



**Town of Aurora
Special Meeting of Council
Minutes**

Date: Monday, November 27, 2023
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Mayor Tom Mrakas (Chair)
Councillor Ron Weese
Councillor Rachel Gilliland
Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Councillor Michael Thompson
Councillor John Gallo
Councillor Harold Kim

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor
Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services
Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services
Sara Tienkamp, Director, Operational Services
Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director, Finance
Carley Smith, Manager, Corporate Communications
Doug Bertrand, Manager, Facilities
Sandy Dhillon, Senior Financial Management Advisor*
John Firman, Manager, Business Support
Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Management
Mohamedali Kamalia, Financial Management Advisor*
Phil Rose, Manager, Cultural Services
Laura Sheardown, Financial Management Advisor
Lisa Warth, Manager, Recreation
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Council consented to recess the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Mrakas acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Kim

That the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, including the addition of Delegations items 5.3 to 5.6, be approved.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

On a two-thirds majority vote the motion

Carried (7 to 0)

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Delegations

5.1 Gerry Miller, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Gerry Miller spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

5.2 Jim Clark, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Jim Clark spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

5.3 David Thom, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

David Thom spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Gallo

Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

5.4 Sandra Humfryes, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Sandra Humfryes spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Kim
Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

5.5 Bob McRoberts, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Bob McRoberts spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Gaertner
Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

5.6 Nancy Black, Resident; Re: Item 7.3 - Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Nancy Black spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Moved by Councillor Weese
Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Item 7.3.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

6. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

6.1 FIN23-047 - Proposed 2024 Municipal Tax Increase Comparison

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Kim

1. That Report No. FIN23-047 be received for information.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

7. Proposed Budget Amendments

Council consented to consider item 7.3 prior to item 7.1.

7.1 Councillor Weese; Re: Amendment 001 - Sport Plan Update

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

1. That Project: SO-F-0045 Sport Plan Update, be removed from the 2024-2026 budget.

Yeas (3): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gaertner

Nays (4): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Defeated (3 to 4)

7.2 Councillor Weese; Re: Amendment 002 - Sport Tourism Programmer

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gilliland

1. That the \$68,300.00 cost of a new part-time sport tourism programmer be removed from the 2024 budget.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (1): Councillor Kim

Carried (6 to 1)

7.3 Councillor Gaertner; Re: Amendment 003 - Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Grant

Main motion

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by Councillor Weese

1. That the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame grant be reduced to \$20,000 total for curatorial services only.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the main motion be amended to reduce the amount of funding for the 2024 Aurora Sports Hall of Fame grant to \$43,795.75 total.

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 3)

Main motion as amended

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by Councillor Weese

1. That the **2024** Aurora Sports Hall of Fame grant be reduced to **\$43,795.75** total.

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 3)

7.4 Councillor Gallo; Re: Amendment 004 - Artificial Rink

Moved by Councillor Gallo

Seconded by Councillor Thompson

1. That GN-F-0074: ARTIFICIAL RINK capital project be advanced by one year to 2024 (to be constructed for the 2024-2025 winter season) and given conditional approval pending a further report in early 2024 outlining cost, a funding model, at least 2 potential locations, operational impacts and timeline.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

7.5 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Amendment 005 - Aurora Town Square 2024 Staffing

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

1. That 1 customer service position and 2 facility positions are phased in no sooner than April 1, 2024, or adjusted later to meet any further delay of the opening; and
2. That the remaining 2 facility positions be hired on an as-needed basis, thereafter, using a phased-in approach.

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

Carried (4 to 3)

7.6 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Amendment 006 - Outdoor Wi-Fi Implementation

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

1. That Project GN-F-0001: Outdoor Wi-Fi Implementation be removed from the budget.

Yeas (6): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Nays (1): Mayor Mrakas

Carried (6 to 1)

7.7 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Amendment 007 - 2025 and 2026 Staffing Requests

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

1. That any new staffing hires for the years 2025 and 2026 be conditionally approved pending the review of the budget prior to those years.

Yeas (3): Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (4): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Thompson, and
Councillor Kim

Defeated (3 to 4)

8. Confirming By-law

**8.1 By-law Number 6559-23 - Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council
resulting from a Special Meeting of Council on November 27, 2023**

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the confirming by-law be enacted.

Carried

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Weese

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Carried

Tom Mrakas, Mayor

Michael de Rond, Town Clerk