



Town of Aurora Budget Committee Meeting Report

Date: Monday, November 18, 2024
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

Council Members: Councillor Michael Thompson (Chair)
Mayor Tom Mrakas (arrived 6:11 p.m., departed 7:06 p.m.)*
Councillor Ron Weese
Councillor Rachel Gilliland
Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Councillor John Gallo
Councillor Harold Kim

Other Attendees: Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer*
Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services
Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director, Finance
Jason Gaertner, Manager, Financial Management
Carley Smith, Manager, Corporate Communications
Phillip Rose, Manager, Library Square
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk
Emily Freitas, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

That the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Councillor Ron Weese declared a pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50. respecting item 8.1.6 - Sport Aurora, due to involvement with the organization, and therefore, did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question in respect to the matter.

5. Delegations

5.1 Phiona Durrant, Aurora Black Community Association; Re: Request for Funding

Item 5.1 was considered following consideration of item 6.1.2.

Budget Committee consented to permit an additional five minutes for the delegation.

Phiona Durrant, Aurora Black Community Association, presented an overview of their funding request including: 2024 highlights and milestones; in-person programming and volunteer opportunities; 2025 goals; increasing community engagement and programs; and feedback from the community.

Budget Committee received the comments of the delegation for information.

6. Consideration of Items

6.1 2025 Operating Budget - Community Partner Business Plans and Presentations

6.1.1 Central York Fire Services

[\(Binder Tab 14\)](#)

Fire Chief Rocco Volpe and Dan Waters, Platoon Chief, presented an overview of the Fire Services 2025 Budget submission including: 2025 budget highlights; operating budget; increase in wages and benefits; operating expenses; and 2025-2026 capital budget requests. Andrea Tang, Director, Financial Services, Town of Newmarket was also present.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Central York Fire Services presentation be received for information.

Carried

6.1.2 Aurora Historical Society Board

[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Budget Committee consented to permit an additional five minutes for the delegation.

Alan Lambert, Co-President, and Geoffrey Dawe, Co-President and Treasurer, presented an overview of the Board's funding requests including: 2024 highlights; goals and achievements; key performance indicators; ongoing challenges; partnerships; sources of revenue; 2025 request for funding; recognition of volunteers; 2025 goals; and feedback from the community.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Aurora Historical Society Board presentation be received for information.

Carried

6.1.3 Aurora Public Library Board

([Binder Tab 15](#))

Budget Committee consented to permit an additional five minutes for the delegation.

Lauren Hanna, Financial Committee Chair, provided an introduction and Jodi Marr, Chief Executive Officer, presented an overview of the Board's funding request including: opening of Aurora Town Square; library visits and membership; in-person and virtual programming; creative studio; community and cultural organization partnerships; assistance for newcomers; online learning resources; circulation of physical and digital resources; investment returns; library collections; budget pressures; and 2025 operating budget. Julie Rocca, Business Manager, was also present.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Aurora Public Library Board presentation be received for information.

Carried

6.1.4 Aurora Cultural Centre Board

([Binder Tab 15](#))

Morry Patoka, Vice President, provided an introduction and Suzanne Haines, Executive Director, presented the Board's funding request including: mission, vision and core values; opening of Aurora Town Square; 2024 programming and key performance indicators; community participation and feedback; 2024 financial summary; additional key performance indicators; 2025-2026 budget and objectives; and operating budgets including revenue and expenses. Michelle Lockie, Treasurer, was also present.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Aurora Cultural Centre Board presentation be received for information.

Carried

6.1.5 Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Budget Committee consented to permit an additional five minutes for the delegation.

Javed S. Khan, President and Director, and Brian Roberts, Treasurer, presented an overview of the Board's funding request including: 2024 key highlights; invitation to the 3rd Annual Celebrity Golf Classic on June 12, 2025; community engagement; 11th Annual Induction Celebration Evening and invitation to the 12th Annual Induction Celebration Evening on November 6, 2025; 2024 Future Hall of Famers of the Month; nominations for Class of 2025 Inductees; 2025 operating grant request; and 2025-2026 budget.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame presentation be received for information.

Carried

6.1.6 Sport Aurora

[\(Binder Tab 15\)](#)

Stephen Forsey, Director, and John Reich, Treasurer, provided an overview of the Board's funding request including: background and mission statement; acknowledgement of members that have contributed to their success; 2024 highlights and programming review; key performance indicators; 2024 funding and 2025 forecast.

Budget Committee recommends:

1. That the Sport Aurora presentation be received for information.

Carried

Councillor Gallo inquired about review of the capital budget details.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.