

Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Highlights of Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Waste Collection Limits

Aurora Town Council received a report for information regarding the Town's current residential waste collection practices. Green For Life Environmental, the Town's current waste provider, will be enforcing the three-bag limit as there has been ongoing compliance issues. The rules and processes associated with residential waste collection in the municipality are contained in the Town of Aurora By-law No. 5590-14, the Waste Collection Bylaw. The N6 municipalities will be enforcing bag limits within their individual communities. An education campaign will be created to communicate to the community about the waste bag limit.

Regional Fire Service Study

Aurora Town Council received a report regarding a proposed Regional Fire Service Study. Council supports proceeding with a study of the potential creation of a Regional Fire Service led by York Region. The Town's decision will be circulated to York Region and all York Region municipalities.

Off-Leash Dog Park in Highland Park

Aurora Town Council received a report regarding a potential future off-leash dog park within phase two of the Highland Gate Development. A dog waste diversion program within the park will also be considered. Since the land is part of the Highland Gate Development, staff met with the Chair of the Highland Gate Ratepayers Group and presented a concept plan in 2018. The Town was informed that the plan was circulated and received with no opposition. Staff will investigate further into the future park design, construction and cost with the Highland Gate Development Corporation and report back to Council.

Clean Communities Bylaw

Aurora Town Council enacted a new Clean Communities By-law #6257-20 replacing the Clean Yards By-law No. 4754-05.P and Debris By-law No.4738-05.P. The new by-law consolidates both former bylaws and introduces new standards on graffiti and maintenance of boulevards. The former bylaws were written in 2005 and this new standard provides more progressive and updated regulations. Many of the existing items from the combined bylaws still remain. For specific requirements and more information on the Clean Communities Bylaw, please visit aurora.ca/bylaws.

Property Tax Due Dates and Penalties

Aurora Town Council adopted a report recommending the installment dates and penalties for the final tax bill be deferred to September 15 and December 1 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town will also waive the one-time five per cent charge on past due water accounts (excluding those in arrears in 2019). A rate of 1.25 per cent be used for penalties on past due tax accounts which may be waived in financial hardship situations related to COVID-19. The Treasurer will also consider requests on a case-by-case basis for business and residential tax deferrals.





Downtown Street Wall Mural Program

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Mayor Tom Mrakas to introduce a street wall mural program to allow local artists to beautify the downtown core in a unique way. The murals will create a sense of pride, reduce graffiti and tagging, and allow neighbourhoods to shape their community through beautification. The murals will be created on Town-owned retaining walls along Yonge Street in the downtown core (Aurora Heights Drive to Kennedy Street). At least one Town-owned retaining wall will be dedicated to the frontline workers and the remaining walls will have a community theme.

Municipal Service Level and Delivery Review

Aurora Town Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Michael Thompson to examine how to improve Town services, identify any new or rising Town service demands, and evaluate Town service levels in the face of competing priorities and/or decreasing revenues and increasing costs to operate the municipality. A municipal service level and delivery review is an evaluation process that looks at the needs and expectations of the community, the performance and costs of the services provided, and best practices. The study will commence in 2021 if approved as part of the Capital Budget process.

Electronic Meetings for Committees of Council

Aurora Town Council approved a report recommending an amendment to the Procedure Bylaw to permit all committees of Council to meet electronically while the Town is in a state of emergency. Staff will also report back to Council regarding the success of holding committee meetings electronically. Council held its first virtual special council meeting on March 31. During the COVID-19 pandemic, General Committee and Council meetings are being held virtually and streamed on the Town's YouTube page.

Outdoor Swim Schools permitted as a home occupation

Aurora Town Council approved a report to amend the Official Plan to consider outdoor swim schools as a permitted home occupation. This will allow outdoor swim schools to be considered subject to approval of a minor variance by the Committee of Adjustment at a reduced fee of \$250. Committee of Adjustment has the ability to impose conditions of approval to address potential land use impacts and residential concerns.

Aurora Economic Development Corporation Board

Aurora Town Council approved a report to amend the terms of reference of the Aurora Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) to increase the number of local residents or business owners to nine and to decrease the number of Council representatives to two members of Council. The Town will advertise the new vacant position in the near future.

Additional Council Information

On March 31, the Town of Aurora held its first virtual special council meeting to discuss matters relating to Town operations during the state of emergency. Based on the success of the meeting, Aurora Town Council will continue to meet virtually to move forward critical municipal business during the COVID-19 pandemic. The next virtual meetings of Council are as follows:

- General Committee Meeting, Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 7 p.m.
- Public Planning Meeting, Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 7 p.m.
- General Committee Meeting, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 7 p.m.



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- Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 7 p.m.

Delegations will be allowed by video conference and by phone. To delegate at a meeting, please visit aurora.ca/participation for further information. To view a live meeting, visit aurora.ca/livecouncilmeeting.

Comprehensive minutes of Aurora Town Council meetings, which detail the full list of Council decisions, are available under **Agendas and Minutes** on the Town of Aurora website. Minutes are available on the Friday afternoon following Council.

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