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Town of Aurora

Motion

Notice given Sep 8, 2020

Re: Audio Recordings of Closed Session Meetings

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: September 29, 2020

Whereas the Town of Aurora acknowledges our responsibility to provide good government in an accountable and transparent manner; and

Whereas the closed session meetings and attendant proceedings of Council are subject to investigation at anytime should a member of the public feel it is warranted; and

Whereas the accuracy of the records and/or documentation kept in regards to the closed session meetings and proceedings of Council is therefore vital; and

Whereas currently only minutes are taken and there is no verbatim – written or audio-recorded record of the closed session proceedings of Council; and

Whereas the Ombudsman recommends that all municipalities make audio recordings or video recordings of all meetings – both open and closed – to ensure a thorough record; and

Whereas it provides a clear and accessible record for closed meeting investigators to review, and assists in ensuring that officials do not stray from the legal requirements during closed meetings; and

Whereas Council, in 2015, approved an Accountability and Transparency policy with the purpose of ensuring openness, accountability and transparency while protecting the best interests of the Town;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff be directed to report back before the end of the year on the recommendation to have all future closed session meetings of Council audio-recorded; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That the report include recommended policies pertaining to security, limited access for investigation purposes only and what protocols should be put into place for the retention and destruction of these records.