

Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

communications@aurora.ca

For immediate release
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Highlights of the Meeting of Council on Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Election Voting Method

Council approved a hybrid voting model for the 2022 municipal election, including both paper ballots and internet voting. This is the same model that was used for the 2018 election, and the recommendation from staff was based on positive feedback from voters as well as a high number of users for each method of voting. The Town will extend its agreement with the 2018 municipal election vendor, Dominion Voting Systems, for 2022. The total cost of the 2022 election is expected to be approximately \$300,000, drawn from the election reserve fund. There will be much more information to come regarding the Town's new ward system, as well as how to register to run for Council.

Modernized Noise Bylaw

Council referred the proposed modernized noise bylaw back to staff for further community engagement and consultation. The proposed bylaw modernizes existing legislation; the revisions have been underway since 2020 but finalization of the bylaw has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the Town sought public input on the noise bylaw and feedback received has been incorporated into proposed changes. Based on the direction from Council, staff will go back out to the community in June to seek feedback on the proposed by-law. A report will be brought back to Council in September 2021.

Use of Safe Restart Grant Funding

Council approved staff recommendations for how to spend COVID-19 pandemic funding in the amount of \$3.6 million from the Safe Restart grant, with a focus on community safety and downtown core recovery. The Federal and Provincial funding gives municipalities the support and flexibility they need to protect the health and well-being of their communities, while continuing to deliver critical public services.



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Currently, the Town of Aurora expects to receive a total of \$3.6 million in Safe Restart grant funding through three funding announcements:

- Phase I (September 2020) \$1,298,500
- Phase II (December 2020) \$549,000
- Phase III (May and November 2021) \$1,754,155

Council has approved a number of projects relating to the provision of services during the pandemic to be funded through the grant, including community engagement opportunities, improving parks and trails, supporting downtown core recovery, enhancing customer service, and supporting safe and healthy work practices for Town employees.

Motion on Beaver Dam Removal

Mayor Mrakas presented a motion directing staff to move forward with beaver dam removal approaches for beaver management, and to discontinue beaver trapping practices. Beaver trapping had been used by the Town when a beaver's activities threaten the Town's infrastructure or residents' health and safety. The motion was approved unanimously by Council. The Town will explore alternative water level management controls to ensure compliance applicable legislation while protecting property, infrastructure, and health and safety.

Motion on Town-wide Wi-Fi Access

Council unanimously approved a motion from Mayor Mrakas directing staff to investigate existing models of municipally implemented wi-fi services to develop a proposed model for Aurora and report back to Council. As well, staff will investigate possible public-private partnership models for the potential implementation of such a wi-fi service for the Town. The motion is designed to support residents in accessing reliable internet access, which has the potential to negatively impact their ability to access important services – including emergency services and health care. Staff will bring a report back to Council at a later date with recommendations for moving forward with this next step towards becoming a "Smart Town".



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The next meetings of Council are as follows:

- Budget Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 6:15 p.m.
- General Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 7 p.m.
- Council Public Planning Meeting – Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.
- General Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7 p.m.
- Council Meeting – Tuesday, June 22, 2021, 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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