



**Town of Aurora  
Council  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

**Council Members:** Mayor Tom Mrakas (Chair)  
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  
Alexander Wray, Manager, By-law Services  
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk  
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

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**1. Call to Order**

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

Council consented to recess the meeting at 9:42 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Mrakas 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** Councillor Gilliland  
**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, including the addition of Delegations items 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5, be approved.

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

**On a two-thirds majority vote the motion  
Carried (7 to 0)**

**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 Ovidiu Berindean, Resident; Re: Item 8.4.1 - CS24-021 - Fence By-law Variance Request**

Ovidiu Berindean, owner of the property at 241 Holladay Drive, presented an overview of the proposed fence extension and requested that Council consider approving the construction of the fence.

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to item 8.4.1.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**6.2 Mike Bryan, Resident; Re: Item 8.7.2 - OPS24-021 - Leash-Free Areas in Aurora**

Mike Bryan spoke in opposition to the proposed leash-free areas in Highland Gate Park.

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to item 8.7.2.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**6.3 Gordon Weir, Resident; Re: Item 8.7.2 - OPS24-021 - Leash-Free Areas in Aurora**

Gordon Weir spoke in opposition to the proposed leash-free areas in Highland Gate Park.

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to item 8.7.2.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**6.4 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Item 8.8.2 - PDS24-090 - Updates to Street Naming Policy**

Christopher Watts presented background to the selection and misspelling of Folliot Street, and the history of WWII fallen RCAF veteran, Flying Officer Eric Walter Folliott, for whom the street is named. They requested that the street name be corrected to Folliott Street, that corrective action be included in the Street Naming Policy, and that the Town sponsor F.O. Eric Folliott in the Aurora Legion's Honour our Veterans Banner Program.

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to item 8.8.2.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**6.5 Mike Kennedy, Resident; Re: Item 8.7.2 - OPS24-021 - Leash-Free Areas in Aurora**

Mike Kennedy spoke in opposition to the proposed leash-free areas in Highland Gate Park.

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to item 8.7.2.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**7. Consent Agenda**

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the Consent Agenda, items 7.1 to 7.6 inclusive, be approved.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**7.1 Council Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024**

1. That the Council Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7.2 Council Closed Session Minutes of July 9, 2024**

1. That the Council Closed Session Minutes of July 9, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7.3 Council Closed Session Public Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7.4 Council Closed Session Minutes of September 3, 2024**

1. That the Council Closed Session Minutes of September 3, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7.5 Council Closed Session Public Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**7.6 Council Public Planning Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024**

1. That the Council Public Planning Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 3, 2024**

Council consented to consider items in the following order: 8.7.2, 8.4.1, 8.8.2, 8.3.1, and 8.7.1.

**Moved by** Councillor Kim

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 3, 2024, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.3.1, 8.4.1, 8.7.1, 8.7.2, and 8.8.2, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**8.1 Consent Agenda**

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

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

**Carried**

**8.2 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

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

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

**Carried**

### 8.3 Community Services Committee Agenda

#### 8.3.1 CMS24-031 - Naming Rights Policy

**Main motion**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

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

**Amendment**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

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

**That the following amendments be made:**

- a) That 'etc.' be removed from the third bullet point on page 4 of the policy; and
- b) That the third sentence in the last paragraph on page 6 of the policy be amended to read 'If an application is intended to displace an existing commemorative name, before a Renaming Application is decided upon, the Town will make all reasonable efforts to notify the family or next of kin of the person that is to be displaced, allowing 60 days for the family or next of kin to respond to the proposed renaming.'

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

1. That Report No. CMS24-031 be received; and

2. That the Naming Rights Policy, **as amended**, be approved; and
3. That the following amendments be made:
  - a) That 'etc.' be removed from the third bullet point on page 4 of the policy; and
  - b) That the third sentence in the last paragraph on page 6 of the policy be amended to read 'If an application is intended to displace an existing commemorative name, before a Renaming Application is decided upon, the Town will make all reasonable efforts to notify the family or next of kin of the person that is to be displaced, allowing 60 days for the family or next of kin to respond to the proposed renaming.'

Yeas (5): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Nays (2): Councillor Gaertner and Councillor Thompson

**Carried (5 to 2)**

#### **8.4 Corporate Services Committee Agenda**

##### **8.4.1 CS24-021 - Fence By-law Variance Request**

**Moved by** Councillor Kim

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

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.

Yeas (2): Councillor Gilliland and Councillor Gaertner

Nays (5): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

**Defeated (2 to 5)**

**Moved by** Councillor Kim

**Seconded by** Councillor Gallo



That the Fence By-law Variance Request at 241 Holladay Drive be approved.

Yeas (5): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Nays (2): Councillor Gilliland and Councillor Gaertner

**Carried (5 to 2)**

#### **8.4.2 CS24-022 - Addition of Illumination Requests to the Town's Flag Policy**

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 the Clerk report back after one year regarding illumination requests received and any resulting effects to the surrounding neighbourhood.

**Carried**

### **8.5 Finance and Information Technology Committee Agenda**

#### **8.5.1 FIN24-038 - Asset Management Funding Strategy for 2025 and 2026**

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**

### **8.6 Administration Committee Agenda**

None.

### **8.7 Operational Services Committee Agenda**

**8.7.1 OPS24-020 - Windrow Program Eligibility Criteria**

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

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.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**8.7.2 OPS24-021 - Leash-Free Areas in Aurora**

**Main motion**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

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.

**Motion to refer**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

1. That Report No. OPS24-021 be referred back to staff to identify suitable areas in Aurora for leash-free dog areas and/or trail locations, specifically on the west side, and report back to Council; and

2. That public consultation take place on the proposed areas before reporting back.

**Amendment**

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

That the motion to refer be amended by adding the following clause:

That Highland Gate Park be removed from consideration for an off-leash dog area.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Nays (1): Councillor Gilliland

**Carried (6 to 1)**

**Motion to refer as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

1. That Report No. OPS24-021 be referred back to staff to identify suitable areas in Aurora for leash-free dog areas and/or trail locations, specifically on the west side, and report back to Council; and
2. That public consultation take place on the proposed areas before reporting back; and
3. **That Highland Gate Park be removed from consideration for an off-leash dog area.**

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

## **8.8 Planning and Development Services Committee Agenda**

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

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

**Carried**

#### **8.8.2 PDS24-090 - Updates to Street Naming Policy**

##### **Main motion**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

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

##### **Amendment No. 1**

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Gallo

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

That delegated authority to staff for the naming of streets in the Town be removed.

Yeas (2): Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Nays (5): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Defeated (2 to 5)**

##### **Amendment No. 2**

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Gallo

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

That names from the Aurora Cenotaph be chosen before any other name is approved.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**Amendment No. 3**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

That the main motion be further amended by adding the following clauses:

That the name changing process for streets be waived to allow for the following change; and

That the name Folliot Street be changed to Folliott Street and that staff take all necessary steps to implement this change, including notifying residents on the street of why the change is being made and the history of the name.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

**Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

1. That Report No. PDS24-090 be received; and
2. That Council approve the updated Street Naming Policy as attached to this report; **and**
3. That names from the Aurora Cenotaph be chosen before any other name is approved; **and**
4. That the name changing process for streets be waived to allow for the following change; **and**
5. That the name Folliot Street be changed to Folliott Street and that staff take all necessary steps to implement this change,

**including notifying residents on the street of why the change is being made and the history of the name.**

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

## **8.9 Member Motions**

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

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**

## **9. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)**

### **9.1 PDS24-102 - Additional Information for All-way Stop on Tamarac Trail**

**Moved by** Councillor Gaertner

**Seconded by** Councillor Kim

1. That Report No. PDS24-102 be received for information.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

## **10. New Business**

Councillor Gaertner inquired about the cost of the electronic sign located at the Canadian National Exhibition, which advertised the grand opening of Aurora Town Square. Staff provided a response and agreed to confirm the cost at the next Council meeting.

Councillor Thompson, in follow-up to the earlier delegate's request for a veteran's banner, inquired about the process and timeline of a related current application for the community partnership grant program that could include this request. Staff provided a response and agreed to advise Council once staff have reviewed the submissions and decisions are made.

Councillor Kim inquired about the construction on both sides of St. John's Sideroad involving an island, sidewalks, and multi-use pathway. Staff provided clarification on the work being done by York Region.

Councillor Thompson inquired about the timing of the ongoing construction and lane reduction on Wellington Street East in front of the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. Staff provided a response and agreed to contact York Region and advise Council of the expected completion date.

Mayor Mrakas expressed appreciation to all those who came out for the grand opening of Aurora Town Square during the past weekend. The Mayor further thanked staff for their tremendous efforts, donors for their generosity, and Aurora residents for their patience.

## **11. Regional Report**

None.

## **12. By-laws**

**12.1 By-law Number 6631-24 - Being a By-law to exempt Block 1 on Plan 65M-4721 from part-lot control (File No. PLC-2022-01).**

**12.2 By-law Number 6632-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (15 Kennedy Street West "The Bishop House").**

**12.3 By-law Number 6633-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (19 Kennedy Street West "The Wilson House").**

**12.4 By-law Number 6634-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (29 Kennedy Street West "The Fry-Smith House").**



- 12.5 By-law Number 6635-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (59 Tyler Street "The Edwin Machell House").
- 12.6 By-law Number 6636-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (71 Connaught Avenue "The Johnson House").
- 12.7 By-law Number 6637-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (77 Spruce Street "The Stephens House").
- 12.8 By-law Number 6638-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (80 Spruce Street).
- 12.9 By-law Number 6639-24 - Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (139 Temperance Street "The Duncan House").

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

That the By-laws, items 12.1 to 12.9 inclusive, be enacted.

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

**Carried (7 to 0)**

### 13. Closed Session

None.

### 14. Confirming By-law

- 14.1 By-law Number 6640-24 - Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council resulting from a Council meeting on September 24, 2024

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the confirming by-law be enacted.

**Carried**

15. **Adjournment**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gilliland

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

**Carried**

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Tom Mrakas, Mayor

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Michael de Rond, Town Clerk