



September 26, 2011

For Immediate Release

Council Meeting – September 20, 2011

Council Approves the Timetable and Financial Guidelines for the 2012 Budget Discussions

The Town's 2012 Operating and Capital Budget process is underway. Council approved the guidelines and timetable for the release of the Draft 2012 Operating Budget, 2012 Capital Budget and the Ten Year Capital Forecast. The budget process typically begins early in September, as staff review their operational requirements, forecast activity for the coming year and plan capital projects.

This year, the Draft 2012 Budget is scheduled for public release on December 6, 2011 and is expected to receive approval in January 2012. Council adopted guidelines for staff in preparation of the draft budget, with an overall net budget increase no more than the Consumer Price Index (2.5 - 3%), outside of any costs related to legislative, growth and service level changes. These guidelines also apply to the Town's Boards and Agencies, including the Library.

It is important to note that according to this year's Novae Res Urbis (NRU's), August 31st issue, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville ranked 17th when residential property tax rates of twenty-six GTA municipalities were compared. The Town also ranked extremely low, in 22nd place, for both their commercial and industrial tax rates in comparison to twenty-four other GTA municipalities.

A public information meeting (open house) is scheduled for October 25th, to provide members of the public with more information on the Budget. *For a link to the report, click [here](#).*

Council Adopts the 2012 Calendar for Meetings of Council

Council adopted the 2012 Calendar for Council meetings for the New Year.

Every year a schedule of Council and other related meetings are presented to Council for approval. The 2012 meeting schedule also provides information regarding the closure of the Municipal Offices during statutory holidays and for the period between Christmas and New Years. For 2012, a meeting of Council will be held the first Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., starting February 7th, 2011, and the third Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., starting January 17th, 2011, of each month. A meeting of Council requiring a Public Hearing will

be held on the third and/or fourth Tuesday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m. (**note** - these dates may be changed with appropriate public notice).

For a link to the report, click [here](#), and for a link to current and upcoming Council meeting calendars click [here](#).

Council Receives the Final Project Status Report for the New Municipal Offices (Town Hall)

Staff reported to Council that all stages of the construction of the new Municipal Offices, located at 111 Sandiford Drive, were successfully completed on time and under budget. The new location opened its doors on August 3, 2011, following a two day closure to accommodate the move from its previous location at 37 Sandiford Drive. Further information was provided to Council regarding the overall cost of this project which is estimated at \$10,185,000, approximately \$200,000 under budget. This amount includes all costs related to construction and renovation, as well as the acquisition of the building. Renovation and construction costs of the second floor leased space are also part of the overall costs but were fully recovered from York Works (a division of York Region District School Board), who is currently leasing the space. It is planned that the space will be used for future expansion for the Town offices.

Further information about this project can be found on the Town's website. The Town is hosting a Grand Opening of the Municipal Offices on Sept. 24th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to commemorate the new facility and celebrate the Town's 40th Anniversary. The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville was officially created in 1971, with the creation of York Region. For a link to the report, click [here](#).

Council Defers the "No Stopping" Restriction in School Zones along Glad Park Avenue

Council deferred a "No Stopping" restriction until a later date to allow Staff to meet with School Parent Councils and obtain their feedback on the proposed restriction. If passed, the "No Stopping" restriction would have prohibited vehicles from stopping, between 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday), on the east side of Glad Park Avenue from Elm Road north to Millard Street.

Council Provides Approvals for Downtown Stouffville Revitalization Project

Council granted permission to a property owner to erect temporary construction hoarding on the Town's sidewalk. The Owner of 6280 Main Street, MDV International Inc., proposes to renovate the vacant commercial unit in preparation for a grocery store.

The approved Encroachment Agreement will allow the Owner to put up construction hoarding for a four (4) month period (until January 2012) and to extend a temporary sidewalk onto Main Street for pedestrians. This approval helps bring new businesses to

Whitchurch-Stouffville and contributes to the revitalization of the Downtown area. For a link to the report, click [here](#).

For more information on these stories and other Council activities, please visit the Town's website at www.townofws.ca.

Compiled by:

[Andrea D'Souza](#) | **Communications Officer** | Clerk's Department
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, 111 Sandiford Drive, ON L4A 0Z8
(905) 640-1910 or 1-855-642-TOWS (8697) Ext. 2451 | Fax: (905) 640-7957
www.townofws.ca