



**Town of Aurora
Committee of the Whole
Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Mayor Tom Mrakas
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
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
Emily Freitas, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Committee consented to recess the meeting at 9:05 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:15 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

Committee of the Whole 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 Christina Choo-Hum, Resident; Re: All-way stop installed at Tamarac and Albery creating safety hazard

Christina Choo-Hum addressed the traffic hazards surrounding the all-way stop installed at Tamarac Trail and Albery Crescent, highlighting the lack of communication to residents regarding the installation of the all-way stop, the traffic assessment that did not recommend the all-way stop, and staff's response to residential complaints. Further concerns were expressed regarding the confusion created for vehicles and pedestrians causing safety hazards. It was requested that Council and staff consider alternative traffic calming measures.

Committee of the Whole received the comments of the delegation for information.

7. Consent Agenda

7.1 Memorandum from Councillor Thompson; Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 21, 2024

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of June 21, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

8. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

8.1 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2024

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of July 31, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

9. Community Services Committee Agenda

9.1 CMS24-031 - Naming Rights Policy

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS24-031 be received; and
2. That the Naming Rights Policy be approved.

Carried

10. Corporate Services Committee Agenda

10.1 CS24-021 - Fence By-law Variance Request

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. CS24-021 be received; and
2. That a variance to Fence By-law No. 6429-22 to permit the construction of a non-compliant fence in the front yard at 241 Holladay Drive be denied.

Carried

10.2 CS24-022 - Addition of Illumination Requests to the Town's Flag Policy

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. CS24-022 be received; and
2. That the updated Flag Protocol, Flag Raising and Illumination Request Policy (attachment 1) be approved; **and**
3. **That staff report back after one year regarding illumination requests received and any resulting effects to the surrounding neighbourhood.**

Carried as amended

11. Finance and Information Technology Committee Agenda

11.1 FIN24-038 - Asset Management Funding Strategy for 2025 and 2026

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN24-038 be received; and
2. That the short-term asset management reserve strategy for 2025 and 2026 be approved; and
3. That the tax-funded portion of the ATS debt financing of \$7.5M, be funded from the hydro reserve fund, and not debt financed, be approved; and

4. That the operating budget for ATS tax-funded debt repayment be redirected to asset management contributions be approved.

Carried

12. Administration Committee Agenda

None.

13. Operational Services Committee Agenda

13.1 OPS24-020 - Windrow Program Eligibility Criteria

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS24-020 be received; and
2. That the eligibility criteria as described, be approved; and
3. That a cost-recovery amount of **\$100** per participating household be approved; and
4. That adoption of the financial assistance criteria as proposed be approved.

Carried as amended

13.2 OPS24-021 - Leash-Free Areas in Aurora

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS24-021 be received; and
2. That the 10-year capital priority list for future leash-free areas be endorsed and that staff update the 10-year capital plan accordingly as per funding availability; and
3. That the Mayor be requested to include a capital project for the development and construction of an off-leash trail within the Highland Gate Subdivision in the 2025 capital budget.

Carried

14. Planning and Development Services Committee Agenda

14.1 PDS24-065 - New Registration By-law for Additional Residential Units in Single Family Dwelling Unit

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That Report No. PDS24-065 be deferred to Committee of the Whole meeting of November 5, 2024.

**Motion to defer
Carried**

14.2 PDS24-090 - Updates to Street Naming Policy

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS24-090 be received; and
2. That Council approve the updated Street Naming Policy as attached to this report.

Carried

15. Member Motions

15.1 Councillor Weese; Re: Review of Train Whistle/Horn Cessation at All Level Crossings in the Town of Aurora

Committee of the Whole recommends:

Whereas the train tracks in Aurora are a disruptive influence on pedestrian and vehicular traffic at all level crossings in Aurora, affecting safe and consistent travel from in Aurora; and

Whereas there are estimated to be over 2,500 homes and residents living within 200 meters of the train tracks along the train corridor that are negatively impacted by the train whistles/horns; and

Whereas double-track construction planned by Metrolinx will bring 15-minute service both ways along the train corridor exacerbating the disruption to residents' quality of life with increased train whistles/horns at all level crossings; and

Whereas train whistle/horns signaling and vehicular and pedestrian safety measures are regulated by external agencies to ensure that safety is maintained at all level crossings; and

Whereas other municipalities affected adversely by train whistles/horns have included requisite safety measures at level crossings in their municipalities to ensure the safety of their residents; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan states that a Goal is to 'support an exceptional quality of life for all'; and

Whereas Aurora Town Council may pass By-Laws to implement train whistle/horn cessation once safety standards have been implemented at each level crossing; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan states that the Town should 'work with York Region and Metrolinx to improve transit infrastructure and commuter transportation options'; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora Strategic Plan states that the Town should 'work with residents and stakeholders to manage the significant changes that will impact the Community as a result of planned investment in rapid transit'; and

Whereas Aurora Town Council has not implemented horn/whistle cessation in the past; and

Whereas circumstances warrant a review of the requirements for the assumption of risk that would result in improved quality of life for residents of Aurora;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff report back on the processes needed to create a By-law that will result in the cessation of train whistles/horns at all level crossings in Aurora.

Carried

16. Regional Report

None.

17. New Business

Councillor Gallo referred to Delegation 6.1 and requested staff to follow up with the delegate and examine alternative traffic calming measures on Tamarac Trail, and staff agreed to provide more information.

Councillor Gaertner inquired about construction permits and the protocol on notifications to neighbours, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Weese inquired about the Town-wide community safety zones, the implementation of speed cameras, and when the report will be presented to Council and staff advised that the report will be brought forward in October.

18. Public Service Announcements

Councillor Kim congratulated Mayor Mrakas for being elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Councillor Weese announced that the Saturday Night Fever takes place on September 7, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.; visit aurora.ca/SNF for more information and the upcoming lineup.

Councillor Gilliland announced the following upcoming activities and events:

- Discovery Days 2024 will be taking place between September 21 to 28, 2024 at the Aurora Cultural Centre, offering free introductions to various art classes.
- The Royal Rose Art Gallery and Gifts will be hosting classes and exhibitions during the month of September.
- The Aurora Historical Society will be hosting the Victorian Harvest Tea event at Hillary House on September 14, 2024.
- The Seniors Active Living Fair will be held on September 9, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.
- Try It Week will be held between September 9 to 13, 2024 at the Aurora Seniors' Centre; visit aurora.ca/activeseniors for more information and full schedule.

Mayor Mrakas announced the following upcoming activities and events:

- Aurora Town Square's grand opening is taking place from September 21 to October 13, 2024 with a variety of indoor and outdoor entertainment; visit **AuroraTownSquare.ca** for tickets and more information.
- To learn more about the draft Affordable Housing Action Plan, an Open House will be held on September 9, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall; visit **engageaurora.ca/AffordableHousing** for more information and - details about the draft plan.
- The Fall Community Cleanup will be taking place on September 28, 2024; visit **aurora.ca/cleanup** to register.
- Aurora's Multicultural Festival will be displaying different cultures and Appetizers from Around the World on September 21, 2024 at Aurora Town Square; visit **aurora.ca/MulticulturalFestival** for more information.

Mayor Mrakas expressed well wishes and support to students and their families on their upcoming school year.

19. Closed Session

None.

20. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Carried