



For immediate release

Thursday, November 26, 2020

Highlights of the Meeting of Council on Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Workplace Diversity and Inclusion

Based on a motion brought forward by Councillor Kim in January of this year, staff brought forward a report on Workplace Diversity and Inclusion. The purpose of the report was to provide research information on workplace diversity and inclusion strategies in different organizations, as well as share information on initiatives currently underway and recommendations on how to enhance diversity and inclusion at the Town. Workplace diversity and inclusion are part of the Town's Vision 2031 as well as the Town's corporate strategic plans and efforts towards being an employer of choice in the region. Council adopted the staff recommendations and will further discuss this as part of the budget 2021 process.

Audio Recordings of Closed Meetings

Based on a Council motion put forward earlier this year by Councillor Thompson, staff brought forward a report with recommendations pertaining to the recording of Closed Meetings of Council. As permitted under the *Municipal Act*, Council may go into Closed session for very specific reasons, including but not limited to personnel matters, labour relations matters, and property matters. At last night's Council meeting, in the interests of transparency and accountability, Council decided that Closed Meetings will be audio recorded as of the first meeting in January 2021. Access to the recordings will be restricted to the Town Clerk, and, upon request, to the Chief Administrative Officer and the Town Solicitor and closed meeting investigators if required.

Sports Field Development Strategy

As part of Council and the Town's commitment to providing a healthy and active lifestyle, a Sports Field Development Strategy was presented to Council in January 2020. The strategy provided recommendations for field development over the next 10 years to support existing and future sports field needs. An update on the strategy was provided, and work is ongoing to implement the strategy. While some community research activities have not been possible this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Town staff are engaging local schools and school boards in discussions related to partnership projects to develop additional full-size rectangular sports fields. A further update will be provided in 2021 to Council.



Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

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Urban Design Guidelines

Following input from the community on urban design guidelines for structures in different stable neighbourhoods within Aurora, Council approved a design guidelines document for the Stable Neighbourhood areas. Included in the resolution was a clause directing staff to bring forward a semi-annual report that minor variance application and activity within the Stable Neighbourhoods areas. The report will allow staff to identify trends and allow Council to better understand what development activity is taking place within the established Stable Neighbourhoods. Under the Official Plan, stable neighbourhoods are protected from incompatible forms of development, and new development in these areas must respect and reinforce the area's existing physical character and uses. In Aurora, these include Regency Acres, Temperance Street, Town Park, and Aurora Heights – generally speaking, the Town's established, low-rise, residential areas.

The next meetings of Council are as follows:

- Budget Committee Meeting – Monday, November 30, 2020, 6 p.m.
- General Committee Meeting – Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 7 p.m.
- Council Public Planning – Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 7 p.m.
- Council Meeting – Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7 p.m.

All meetings are being held virtually in accordance with health guidelines. 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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