



Town of Aurora Special Meeting of Council Agenda

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Meetings are available to the public in person and via live stream on the [Town's YouTube channel](#). To participate, please visit aurora.ca/participation.

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
This meeting has been called in accordance with section 21(b)(ii) of the Town of Aurora <u>Procedure By-law No. 6228-19</u> .	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Approval of the Agenda	
4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof	
5. Delegations	
5.1 Kathy Duncan, Climate Action Newmarket-Aurora; Re: Opposition to Provincial Bills 5 and 17	1
6. Consent Agenda	
That the Consent Agenda, items 6.1 to 6.2 inclusive, be received for information.	
6.1 Correspondence from Mayor Mrakas; Re: Ontario Bills 5 and 17	2
1. That the correspondence from Mayor Mrakas regarding Ontario Bills 5 and 17 be received for information.	
6.2 Correspondence from Councillor Weese; Re: Ontario Bills 5 and 17	3
1. That the correspondence from Councillor Weese regarding Ontario Bills 5 and 17 be received for information.	
7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion	
7.1 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, Protect	5

Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines.

7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

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1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends;
 - Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;
 - Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
 - Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
 - Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
 - Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

8. Confirming By-law

8.1 By-law Number XXXX-25 - Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council resulting from a Special Meeting of Council on July 15, 2025

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9. Adjournment

Delegation Request

This request and any written submissions or background information for consideration by either Council or Committees of Council is being submitted to Legislative Services.

Council or Committee (Choose One) *

Council

Council or Committee Meeting Date * ?

2025-7-15



Subject *

Opposition to provincial bills 5 and 17

Full Name of Spokesperson and Name of Group or Person(s) being Represented (if applicable) *

Kathy Duncan - Climate Action Newmarket-Aurora

Brief Summary of Issue or Purpose of Delegation *

Climate Action Newmarket-Aurora supports the Council of the Town of Aurora in opposing the provincially passed bill 5 (Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025) and bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Smarter and Faster Act, 2025). I intend to outline our rationale for opposition.

Have you been in contact with a Town staff or Council member regarding your matter of interest? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

Full name of the Town staff or Council member with whom you spoke

Councillor Ron Weese

Date you spoke with Town staff or a Council member

2025-7-7



I acknowledge that the Procedure By-law permits five (5) minutes for Delegations. *

☒ Agree

I acknowledge that I understand and accept the delegate conduct expectations as outlined in Section 32(b) of the Procedure By-law 6228-19, as amended (link below) *

☒ Agree

[Click to view Procedure By-law 6228-19, as amended.](#)



TOM MRAKAS MAYOR

July 7, 2025

Members of Council,

As Mayor of Aurora and a member of the AMO Board, I want to offer some perspective on Bills 5 and 17.

These are substantial and complex pieces of legislation. While there are certainly elements within each bill that raise legitimate concerns—particularly regarding municipal autonomy and long-term fiscal sustainability—there are also parts that, if implemented collaboratively and thoughtfully, could offer real benefits for Ontario's communities.

Importantly, both bills have now received Royal Assent, which means they have passed into law. Additionally, all public commenting periods are now closed. The next phase—the one that truly determines how these laws will function—is the development and release of the regulations, which are still to come.

To bring forward two motions to oppose these bills in their entirety now—after the legislation has passed and the consultation period has ended—is both pointless and moot. It serves no constructive purpose and does nothing to influence the process that's already underway.

That's why almost all municipalities have taken a measured approach, rather than opposing the bills outright. There's good reason for this. AMO has clearly stated that while some aspects of the legislation require clarification and adjustment, other proposals—like Development Charge modernization in Bill 17 and Special Economic Zones in Bill 5—could help drive local economic growth if municipalities are full partners in the process.

The reality is, these are framework bills, not finished products. The regulations that will define their real-world impacts have not yet been released. Even our municipal staff do not fully know what the implications will be. Unlike more straightforward bills—such as the reversal of tribunal rules—Bills 5 and 17 are layered, far-reaching, and depend heavily on how the regulations are written. Anyone claiming to know exactly how these will play out is not being truthful—because even the Province has acknowledged those details are still in development.

As a member of the AMO Board—representing 444 municipalities across Ontario—I believe it is premature and irresponsible to oppose these bills in their entirety before understanding the full regulatory framework. AMO's position is clear: if the Province works with municipalities, many of the potential risks can be mitigated. Acting in opposition now, before those opportunities to collaborate have been exhausted, risks losing influence over how the final regulations are shaped.

I remain hopeful that through open, ongoing dialogue with the Province—and by continuing to advocate for practical, transparent, and community-focused regulations—we can help shape outcomes that work for everyone and ensure Aurora has a meaningful voice in the decisions ahead.

In the meantime, I will not support the motions calling for opposition to both Bills 5 and 17 in their entirety, which are being brought forward at the July Council meeting requested by the four members of Council. I believe the more responsible and constructive course of action is for our Town to stand with AMO and support their detailed, thoughtful submissions.

I will continue to monitor developments closely, work collaboratively with our municipal partners and AMO, and respond in a way that is informed, balanced, and focused on real outcomes. I will always stand for Aurora and our best interests. We have led on many issues before—and this will be no different.

That is what leadership requires—and what our residents deserve.

Mayor Tom Mrakas

AURORA TOWN HALL



July 7, 2025

Mayor Mrakas and Members of Council,

At the June 10th Committee of the Whole, a Delegate asked for the Town to officially oppose both Ontario Bill 5 and 17 officially. At the June 16th Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee, which I Chair, the Committee highlighted Provincial Bill 5 and its potential to negatively impact the environment, through amending and/or repealing the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and the Environmental Assessment Act.

The Special Meeting of Council scheduled for July 15, 2025, is timely and will allow Council to publicly discuss and debate these Bills and formulate a measured Aurora response for consideration. It is what diligent Councils do for their municipalities.

Ontario Bill 5 “Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025” achieved third reading and Royal Assent on June 5th after only a 49-day journey through the legislature when a closure motion on June 3 curtailed further debate, streamlining the process to final approval. While legally enacted, municipal resistance, accompanied by environmental groups, have raised questions aimed at challenging or modifying this legislation. Municipal concerns have been identified from the Bill’s provisions to reduce regulatory barriers, expedite development, and centralize provincial authority remain. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) expressed cautious support for Bill 5’s goal to speed up development, provided municipalities have meaningful input on Special Economic Zones (SEZ). In its May 26 submission, AMO urged that SEZ’s override local bylaws **only** with host municipal support and **only** in extraordinary circumstances, and insisted on preserving environmental protections, including species-at-risk safeguards, and upholding Indigenous rights. AMO’s position, urges care to ensure local voices and ecological responsibilities aren’t sidelined, nor undermines our Official Plan.

Ontario Bill 17, called the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*, is narrowly focused on construction standards and amends the Building Code Act to centralize authority for all building performance regulations at the provincial level. The Bill was sent directly to third reading without committee or public hearings, with minimal debate or stakeholder input. From introduction (May 12) to becoming law (June 5), Bill 17 advanced through all legislative stages in just 24 days. It received Royal Assent before the public consultation period had closed, underscoring its unusually swift and streamlined passage. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has stated in their submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario that, *‘While we are supportive of efforts to standardize and streamline planning to help drive development, careful consideration needs to be given to the changes made under Bill 17 and proposed for further consultation .’* AMO looks forward to collaborating with the province to help bring municipal stakeholders and perspectives forward during consultation’. Municipal issues remain, such as undermining environmental protections for endangered species, the

tree canopy and flood resistance. It also threatens accessibility standards by preventing municipalities from requiring enhanced accessible building standards.

Advocacy for a balanced approach is needed that respects local governance and ensures that rapid growth does not come at the expense of livable, resilient, and accessible communities that respect heritage in both the built form and the environment. In Aurora we want to make things happen rather than watch or wonder what happened.

A Special Meeting of Council is being held on July 15th to discuss the implications of these Bills on our municipality and formulate a measured response that reflects our Council's commitment to controlled growth, accessibility and environmental and heritage protection that relies on made-in-Aurora solutions. To do otherwise would abdicate Council's responsibility to our residents by meekly accepting terms of these two important Bills that affect us without comment.

Sincerely,

Councillor Ron Weese
Ward 1 Councillor
365-500-3090
rweese@aurora.ca



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor Weese

Re: **Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

To: Members of Council

From: Councillor Ron Weese

Date: July 15, 2025

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines.



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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor Weese

Re: **Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act*, 2025**

To: Members of Council

From: Councillor Ron Weese

Date: July 15, 2025

Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends;
 - Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;

- Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
 - Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
 - Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
 - Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The Corporation of The Town of Aurora

By-law Number XXXX-25

**Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council
resulting from a Special Meeting of Council
on July 15, 2025.**

The Council of the Corporation of The Town of Aurora hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the actions by Council at its Special Meeting of Council held on July 15, 2025, in respect of each motion, resolution and other action passed and taken by the Council at the said meeting is hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.
2. That the Mayor and the proper officers of the Town are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approvals where required and to execute all documents as may be necessary in that behalf and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to affix the corporate seal to all such documents.

Enacted by Town of Aurora Council this 15th day of July, 2025.

Tom Mrakas, Mayor

Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk