Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM42.9

Authorization to Obtain Expert Witnesses’ to Support Council Position Regarding the York Durham Sanitary Sewer - by Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser

* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.

Recommendations
Councillor De Baeremaeker, seconded by Councillor Moeser recommends that:

1.) City Council authorize the City Solicitor to retain outside consultants to provide evidence and reports to support the City Council position in opposition to the York Durham Sanitary Sewer trunk sewers (YDSS) Environmental Assessment up to the amount of $100,000.00 from the City’s Source Water Protection Fund.

2.) City Council authorize the City solicitor to report the findings of the expert witnesses to the Minister and seek a hearing if necessary.

3.) City Council authorize staff to give effect to these recommendations.

Summary
At its meeting of October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005, City Council adopted a recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee to; among other things “oppose the current design and construction of the York Durham Sanitary Sewer trunk sewers (YDSS) and associated dewatering practices (present and future).

In compliance with this direction the City Solicitor has participated in the Environmental Assessment process in opposition to the project as well as participating at the Rouge Park Alliance Committee in opposition to the project. The Minister of Environment is now considering the environmental assessment and the contributions from the various stakeholders. To date the City of Toronto’s contribution to the EA process has consisted only of letters from the City Solicitor. In order to make the City of Toronto’s participation in the EA process more meaningful, the City Solicitor should be authorized to substantiate its previous objections and concerns with expert evidence and reports.

(Submitted to City Council on November 30 and December 1, 2009 as MM42.9)