimum of two banner changeovers per year, with the designs, colours and themes created by Invest Barrie and Access Barrie staff. Pageantry initiatives can provide an attractive way for Barrie to celebrate or commemorate an occasion, as was the case with Canada 150. Staff anticipate the program’s cost can be accommodated within the existing budget allocated for the downtown pageantry program.

**Property acquisition to facilitate Mapleview Drive East ROW expansion (Ward 9)**

City Council gave final approval of a motion to begin negotiation and expropriation proceedings to acquire property necessary to complete the reconstruction and widening of the Mapleview Drive East right-of-way, from Country Lane to Yonge Street, to 5 lanes in Barrie. This would increase the project’s budget by $400,000 for a total of more than $17.4 million. The project’s first phase, from Country Lane to Madelaine Drive, is under construction. The design is 90% complete for the second phase, from Madelaine Drive to Yonge Street.

**Redfern municipal drain - approval to abandon (Wards 9 ands 10)**

Beginning the process to abandon the Redfern municipal drain was given final approval by City Council. This will allow for the proposed re-alignment of a natural channel to contain the flood plain, which is very wide and irregular. Along with being able to contain a 100-year flood, it will also improve drainage on the surrounding land, permitting the development of subdivisions within the Hewitt’s Secondary Plan area. The Redfern municipal drain is located on three separately owned properties in south-Barrie. It was originally built in 1901.
Municipal Names Registry - additional names (all Wards)

Council gave final approval to a motion adding 22 names to the City’s Municipal Names Registry, which is used to provide street names for future development. These names are to be unique and not conflict with existing street names, to allow residents and emergency services to easily navigate Barrie. Categories for these names include notable Canadian women in sport, notable women of Barrie/Simcoe County, notable Canadians from Barrie and Simcoe County, sister cities of Barrie and commemorative applications.

Review of Procedural Bylaw

A motion that Legislative and Court Services Department staff undertake a Procedural Bylaw review that includes permitting deputations in support of committee recommendations, and report back to General Committee, was given final approval by Barrie City Council. The Procedural Bylaw currently only allows deputations opposing committee recommendations.

Investigation - online voting for future elections/byelections

Barrie City Council gave final approval to a motion that Legislative and Court Services Department staff explore the feasibility of providing online voting in conjunction with in-person voting for future elections and byelections, and report back to General Committee in September, 2019.

A motion that City staff explore the use of ranked balloting in the 2022 municipal election was also given final approval by Council.

Ranked ballots allow the voter to rank election candidates in order of preference - first, second, third choice, etc. - instead of voting for just one candidate, the traditional first-past-the-post system.

Investigation - basketball nets on City road allowance

A motion that Legislative and Court Services Department and Legal Services Department staff report to General Committee concerning options and potential liabilities for allowing basketball nets on the City road allowance was given final approval by Barrie City Council.

Promotion of anti-idling awareness

City Council gave final approval to a motion that Access Barrie further promote anti-idling awareness initiatives in the City of Barrie, utilizing social and print media. The City is working on an idle control policy that will minimize idling of City vehicles, to save money and reduce harmful emissions. Idling is defined as running a vehicle’s engine when the vehicle is not in motion.

Investigation - residential absentee landlord licensing structure

A motion that Planning and Building Services Department and Legislative and Court Services Department staff investigate the feasibility of implementing a residential absentee landlord licensing structure for the purpose of detached, semi-detached and townhouse uses, and report back to General Committee, was given final approval by Barrie City Council.

Deferred business

Proposed Supervised Consumption Site Location - 90 Mulcaster St. (Ward 2)

A motion to endorse an application for a proposed Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) in Barrie has been deferred until the end of October, 2019 by City Council.
Between now and then, a third party, impartial investigator will be retained to conduct an investigation of Barrie’s first safe consumption site - including the benefits and impacts experienced by other Canadian and Ontario municipalities which have safe consumption sites.

The independent investigator will make recommendations on the preferred site, review applications from the Gilbert Centre and Canadian Mental Health Association, and review administrative staff who would potentially oversee the centre. The investigator will report their findings back to General Committee for their input by the end of October.

Council has allocated $50,000 from the Council Strategic Priorities Reserve for the cost of the investigator.

The Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy recognizes the need for a SCS in Barrie to address drug and addiction realities in the city and Simcoe County.

City Council’s endorsement is needed for a SCS application to progress to the Federal and Provincial governments for funding and approval.