

Budget
narrow
\$2.9 mi
to upgr
of May

PAUL MOLON
CITY HALL BUREAU

City council
tee has na
spending \$2
Mayor Davi
add a comm

After the 4
reduced ren
\$6.2 million
reviewed ne
tive commit
council next
proval as pa
billion capit

The renov
accommoda
crease in th
taking it up
were attacke
a time when
backlog of
roads and re

"It's bad po
icy," said C
Minnan-Wo

"It sends t
message to
that we are
selves, but v
to take care

Minnan-W
critics of th
Councillors

Budget

Major items

PUBLIC S
Begin devel
and West D
communitie
\$44.3 millio
Centre for t
interior: \$1
Loma exter

ENVIRO
Introduce tra
and bicycle
\$2 million



PETER POWER/TORONTO STAR

Like everyone who attended a public meeting on the Newmarket mosque last night, Brian Patterson was checked by a security guard before entering the room. Patterson had pointed words for organizers, saying the community was handling the issue in its own way.

Newmarket mosque meeting 'one-sided'

Executive member says leadership not invited to meeting, adding they don't share controversial imam's views

DALE ANNE FREED
STAFF REPORTER

A meeting called last night to denounce a controversial imam linked to Newmarket's first mosque is one-sided, says a member of the executive, since neither he nor other officials were invited.

Ansar Ahmed said Zafar Bangash is "neither leader nor imam of our mosque. He is the

ty" of Canada. Weinstein noted that "we have no problem with a mosque. We do have a problem with an individual who makes certain statements." John Thompson, president of the Mackenzie Institute think tank, said Bangash is "dangerous" because he espouses the creation of an Islamic state modelled after Avatollah Khe-

presented at the meeting. "All they're doing is gathering a bunch of like-minded individuals. They've already made up their mind about the mosque and our congregation." He said the day-to-day operation of the mosque, including the worship, has been entrusted to the local Muslim community. A group of individuals within the congregation rotates responsibilities. "It's a small congregation -- about 100 individuals would regularly attend," said Ahmed. "The planning for our mosque has been approved," Ahmed

"The views attributed to him (Bangash) are his personal political views and it's up to him to defend them." Bangash said yesterday he would not attend the public meeting. "It's been called by people who are going to be speaking all kinds of things against me," he said. "They're just going to continue to misrepresent my position." Commenting on criticism for his anti-Israeli views, Bangash asked, "I would like to know exactly what they mean by that. If they