



Council Public Meeting

Minutes

C#16-21

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)

An Electronic Council Public Meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via videoconference.

Council Members Present:

- Acting Mayor DiPaola
- Regional and Local Councillor Perrelli
- Councillor Beros
- Councillor Muench
- Councillor Liu
- Councillor West
- Councillor Cilevitz
- Councillor Chan

Regrets:

- Mayor Barrow

The following members of Staff were present via videoconference:

- K. Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Infrastructure
- G. Galanis, Director, Development Planning
- D. Flaherty, Chief of Staff
- D. Beaulieu, Manager of Development - Subdivisions
- D. Giannetta, Manager of Development - Site Plans
- L. Penner, Senior Planner – Subdivisions
- S. Mowder, Planner II – Development
- S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

The following member of Staff was present on the 8th Floor:

- R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk

Acting Mayor DiPaola read the Public Hearing Statement.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor West
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following additions:

a) Additional correspondence received regarding the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications submitted by Whitehorn Investments Limited, Stephen-Mitchell Realty Limited, 891566 Ontario Limited and Ledbrow Investments Ltd. For 9301, 9325 and 9335 Yonge Street.

Carried Unanimously

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of Council under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

3. Scheduled Business:

3.1 SRPI.21.041 – Request for Comments – Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision Applications – The Duncan Rd - 16th Avenue Group Inc. - 0 Fern Avenue – City Files D02-20031 and SUB-20-0005 (D03-20005)

Sarah Mowder of the Planning and Infrastructure Department provided an overview of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications submitted by The Duncan Rd - 16th Avenue Group Inc. to permit a residential infill development comprised of ten single detached dwelling lots and the creation of a new public road on the subject lands. Ms. Mowder advised that staff's recommendation was that the staff report be received for information purposes only and all comments be referred back to staff.

Jim Kotsopolous, JKO Planning Services Inc., on behalf of the applicant, advised that the subject lands were formerly the rear yards of four properties located on the north side of Duncan Road and one property on the south side of 16th Avenue. He noted that the proposal would facilitate the proposed infill draft plan of subdivision via the construction of a brand new municipal right of way starting along the west side of Fern Avenue. Mr. Kotsopolous advised that the development proposal would be a catalyst for future infill plans of subdivision and would facilitate infill

development on the adjacent lands to the west and all the way to Elm Avenue. He also noted that the lands were within the City's Official Plan priority infill area.

Moved by: Councillor Chan
Seconded by: Councillor Beros

a) That Staff Report SRPI.21.041 with respect to the Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications submitted by The Duncan Rd – 16th Avenue Group Inc. for the lands known as Part of Lots 22, 23, 24, 63 and 64, Plan 3806 (Municipal Address: 0 Fern Avenue), City Files D02-20031 and SUB-20-0005 (D03-20005), be received for information purposes only and that all comments be referred back to staff;

b) That Council authorize the inclusion of City-owned lands (previously acquired for future road allowance purposes) as part of the submitted Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision applications to facilitate the comprehensive design and construction of proposed Street "A" as shown on Maps 5 and 7 to Staff Report SRPI.21.041.

Carried Unanimously

3.2 SRPI.21.040 – Request for Comments – Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications – Whitehorn Investments Limited, Stephen-Mitchell Realty Limited, 891566 Ontario Limited and Ledbrow Investments Ltd. – City Files D01-20015 and D02-20029

Leigh Ann Penner of the Planning and Infrastructure Department provided an overview of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications submitted by Whitehorn Investments Limited, Stephen-Mitchell Realty Limited, 891566 Ontario Limited and Ledbrow Investments Ltd. to permit two high density mixed use residential/commercial apartment buildings on a portion of the subject lands. Ms. Penner advised that staff's recommendation was that the staff report be received for information purposes only and all comments be referred back to staff.

Nolan Moss, Smartcentres, on behalf of the applicant, noted his appreciation for the comprehensive summary provided in the staff report and clarified that the application was only for the portion of lands along 16th Avenue and that the remainder of the shopping centre would continue to operate as a shopping centre, including the No Frills. Mr. Moss advised that a long-term plan and vision for the shopping centre exists and was demonstrated in the conceptual framework plan submitted with the application, and that they looked forward to working with staff and Council through the City's Official Plan review process. He noted that an

information session was held on March 31, 2021, at the request of Councillor Chan, and that there were valuable takeaways from the meeting and written submissions to the City since then. Mr. Nolan also advised that he was joined by colleagues that would help answer any questions that Council may have.

David Crowley, 48 Greenbelt Crescent, a retired transportation planner and long-term resident shared concerns regarding the proposed height and density of the development, the precedent that would be set if approved, and implications on traffic. He noted concerns with the reduction in parking ratios, questioned the assumptions regarding future car ownership that were made by the BA Group, and shared relevant transit-use statistics. Mr. Crowley shared his belief that the subject area could see densities greater than those existing in St. James Town and near North York (City) Centre, and that the greater densities did not lead to greater transit-use, as further outlined in his submission as Correspondence Item 3.2.2 o). Mr. Crowley also advised that he had not seen any evidence that residents travelling to dispersed suburban locations in Richmond Hill would willingly choose transit or taxis in the future. He also noted that since COVID-19, work from home trends indicated that fewer people in the future would move to Richmond Hill high-rises and commute downtown by transit or other modes.

Marie Chow, 6 Belinda Court, expressed her disappointment and opposition to the proposed development, noting that it violated all of the key development parameters laid out in the Official Plan and KDA. She advised that 315 residents had signed her petition and preferred growth that was more restrained and less intrusive in fashion. Ms. Chow shared her concerns regarding the impact of increased density on traffic and pedestrian safety, and compared and contrasted the character of two buildings to note that most proposals received by the City lacked character, landscaping and warmth. She also shared lessons learned from COVID-19, noting that greater density led to greater risk of infection, working from home was here to stay, and that outdoor greenspace was key for mental health, as further outlined in her submission as Correspondence Item 3.2.2 q). Ms. Chow also shared her belief that it was imperative to apply the lessons learned from COVID-19 and build responsibility, and shared her hope that Council respect residents' concerns and deny the developer's request to amend the City's Official Plan.

John Li, 206 Brookside Road, shared concerns regarding the density of the proposed development, the lack of parking and commercial space, and questioned if the area had the infrastructure to support the density.

He shared his opinion that land distribution needed to be balanced to meet the essential needs of residents, and argued that quality of the life would suffer at the densities being proposed in the area. Mr. Li compared the Yonge Street and 16th Avenue intersection with St. James Town, noting that it was a symbol of poor high density planning. He noted that if all current planning applications were approved, the proposed population in Richmond Hill would surpass the required intensification targets for the next 20 years. He also advised that the required density of the MTSA was 300 residents per hectare, and as such, the conversion of commercial lands to a high-rise residential development was not needed.

Moved by: Councillor Chan
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That Staff Report SRPI.21.40 with respect to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications submitted by Whitehorn Investments Limited, Stephen-Mitchell Realty Limited, 891566 Ontario Limited and Ledbrow Investments Ltd. for lands known as Part of Lot 41, Concession 1, E.Y.S. (Municipal Addresses: 9301, 9325 and 9335 Yonge Street), City Files D01-20015 and D02-20029, be received for information purposes only and that all comments be referred back to staff.

Carried Unanimously

4. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor West
Seconded by: Councillor Chan

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

April 21, 2021

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Joe DiPaola, Acting Mayor

Ryan Ban, Deputy City Clerk