

Town of Aurora

Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Mayor Mrakas

Councillor Kim

Councillor Gaertner
Councillor Humfryes
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Gilliland
Councillor Gallo

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer

Allan Downey, Director of Operations

David Waters, Director of Planning and Development Services

Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance

Michael de Rond, Town Clerk and Acting Director, Corporate

Services

Patricia De Sario, Town Solicitor

Eliza Bennett, Acting Manager, Corporate Communications

Samantha Yew, Deputy Town Clerk

Ishita Soneji, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Procedural Notes

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Mayor Mrakas announced that General Committee and Council Public Planning meetings will be held virtually starting in October, with the exception of the Council Public Planning meeting of October 13, 2020 which will be held in-

person. He noted that Council meetings will be held in-person in the Council Chambers as scheduled.

Councillor Gallo noted an error in his vote to Motion 9.2 regarding Property Acquisition – Library Square and clarified that he intended to vote "yes".

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Humfryes **Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, including the following additional items, be approved:

- Attachment for Community Presentation 4.1 Deputy Fire Chief Volpe, CYFS; Re: Cost Recovery Program
- Item 8.1 PDS20-065 Explore Aurora Campaign Funding Request
- Presentation for Item 8.1 PDS20-065 Explore Aurora Campaign Funding Request
- Motion 9.6 Councillor Humfryes; Re: Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
- Regional Report 10.1 York Region Council Highlights July 30, 2020

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Kim, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (1): Councillor Gaertner

On a 2/3 majority vote the motion Carried (6 to 0)

3. 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.*

4. Community Presentations

4.1 Deputy Fire Chief Rocco Volpe, Central York Fire Services; Re: Cost Recovery Program

Deputy Chief Volpe presented an overview of the Central York Fire Services (CYFS) cost recovery program and highlighted the success of

the ongoing pilot program regarding recovering costs associated with responding to motor vehicle collisions on municipal roadways. He noted that the CYFS cost recovery program will be expanding to include more services and that the generated revenue will be utilized for future projects.

Moved by Councillor Kim Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the presentation be received for information.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

5. Delegations

None

6. Consent Agenda

Moved by Councillor Kim **Seconded by** Councillor Humfryes

That the Consent Agenda items, 6.1 to 6.6 inclusive, be approved.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

6.1 Council Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2020

1. That the Council meeting minutes of July 14, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6.2 Special Meeting of Council Minutes of August 25, 2020

1. That the Special Meeting of Council minutes of August 25, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6.3 Council Closed Session Minutes of September 8, 2020 (confidential attachment)

1. That the Council Closed Session meeting minutes of September 8, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6.4 Council Closed Session Public Minutes of September 8, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of September 8, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6.5 Council Public Planning Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2020

1. That the Council Public Planning Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

6.6 Memorandum from Councillor Gaertner; Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 26, 2020

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 26, 2020, be received for information.

Carried

7. Standing Committee Reports

Moved by Councillor Humfryes **Seconded by** Councillor Kim

1. That the General Committee reports of September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020 be received and the recommendations carried by the Committees approved, with the exception of sub-items 7.1(7.1.2) and 7.2(7.2.3), which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

7.1 General Committee Report of September 8, 2020

7.1.1 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of July 30, 2020

1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee meeting minutes of July 30, 2020, be received for information.

Carried

7.1.2 OPS20-013 - Review of Urban Forest Study and Associate Forestry Policies

Moved by Councillor Gilliland Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

- 1. That Report No. OPS20-013 be received; and
- That Planning & Development Services present a Town initiated amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law to confirm and define the requirement for a landscape strip for all zones as required for the purposes of tree planting and supporting soil volume; and
- That the definition of a Landscape Strip be changed to require a minimum 3.0m un-obstructed width solely for the purpose of tree planting and supporting soil volume; and
- 4. That the Landscape Design Guidelines be amended to:
 - a. Clarify the soil depth required within Landscape Strips be a minimum 0.6m continuous topsoil depth; and
 - b. Increase the Boulevard topsoil depth from 300mm to 450mm continuous depth; and
- 5. That the Town of Aurora's Engineering standards be reviewed ande revised to support an increase in topsoil depth within Town boulevards; and
- 6. That the Tree Removal/Pruning and Compensation Policy be amended as described in Report No. OPS20-013; and
- 7. That a by-law to amend the Tree Permit By-law (Number 5850-16) be enacted at a future Council meeting to:
 - a. Confirm the minimum tree size for compensation be 5cm trunk diameter or greater; and
 - b. Refer compensation requirements for minor variance, consent to severe, stable neighbourhoods, site plan and

- subdivision applications to the Tree Removal/Pruning and Compensation Policy; and
- Forbid tree removal permits from being issued from April 1st to August 31st in respect of the Migratory Birds Convention Act; and
- 8. That the Tree Protection/Preservation Policy and the Tree Planting and Approved Plant List Policy be amended as described in Report OPS20-013.

Carried (7 to 0)

7.1.3 CMS20-020 - Pandemic Recovery Planning - Update No. 2

1. That Report No. CMS20-020 be received for information.

Carried

7.1.4 OPS20-009 - By-law Regulating Occupancy, Works, Fouling and Encroachments on Highways

- 1. That Report No. OPS20-009 be received; and
- That the Highway Occupancy and Encroachment By-law, being a bylaw to regulate occupancy, fouling and encroachment onto municipal highways and the repeal of By-law Nos. 4734-05.P, 4744-05.P and 5733-15, be brought forward to a future Council meeting for enactment.

Carried

7.1.5 FIN20-021 - Bill 197 - Update on Proposed Legislative Changes to Development Charges Act and Planning Act

1. That Report No. FIN20-021 be received for information.

Carried

7.1.6 FIN20-022 - 2020 Year End Surplus/Deficit Financial Control By-law

1. That Report No. FIN20-022 be received; and

- 2. That a bylaw be enacted to authorize the Treasurer and the Chief Administrative Officer to make the following year-end financial adjustments:
 - a. to allocate any 2020 Operating Fund surplus or deficit as set out in Report No. FIN20-022; and
 - b. to allocate any 2020 surplus or alternatively fund any deficit in the Water, Wastewater, or Storm water budgets to or from the appropriate related reserve accounts; and
- 3. That the Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer report to Council after the year end surplus/deficit control adjustments and allocations have been completed.

Carried

7.1.7 FIN20-023 - Safe Restart Funding

1. That Report No. FIN20-023 be received for information.

Carried

7.2 General Committee Report of September 22, 2020

7.2.1 CMS20-023 - Sports Plan Progress Report No. 2

1. That Report No. CMS20-023 be received for information.

Carried

7.2.2 CMS20-022 - Library Square - Project Monitoring Task Force

- 1. That Report No. CMS20-022 be received; and
- 2. That the Terms of Reference for the Library Square Project Monitoring Task Force be approved; and
- 3. That two members of Council be appointed to the Library Square Project Monitoring Task Force.

Carried

7.2.3 PDS20-024 - Downtown Parking Update - Library Square Precinct

Moved by Councillor Gilliland Seconded by Councillor Thompson

- 1. That Report No. PDS20-024 be received; and
- That shared parking agreements with organizations in the area be considered as short-term parking solution and staff be directed to continue exploring the medium and long-term parking solutions; and
- 3. That the following intersection improvements be approved by Council subject to its final review as part of the Town's budget process which will enhance both vehicular and pedestrian flow:
 - Installing a new traffic signal at the intersection of Yonge Street and Church Street (to be funded in the 10-year Capital Plan); and
 - b. Converting the 2-way 'Stop' to an 'All-way Stop' at the intersection of Victoria Street and Church Street (to be funded by the Town's Operations Department Operating Budget); and
- That staff be directed to coordinate with Chandos to ensure the compliance of the parking and traffic management strategies recommended in the Parking Study; and
- 5. That the Downtown Parking Working Group continue to monitor and address parking related issues within the Library Square precinct during construction and report to Council as required.
- Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Kim, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (1): Councillor Gaertner

Carried (6 to 1)

7.2.4 OPS20-015 - DWQMS - Financial Plan

- 1. That Report No. OPS20-015 be received; and
- 2. That the ten (10) year Financial Plan for the Town of Aurora Water System be approved.

Carried

- 8. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)
 - 8.1 PDS20-065 Explore Aurora Campaign Funding Request

Ms. Sandra Ferri, President & CEO of Aurora Chamber of Commerce presented an overview of the Aurora Economic Development Board's Explore Aurora marketing campaign and provided details of Phase 2 of the campaign. She noted that Phase 2 will focus on business and connect with customers and provided details of the long term goals, program requirements and financials, plan management, and requested that the funding be approved.

Moved by Councillor Humfryes **Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

- 1. That Report No. PDS20-065 be received; and
- 2. That Council approve funding in the amount \$12,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund to support Phase 2 of the Explore Aurora marketing campaign.

Amendment:

Moved by Councillor Gallo Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the main motion be amended by adding the following clause:

"That the Aurora Chamber of Commerce report back to Council regarding the success of the Explore Aurora marketing campaign"

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

Carried (7 to 0)

Motion as Amended:

Moved by Councillor Humfryes Seconded by Councillor Gilliland

- 1. That Report No. PDS20-065 be received; and
- 2. That Council approve funding in the amount \$12,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund to support Phase 2 of the Explore Aurora marketing campaign; **and**
- 3. That the Aurora Chamber of Commerce report back to Council regarding the success of the Explore Aurora marketing campaign.

Carried (7 to 0)

9. Motions

9.1 Councillor Kim; Re: Sidewalk Installation Policy

Whereas in September 2009 Council has approved a "Sidewalk Installation Policy" (#67), for the installation of sidewalks on Town's roads that ensures connectivity, safety and convenient pedestrian traffic in new development and existing areas, and the policy was subsequently revised in April 2015; and

Whereas the Transportation Master Plan Update endorsed by Council in February 2020, identified the existing traffic operational concerns and recommended "TDM, Transit, and Active Transportation Improvements" and "Operational Improvements" as viable alternative solutions to accommodate future growth:" and

Whereas "The Active and Safe Routes to School Program" implemented in Aurora has helped to encourage the physical activity of youth, enhance environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and help alleviate traffic concerns in school areas; and

Whereas the Town based on the "Active and Safe Routes to School Program" has implemented "The School Travel Planning Policy (#69)" in December 2013 and set out a mechanism that would allow for student pedestrian priority; and

Whereas the Town has a duty to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) that took effect January 1, 2016 that requires municipalities to remove barriers to accessibility and to construct sidewalks and pathways where gaps exist; and

Whereas while the Town's population grows, we have to look at sustainable growth measures by implementing active transportation principles and designing complete streets that will further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;"

Moved by Councillor Kim Seconded by Councillor Thompson Now therefore be it hereby resolved that staff be directed to review the "Sidewalk Installation Policy" (#67), and report back to General Committee before the end of the first quarter of 2021 with proposed revisions for consideration including an approach that provides staff the delegated authority to install sidewalks for existing areas when the road is scheduled for reconstruction.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

9.2 Councillor Gallo; Re: Property Acquisition - Library Square

Whereas on May 19, 2020 Aurora Council passed the following resolution "A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Section 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001); Re: Closed Session Report No. PDS20-046 – Potential Property Acquisition – Library Square"; and

Whereas on July 30, 2020 the Town completed the purchase of 15157, 15165, 15171 Yonge Street for \$7,500,000 plus \$146,475.00 in land transfer fees; and

Whereas it is in the interest of all Taxpayers to understand the full details of the purchase and all information that lead to the purchase, which council relied on:

Moved by Councillor Gallo Seconded by Councillor Gilliland

- Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved that the Town of Aurora post all closed session reports pertaining to the purchase of 15157, 15165, 15171 Yonge Street publicly the Library Square page on the Town's website; and
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That those reports include the consultant prepared attachments provided staff receive their consent to be posted publicly.

Yeas (1): Councillor Gaertner

Nays (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Kim, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gallo

Defeated (1 to 6)

Councillor Gallo noted an error in his vote to Motion 9.2 regarding Property Acquisition – Library Square and clarified that he intended to vote "yes".

9.3 Councillor Thompson; Re: Audio Recordings of Closed Session Meetings

Whereas the Town of Aurora acknowledges our responsibility to provide good government in an accountable and transparent manner; and

Whereas the closed session meetings and attendant proceedings of Council are subject to investigation at anytime should a member of the public feel it is warranted; and

Whereas the accuracy of the records and/or documentation kept in regards to the closed session meetings and proceedings of Council is therefore vital; and

Whereas currently only minutes are taken and there is no verbatim – written or audio-recorded record of the closed session proceedings of Council; and

Whereas the Ombudsman recommends that all municipalities make audio recordings or video recordings of all meetings – both open and closed – to ensure a thorough record; and

Whereas it provides a clear and accessible record for closed meeting investigators to review, and assists in ensuring that officials do not stray from the legal requirements during closed meetings; and

Whereas Council, in 2015, approved an Accountability and Transparency policy with the purpose of ensuring openness, accountability and transparency while protecting the best interests of the Town;

Moved by Councillor Thompson **Seconded by** Councillor Kim

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff be directed to report back before the end of the year on the recommendation to have all future closed session meetings of Council audio-recorded; and
- Be It Further Resolved That the report include recommended policies pertaining to security, limited access for investigation purposes only and what protocols should be put into place for the retention and destruction of these records.

Carried (7 to 0)

9.4 Councillor Thompson; Re: Construction of a Gymnasium at the SARC

Whereas in 2017 staff were directed to bring back a report on the feasibility of adding a gymnasium onto the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC); and

Whereas in the report to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Committee (PRCSAC) staff supported the concept of constructing a gym and noted it "would be very well received and utilized by the community"; and

Whereas in 2018 the PRCSAC committee recommended the construction of a multi-purpose space that maximizes the land available on the southeast corner of the SARC be approved; and

Whereas capital project 72410 SARC - Gymnasium was considered in the 2019 budget deliberations but postponed as a result of the overall expansion to the SARC discussion and potential land acquisition at Bloomington;

Moved by Councillor Thompson **Seconded by** Councillor Kim

- Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the construction of a multi purpose space/gymnasium be added to the 2021 Capital Budget discussions; and
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That an option for a single, 6,000 sq. ft. gym, as initially discussed, and a second option for multiple gyms be presented at budget time.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

9.5 Councillor Gilliland and Mayor Mrakas; Re: Environmental Advisory Committee

Whereas the Town of Aurora declared a Climate Emergency for the purposes of naming and deepening our commitment to protecting our eco systems by identifying key criteria to help reduce our carbon footprint and protect our community from the impacts of climate change; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is prioritizing the process of creating a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Aurora, focused on reducing emissions and adaptation at the community level; and

Whereas staff have been directed by Council to look for opportunities for economic growth, stimulation in the low-carbon economy, and cost benefits for all who consume energy; and

Whereas local governments around the world have recognized the extreme emergency that climate change embodies and have expedited their own actions, and have called on provincial and national governments to strengthen action on climate change; and

Whereas the Town would benefit from a dedicated committee to address environmental and climate adaptation at a community level to discuss ongoing climate change, protections, energy conservation, education, environmental matters and contribute comments to the Climate Action Plan and Community Energy Plan; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to taking meaningful action to address the environment and climate change in Aurora;

Moved by Councillor Gilliland Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

- Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That a dedicated "Environmental Advisory Committee" be re-established to address ongoing climate change, adaptation, and mitigation initiatives, energy conservation, environmental matters and contribute comments to the Climate Action Plan, and the Community Energy Plan; and
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the "Environmental Advisory Committee" be comprised of one (1) member of Council and five (5) citizen members; and

- Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to advertise, in accordance with the provisions of the "Policy for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards", for applications from members of the public for appointment to the "Environmental Advisory Committee"; and
- 4. Be It Further Resolved That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to appoint one appropriate staff liaison to support the work of the "Environmental Advisory Committee"; and
- 5. Be It Further Resolved That the terms of reference for the Community Advisory Committee be amended to remove the mandate for environmental initiatives.

Carried (7 to 0)

9.6 Councillor Humfryes; Re: Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Whereas a healthy environment provides the foundation for healthy communities, healthy people, and a healthy economy; and

Whereas the passage of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act received unanimous, all party support in the Ontario Legislature in 2008;

Moved by Councillor Humfryes Seconded by Councillor Kim

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora calls on the Ontario Government to demonstrate its commitment to clean water and protecting what matters most in the provincial statutory review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, by ensuring that provisions in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan that protect water quality are not weakened and that policies protecting natural heritage be strengthened, in order to meet the targets of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan; and
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Ontario Government be requested to work collaboratively with affected Provincial Ministries and all levels of government, including First Nations and Métis, to achieve the goals and targets of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to resource the

- programs that improve Lake Simcoe's water quality during the provincial statutory review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan; and
- Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be provided to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Official Opposition Leader Andrea Horvath, MPP John Fraser, MPP Mike Schreiner, MPP Caroline Mulroney, and MPP Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Carried (7 to 0)

10. Regional Report

10.1 York Region Council Highlights - July 30, 2020

Moved by Councillor Kim Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

That the Regional Report of July 30, 2020 be received for information.

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

Carried (7 to 0)

11. New Business

Councillor Gilliland announced that the Colours of Fall concert will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Town Park.

Councillor Gaertner referred to the presentation from Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition at the September 22, 2020 General Committee meeting and spoke to the importance of preserving Lake Simcoe and the impact of recent cuts to clean water protection funding from the Province. She expressed her appreciation to Councillors Humfryes and Gilliland for bringing forward the motion regarding the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to all Members of Council for their unanimous support.

Mayor Mrakas congratulated Auroran Barclay Goodrow of the Tampa Bay Lightning on winning the 2020 Stanley Cup.

Mayor Mrakas noted that the Ontario Infrastructure Financing was unanimously approved at the Regional Council.

Mayor Mrakas announced that Councillor Thompson and Councillor Kim will be appointed to the Library Square Monitoring Task Force.

Mayor Mrakas extended a reminder to that the ground breaking ceremony for Library Square will be held on October 8, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. and requested Members of Council to notify of their attendance as attendance will be limited at the ceremony.

12. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Thompson **Seconded by** Councillor Kim

That the following by-laws, 12.1 to 12.3 inclusive, be enacted.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Kim, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (1): Councillor Gaertner

Carried (6 to 0)

- 12.1 By-law Number 6280-20 Being a By-law to amend By-law Number 6000-17, as amended, respecting the lands municipally known as 162, 306, 370, 434 & 488 St. John's Sideroad West.
- 12.2 By-law Number 6281-20 Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (15074 Yonge Street "Poplar Villa").
- 12.3 By-law Number 6282-20 Being a By-law to allocate any 2020 Operating Fund surplus and any 2020 Water and Wastewater Operating Fund surplus or deficit.

13. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

14. Confirming By-law

14.1	6283-20 Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council resulting from
	a Council meeting on September 29, 2020

Moved by Councillor Thompson **Seconded by** Councillor Humfryes

That the confirming by-law be enacted.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Kim, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gilliland, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (1): Councillor Gaertner

Carried (6 to 0)

Carried

15. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kim Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Tom Mrakas, Mayor Michael de Rond, Town Clerk