



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor Gilliland

Re: Budget Cost Transparency and Public Trust

To: Members of Council

From: Councillor Rachel Gilliland

Date: November 11, 2025

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to fostering public trust through transparent budget practices; and

Whereas transparency in presenting cost estimates helps residents make informed judgments about the necessity and priority of proposed expenditures; and

Whereas municipalities such as the Town of Newmarket publicly release detailed draft budget documents, including project cost estimates, departmental allocations, and funding sources, within their Council agendas, presentations, and staff reports; and

Whereas this practice promotes transparency and accountability in the budgeting process, while maintaining procurement integrity, as the figures presented represent preliminary budget estimates rather than formal tender values; and

Whereas the public disclosure of these estimates provides residents with meaningful context to engage in informed discussions and contribute to an open, democratic budget process; and

Whereas staff have historically provided Council and the public with estimated maximum budgets for items under consideration, with the exception of the presented 2025 and 2026 Operating and Capital Budget cycles;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the confidential cost estimates for the Town's 2025 and 2026 Operating and Capital budgets be released online once provided to Council; and
2. Be it Further Resolved That future budgets will revert to the previous standard of fully disclosing all budget figures, ensuring ongoing transparency for our community.