



**Town of Aurora
General Committee
Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Chair)
Mayor Tom Mrakas
Councillor Ron Weese
Councillor Rachel Gilliland
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, Communications
Daniel Bitonti, Special Projects Manager, Communications*
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
Jaclyn Grossi, Deputy Town Clerk

*Attended Electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

General Committee 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

General Committee approved the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services.

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. Community Presentations

None.

6. Delegations

6.1 Joel Sussman, Resident; Re: 15-Minute Cities

Joel Sussman presented an overview of 15-Minute Smart Cities and its relation to the future of the Town of Aurora.

General Committee received the comments of the delegation for information.

6.2 Glenn and Leslie Olexa, Residents; Re: Boulevard Tree Removal - 9 Twelve Oaks Drive

Glen and Leslie Olexa presented background and an overview of concerns regarding their boulevard tree and requested options for removal.

General Committee received the comments of the delegation for information.

6.3 Rick Bagshaw, Resident; Re: Item 9.1 - OPS23-020 - Potential Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program

Rick Bagshaw spoke in support of the staff report and provided additional information related to snow windrow removal programs in other municipalities.

General Committee received and referred the comments of the delegation to item 9.1.

6.4 Boris Gartsbein, Resident; Re: Item 9.1 - OPS23-020 - Potential Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program

Boris Gartsbein spoke in support of the staff report and provided an overview of the petition and community outreach regarding a snow windrow removal pilot program.

General Committee received and referred the comments of the delegation to item 9.1.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1 Petition for Snow Windrow Clearing for Seniors and People with Disabilities

General Committee recommends:

1. That the Petition for Snow Windrow Clearing for Seniors and People with Disabilities be received for information.

Carried

8. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

General Committee recommends:

That the Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, items 8.1 to 8.2 inclusive, be received for information.

Carried

8.1 Council Compensation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2023

1. That the Council Compensation Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes of September 7, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

8.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2023

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2023 be received for information.

Carried

9. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)

9.1 OPS23-020 - Potential Snow Windrow Removal Assistance Pilot Program

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS23-020 be received; and
2. That Council implement Option 5 from the report as a pilot Snow Windrow Removal program for the 2023/24 winter season to be funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization reserve.

Carried

9.2 CMS23-040 - Mobile Food and Licensed Beverage Consumption at Concerts in the Park – Pilot Update

General Committee Recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS23-040 be received; and
2. That the implementation of Licensed Beverage Consumption for Aurora's Concerts in the Park series be approved; and
3. That potential food vendors be recruited through an open call for proposal process for Aurora's Concerts in the Park series.

Carried as amended

9.3 PDS23-110 - Application for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision, Livewell on Wellington General Partners Ltd., 1452-1460 Wellington Street East Lots 3 and 4, Registered Plan 525, File Numbers: OPA-2022-04, ZBA-2022-06, SUB-2022-01, Related File Number: SP-2022-10

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS23-110 be received; and
2. That Official Plan Amendment application OPA-2022-04 be approved to redesignate the subject lands from “Community Commercial” to “Medium-High Density Residential”, as outlined in Appendix ‘A’; and
3. That Zoning By-law Amendment application ZBA-2022-06 be approved to rezone the subject lands from “Community Commercial C4 (464) Exception Zone” to “Townhouse Dwelling R8 (X) Exception Zone”, as outlined in Appendix ‘B’; and
4. That Draft Plan of Subdivision application SUB-2022-01 be approved as shown in Figure 4, subject to the conditions outlined in Appendix ‘C’; and
5. That the implementing By-laws for the Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments be brought forward to a future Council meeting for enactment; and
6. That the appropriate servicing allocation be granted to facilitate the proposed development of 30 townhouse units.

Carried

9.4 CAO23-002 - Town of Aurora Street Banner Program Policy

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CAO23-002 be received; and
2. That the Town of Aurora Street Banner Program Policy be approved; and
3. That the existing 2023 Fees and Charges By-law be amended to include the proposed new fees in this report.

Carried

9.5 PDS23-112 - Review of the York Regional Planning Transition Plan

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS23-112 be received; and
2. That the Region of York be advised that the Town of Aurora has comments on the Regional memorandum dated June 19, 2023, regarding the Regional Planning Transition Plan; and
3. That a copy of report No. PDS23-112 be forwarded to the Regional Clerk for information.

Carried

10. Notices of Motion

10.1 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Town Administration SWOT/Space Allocation Analysis and Economic Review

Whereas Municipalities across the Province and the private sector have shifted into hybrid working models; and

Whereas Town offices and administration spaces are often observed as underutilized at various times; and

Whereas the Town has shown to have programming space deficits; and

Whereas the Town could benefit from a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of its administration office spaces to identify its highest and best use; and

Whereas it would be feasible to have an economic review of our administrative assets to cut waste, and allocate appropriate use to avoid any future financial liabilities;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff report back with either a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis and/or space allocation review; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That staff provide an economic review of the Town's administrative office spaces to ensure we are utilizing its best

and highest use, including solutions, community benefits, and financial impacts.

10.2 Councillor Weese; Re: Aurora Council Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers in Aurora

Whereas the Head of Council is required to confirm in writing his commitment to meet a municipal housing target by October 15, 2023, in order to receive Strong Mayor Powers; and

Whereas the municipality is required to submit a formal housing pledge which will outline how the municipality plans to meet the housing target by December 15, 2023; and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers will result in the Head of Council being granted powers such as:

- Choosing to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer;
- Hiring certain municipal department heads and establishing and re-organizing departments;
- Creating committees of council, assigning their functions, and appointing the chairs and vice-chairs of committees of council;
- Proposing the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate head of council veto and council override process;
- Vetoing certain by-laws if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority;
- Bringing forward matters for council consideration if the head of council is of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority; and

Whereas these Strong Mayor Powers undermine democratic processes executed through municipal elections, and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers may also violate by-laws established in Aurora that provides accepted and legal procedures for governance, and

Whereas Aurora Town Council recognizes the important role each Councilor provides the residents in their Ward and the community-at-large,

1. Now Therefore Be it Hereby Resolved That The Aurora Town Council opposes Strong Mayor Powers provided to the Head of Council; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this approved Motion is to be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Ford, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Paul Calandra, the Regional Municipality of York, and each of the Municipalities in Ontario.

11. Regional Report

None.

12. New Business

Councillor Gallo referenced a delegation at the Heritage Advisory Committee on September 11, 2023 regarding the Town's Street Naming Policy and inquired whether an update to the policy was on staff's workplan. Staff agreed to bring a report forward to a future meeting.

Councillor Gilliland and staff discussed the comments of Delegation 6.2 and the next steps regarding the identified tree.

13. Public Service Announcements

Councillor Weese announced that the Salvation Army Mental Health Gala will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 7 p.m.; visit northridgesa.com/gala for more information.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Celebrity Sports Dinner & Auction will be held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 5 p.m.; visit aurorachamber.on.ca/celebrity-sports-dinner/ for more information.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Multicultural Festival will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Park.

Councillor Kim announced that the Central York Fire Services Annual Open House will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Station 4-5 (300 Earl Stewart Drive).

Councillor Gaertner recognized the passing of David Tomlinson on September 8, 2023, and his efforts in the Town of Aurora environmental community.

14. Closed Session

None.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.