



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

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2026
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
Nancy Fleming, Manager, Engineering and Capital Delivery
Alexander Wray, Manager, By-law Services
Anne Kantharajah, Town Clerk
Julia Shipcott, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

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

Committee of the Whole consented to recess the meeting at 9:03 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:13 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 John Tzanis, Head Coach, Aurora Football Club; Re: Aurora Football Club U15 Girls Win Provincial Title

John Tzanis provided background on the Aurora Football Club (Youth Soccer) U15 Girls team's achievements in capturing the provincial indoor soccer title, competing against top teams from across Ontario in the toughest division. Council Members were presented with personalized team jerseys and took part in photos.

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

6.2 Shawn Deane, Budget Voice Aurora; Re: Items 11.1, 11.2, 14.3 and 16.1

Shawn Deane spoke to concerns regarding a funding gap as noted in item 11.2 FIN26-012 - 2027 Budget Timeline and Process, as well as the request for budget increase outlined in item 14.3 - PDS26-031-Request for Increased Capital Budget Authority for Capital Project GN0163-Yonge Street Active Transportation Facilities.

Committee of the Whole received and referred the comments of the delegation to items 11.1, 11.2, 14.3 and 16.1.

6.3 Bernie Yeung, Resident; Re: Proposed Amendment to Fence By-law No. 6429-22 – Clarification of Height Limits for Hedges (Schedule A, Item 10)

Bernie Yeung spoke to concerns regarding perceived inconsistencies of maximum vegetative hedge height allowances versus constructed fence allowances, as outlined within Fence By-law No. 6429-22, Schedule A, Item 10.

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

6.4 Christopher Watts, The Aurora Heritage Authority; Re: Item 14.2-PDS26-029 - Bank of Approved Street Names Update

Christopher Watts shared concerns with spelling and listing inconsistencies within the Bank of Approved Street Names, and suggested input be sought from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 to confirm the spelling of fallen heroes. Additionally, it was suggested that fallen heroes whose names are unsuitable for use as street names could be recognized on Town-owned assets.

Committee of the Whole received and referred the comments of the delegation to item 14.2.

7. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, items 7.1 to 7.3 inclusive, be received for information.

Carried

7.1 Cannabis Retail Review Task Force Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2026

1. That the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

7.2 Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2026

1. That the Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

7.3 Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026

1. That the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

8. Consent Agenda

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the Agenda items of sections 9 through 16 inclusive be approved, with the exception of items 10.1, 11.1, 13.1, 14.2, 14.3 and 15.2, which were discussed and voted on separately.

Carried

Committee of the Whole consented to consider items in the following order: 10.1, 14.2, 11.1, 13.1, 14.3 and 15.2.

9. Community Services Committee Agenda

None.

10. Corporate Services Committee Agenda

10.1 CS26-009 - Election Sign By-law Update

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. CS26-009 be received for information.

Carried

11. Finance and Information Technology Committee Agenda

11.1 FIN26-009 - 2026 Year End Surplus-Deficit Management and By-law Report

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN26-009 be received; and
2. That the by-law to allocate any 2026 operating surplus or deficit, as detailed in this report, be brought forward to a future Council meeting for approval

Carried

11.2 FIN26-012 - 2027 Budget Timeline and Process

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN26-012 be received; and
2. That the proposed budget timeline as detailed in Table 1 be approved.

Carried

12. Administration Committee Agenda

None.

13. Operational Services Committee Agenda

13.1 OPS26-011 - 2025-2026 Windrow Removal Pilot Program End of Season Update

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS26-011 be received; and
2. That the Town continue with the 2025-2026 model with the same \$200 fee and program parameters as a pilot for the 2026-2027 season.

Carried

14. Planning and Development Services Committee Agenda

14.1 PDS26-028 - Don Hillock Drive and Goulding Avenue Parking Allowance

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS26-028 be received; and
2. That Parking Bylaw No. 4574-04.T be amended to allow on-street parking on Don Hillock Drive (south side between Leslie Street and Goulding Avenue) and Goulding Avenue (west side between Don Hillock Drive and Eric T Smith Way).

Carried

14.2 PDS26-029 - Bank of Approved Street Names Update

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS26-029 be referred to the April 28, 2026 Council meeting and to include with it the Street Naming Policy.

**Motion to Refer
Carried**

14.3 PDS26-031 - Request for Increased Capital Budget Authority for Capital Project GN0163 – Yonge Street Active Transportation Facilities

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS26-031 be received; and
2. That the total approved budget authority for Capital Project No. GN0163 be increased to \$7,861,100 representing an increase of \$2,531,900; and
3. That the proposed total budget authority of \$7,861,100 be funded by \$4,561,100 from roads and related development charges, \$500,000 from the Growth and New reserve and a \$2,800,000 contribution from York Region.

Carried

15. Member Motions

15.1 Mayor Mrakas; Re: Annual Review and Release of Closed Session Materials

Committee of the Whole recommends:

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to transparency, accountability, and maintaining public trust in municipal governance; and

Whereas Section 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* permits closed sessions only in limited circumstances and does not require confidentiality to be maintained indefinitely; and

Whereas information considered in closed session may, over time, no longer meet the criteria for continued confidentiality;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Council directs staff to conduct an annual review of all closed session reports, minutes, and related materials; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That staff, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, assess which closed session materials no longer require confidentiality under Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 or any other applicable legislation; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That closed session materials deemed eligible for public release be released in full or in redacted form, as required, to protect personal, financial, security, legal, or other confidential information; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That staff provide an annual public report to Council, summarizing:
 - a. the number and general nature of closed session items reviewed;
 - b. materials released;
 - c. materials recommended to remain confidential;
 - d. the rationale for continued confidentiality where applicable; and
 - e. That this annual review and reporting process be incorporated as a standard governance practice of the Town.

Carried

15.2 Councillor Gallo; Re: Reporting Framework for Members attending Conferences, Seminars and External Events

Committee of the Whole recommends:

Whereas Members of Council attend conferences, seminars, and external events at the expense of the Town of Aurora, either through direct funding, conference budgets, or reimbursements in accordance with the Compensation and Support for Members of Council Policy; and

Whereas these events are intended to provide professional development, enhance municipal knowledge, and bring forward best practices that can benefit the Town and its residents; and

Whereas there is currently no formal, standardized requirement for Members of Council to report back publicly on the value, insights, or outcomes of their attendance; and

Whereas transparency and accountability in the use of public funds are essential to maintaining public trust; and

Whereas sharing knowledge gained from conferences can support informed decision-making and provide value to the broader Council and community; and

Whereas ensuring transparency, accountability, and value for taxpayer-funded conference attendance, while strengthening knowledge-sharing among Members of Council, is in the public interest;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff be directed to develop a written reporting framework requiring Members of Council who attend a conference, convention, seminar, or external events at the expense of the Town; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the written report framework include, at minimum:
 - The name, date, and location of the conference or event;
 - Total cost incurred by the Town, including registration, travel, accommodation, and related expenses;

- Key topics, sessions, or discussions attended;
 - Summary of key learnings and takeaways;
 - Any relevant best practices or ideas that could be considered for implementation in the Town of Aurora; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That such reports be included on a public Council or Committee of the Whole agenda for information purposes, within a defined timeframe following the conference, seminar or external event; and
 4. Be It Further Resolved That staff report back on any administrative, financial, or procedural implications of implementing this requirement, including potential alignment with existing policies or expense reporting practices.

Carried

16. Regional Report

Committee of the Whole recommends:

16.1 York Regional Council Highlights of March 26, 2026

1. That the York Regional Council Highlights of March 26, 2026, be received for information.

Carried

17. New Business

Councillor Thompson directed staff to review and report back to a future meeting of Council on the lack of height limitations on vegetative hedges within By-law No. 6429-22.

Councillor Gaertner reported that the Henderson Ecological Passage rated number two in the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Top Ten Restoration Projects of 2025, noting that road wildlife mortality has dropped to almost nothing, and extended thanks to local community group Turtle Tias for their ongoing monitoring efforts.

Councillor Gaertner inquired as to the status of Town-hosted roller-skating events, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gilliland requested an update on various watermain repairs throughout the Town, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gilliland noted **thebigcheese.ca** festival has begun in southern Ontario and requested an update on the status of this event from Economic Development, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Weese inquired if the Town will consider taking part in the Heritage District's 20-year anniversary celebration, and the Mayor provided a response.

Councillor Weese inquired whether the Town's tree removal plan has been followed at 65 St. John's Sideroad, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Weese inquired whether staff were provided a copy of Christopher Watts' documentation as was referenced during the delegation, and whether there exists a naming policy for Town-owned buildings, and staff provided a response.

18. Public Service Announcements

Mayor Mrakas announced the following activities and events:

- The **Annual Community Cleanup** will occur on April 25, 2026 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn more at aurora.ca/cleanup.
- The **Aurora Art Show and Sale** is presented in partnership with the Society of York Region Artists and runs May 2 and 3, 2026. More details are available at aurora.ca/ArtShow.
- Aurora is hosting a **rabies vaccine and microchip clinic** on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mount Albert Lions Community Centre for cats and dogs. No appointment is necessary. Visit aurora.ca/AnimalServices for more information.
- Celebrate **National Youth Week** starting May 1, 2026 with a week of free and registered activities! Visit aurora.ca/YouthWeek for details.

- Children and youth performers are invited to enter to compete in **Aurora's Performing Arts Festival** presented by Marquee Theatrical Productions. Find out more at aurora.ca/ArtsFestival.
- The **Red Dress Day Walking Vigil** will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Square in recognition of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People. More information is available at aurora.ca/RedDressDay.

Councillor Thompson noted that on-street parking restrictions end tomorrow.

19. Closed Session

None.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Carried