



**Town of Aurora
Finance Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Time: 5:45 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Mayor Tom Mrakas (Chair)
Councillor Michael Thompson
Councillor Ron Weese

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer
Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director, Finance
Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Management
Sandeep Dhillon, Advisor, Financial Management
Emily Freitas, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The 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

Moved by Ron Weese

Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

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. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Ron Weese

1. That the Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Financial Management Advisor; Re: Water and Wastewater Rate Study Update

Staff provided a presentation on its Water and Wastewater Rate Study, presenting an overview of the current rate structure and proposed rate structure, including; the existing customer base, residential and commercial consumption patterns, challenges of existing rate structures such as inactive customers and revenue dependency upon the level of

water consumption each year. Staff's proposed multiple rate structures that strived to promote greater fairness to all residents and businesses, to encourage water conservation and reduce the Town's reliance upon a volumetric driver.

The Committee and Staff discussed the proposed rate structures which included various fixed and/or variable rate options; including staff's recommended rate structure option which consisted of a fixed rate plus two tier variable rate. In its discussion, the committee examined annual water consumption by customer type, as well as the benefits and risks associated with weather patterns experienced. The committee requested staff undertake a further sensitivity analysis of its proposed two-tier variable rates to minimize their impact on water users.

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Ron Weese

1. That the memorandum regarding Water and Wastewater Rate study be received; and
2. That the Finance Advisory Committee comments regarding water and wastewater rate study be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Financial Management Manager; Re: Budget Review of the Finance Department and Corporate Accounts

The Committee discussed the budget review of the Finance Department and Corporate Accounts and the increasing cost of maintenance and support for IT and alternatives to mitigate the cost. Staff highlighted, investing strategically in IT, the software costs and subscription fees including Microsoft Licensing, and how more online services are being provided through the website for residents as a result.

The Committee also discussed with Staff transfers from reserves and debt management, the operating surplus, and revenue captured.

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Ron Weese

1. That the memorandum regarding the Budget Review of the Finance Department and Corporate Accounts be received; and
2. That the Finance Advisory Committee comments regarding the Budget Review of the Finance Department and Corporate Accounts be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Ron Weese

Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Carried