



Town of Aurora Council Meeting Minutes

Video Conference
Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Attendance

Council Members Mayor Mrakas in the Chair; Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland, Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson

Members Absent None

Other Attendees Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer, Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services, Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Corporate Services, Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance, Allan Downey, Director of Operations, David Waters, Director of Planning and Development Services, Cindy Shaver, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist, Patricia De Sario, Town Solicitor, Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

This meeting was held electronically as per Section 20.1 of the Town's Procedure By-law No. 6228-19, as amended, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

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

The Mayor relinquished the chair to Councillor Kim at 7:50 p.m., during consideration of Motion (b) Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection, and resumed the chair at 8:22 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gaertner

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, including the following additional item, be approved:

- Delegation (b) Jim Sinkovic, Resident; Re: Motion (b) Mayor Mrakas; Re: Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland, and Kim,
Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

Absent: Councillors Humfryes and Thompson

2. 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*.

3. Community Presentations

(a) Julie Stephenson, Youth Programmer

Re: John West Memorial “Leaders of Tomorrow” Scholarship Award

Ms. Stephenson announced the 2020 recipients of the John West Memorial “Leaders of Tomorrow” Scholarship Award: Ms. Kiana Mirshahi and Ms. Amanda Bishop, both graduates of Aurora High School; and presented an overview of the recipients’ achievements and community involvement.

Moved by Councillor Humfryes

Seconded by Councillor Kim

That the presentation be received for information.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

4. Delegations

- (a) **Tristan Coolman, Pflag Canada York Region**
Re: Motion (b) Mayor Mrakas; Re: Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection

Mr. Coolman, President of Pflag Canada York Region, provided background on his organization and expressed support for the proposed Rainbow Crosswalk.

Moved by Councillor Humfryes
Seconded by Councillor Thompson

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Motion (b).

On a recorded vote the motion
Carried

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0
Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas
Voting Nays: None

- (b) **Jim Sinkovic, Resident**
Re: Motion (b) Mayor Mrakas; Re: Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection

Mr. Sinkovic expressed concerns regarding the proposed Rainbow Crosswalk in relation to safety, cost and effective use of funds, location, and priorities.

Moved by Councillor Humfryes
Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

That the comments of the delegation be received and referred to Motion (b).

On a recorded vote the motion
Carried

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0
Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas
Voting Nays: None

5. Consent Agenda

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Gilliland

That the following Consent Agenda items, C1 to C11 inclusive, be approved:

C1. Council Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020

1. That the Council meeting minutes of June 23, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C2. Council Closed Session Minutes of March 3, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of March 3, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C3. Council Closed Session Minutes of April 28, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of April 28, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C4. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of April 28, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of April 28, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C5. Council Closed Session Minutes of May 19, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of May 19, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C6. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of May 19, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of May 19, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C7. Council Closed Session Minutes of May 26, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of May 26, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C8. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of May 26, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of May 26, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C9. Council Closed Session Minutes of June 16, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of June 16, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C10. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of June 16, 2020

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of June 16, 2020, be adopted as circulated.

C11. Memorandum from Councillor Gaertner

**Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting
Highlights of May 22, 2020**

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of May 22, 2020, be received for information.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

6. Standing Committee Reports

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

1. That the General Committee meeting report of July 7, 2020, and the Audit Committee meeting report of June 23, 2020, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committees approved, with the exception of sub-items S1(R3) and S1(R8), which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfries, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

S1. General Committee Meeting Report of July 7 2020

(A1) Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2020

1. That the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 10, 2020, be received for information.

Carried

(R1) CMS20-016 – Aquatics Feasibility Study

1. That Report No. CMS20-016 be received for information.

Carried

(R2) PDS20-048 – Stable Neighbourhood Policy Review – Urban Design Guidelines

That Report No. PDS20-048 – Stable Neighbourhood Policy Review – Urban Design Guidelines be deferred to a September 2020 General Committee meeting and a notification letter be sent to the residents of the four stable neighbourhoods.

Carried

(R3) CMS20-017 – Downtown Street Wall Mural Program Guidelines

**Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Gilliland**

1. That Report No. CMS20-017 be received; and
2. That the Downtown Street Wall Mural Program Guidelines be approved; and
3. That Community Services department staff be directed to initiate the selection process for the first mural through an online Call for Artists Application Process; and

2. That the Aurora Business Improvement Association's (BIA) 2019 audited financial statements attached hereto as Attachment 2 be received; and
3. That the 2020 Business Plan and Budget attached hereto as Attachment 3 for the Aurora BIA be approved in part; and
4. That the Aurora BIA's audited 2019 surplus in the amount of \$6,293 be carried over to 2020.

Carried

(R7) PDS20-028 – Request to Designate 15074 Yonge Street (“Poplar Villa”) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

1. That Report No. PDS20-028 be received; and
2. That the property at 15074 Yonge Street, including the building known as “Poplar Villa” and its surrounding yards, be designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest; and
3. That the Town Clerk be authorized to publish and serve Council's Notice of Intention to Designate in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and
4. That the designation by-law be brought before Council for adoption if no objections are received within the thirty (30) day period as per the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Carried

**(R8) PDS20-030 – Heritage Street Naming for Cedartrail Subdivision
14288 Yonge Street, File: SUB-2014-04**

**Moved by Councillor Gaertner
Seconded by Councillor Gallo**

1. That Report No. PDS20-030 be received; and

(a) Councillor Humfryes

Re: Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

**Moved by Councillor Humfryes
Seconded by Councillor Gilliland**

Whereas on April 30, 2020, the Regional Municipality of York adopted the following resolution; and

Whereas the Regional Municipality of York and the Town of Aurora are rooted in the values of democracy, equity and inclusion; and

Whereas in June 2018, the Inclusion Charter for York Region was endorsed as a community initiative, bringing together businesses, community organisations, municipalities, police services, hospitals, school boards, conservation authorities and agencies who share a vision to foster a welcoming and inclusive community; and

Whereas we have a shared responsibility to stop antisemitism in all its forms through education and public consciousness as antisemitic demonstrations continue to threaten communities and undermine democracy; and

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998 that consists of 34 countries including Canada, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism; and

Whereas six percent of York Region residents identify themselves as Jewish, which is a higher representation than Canada and Ontario; and

Whereas on February 27, 2020, Bill 168, the Combating Antisemitism Act, which directly mentioned IHRA, unanimously passed a second reading in the Ontario legislature with all-party support; and

Whereas on January 28, 2020, Vaughan Council unanimously endorsed Mayor Bevilacqua's motion to declare January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which included the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism; and

Whereas York Regional Police dedicated a community room at District #4 headquarters to Holocaust survivor Max Eisen, in recognition and appreciation of his remarkable efforts to eliminate racism and bigotry; and

Whereas York Region is enriched by its thriving, active and engaged Jewish and Israeli communities;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its illustrative examples as adopted at the IHRA Plenary on May 26, 2016, as follows:

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

**(b) Mayor Mrakas
Re: Rainbow Crosswalk at Yonge and Wellington Intersection**

**Moved by Mayor Mrakas
Seconded by Councillor Humfryes**

Whereas Aurora and other communities across the province have shown their support for Pride and the LGBTQ+ community by raising the Pride flag in June every year; and

Whereas the permanent installation of a rainbow crosswalk is a symbol of the Town of Aurora's acceptance of, support for, and commitment to diversity and inclusiveness; and

Whereas the intent of this initiative is to show vulnerable people in our community that Aurora is a town where everyone is welcome and accepted;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Council approve and direct staff to install a Rainbow Crosswalk at the intersection of Yonge and Wellington Streets (south side); and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the installation of the Rainbow Crosswalk be completed by Town staff/contractors who can ensure that it is installed safely and complies with all appropriate accessibility and Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO) requirements.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 5 Nays: 2

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gilliland, Humfryes, Kim, and
Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: Councillors Gaertner and Gallo

**(c) Councillor Kim and Mayor Mrakas
Re: Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force**

**Moved by Councillor Kim
Seconded by Councillor Humfryes**

Whereas the Town of Aurora has endorsed a Diversity and Inclusion Charter, a signed commitment to creating "...an inclusive environment...where everyone can participate freely in society and live with respect, dignity and freedom from discrimination"; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to building a more inclusive society by "working to identify, address and prevent systemic racism in municipal policy, programs and services"; and

Whereas systemic barriers to full participation in our community continue to affect the lived experiences of Black Ontarians; and

Whereas the United Nations proclaimed 2015-2024 the Decade for People of African Descent, an important step in the international community recognizing that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora is committed to taking meaningful action to address anti-Black racism and affect long-term systemic change;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That an “Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force” be established; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the purpose of this committee is to develop strategies to eliminate anti-Black racism and anti-racism in our community and the Municipal Corporation; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That staff work with Black community groups within Aurora and York Region to identify and develop priorities for the proposed task force, identify opportunities to increase Black community engagement and foster an increased public awareness of anti-Black racism; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force be comprised of two (2) members of Council and seven (7) citizen members; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to advertise, in accordance with the provisions of the “Policy for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards”, for applications from members of the public for appointment to the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force; and
6. Be It Further Resolved That the Chief Administrative Officer be directed to appoint one appropriate staff liaison to support the work of the Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force; and
7. Be It Further Resolved That each employee will have the responsibility to support the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion effort of the Town of Aurora; and
8. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force will report at least annually on the progress made on diversity and inclusion in alignment with the *Employment Equity Act* and Bill C-25.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0
Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
 Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas
Voting Nays: None

9. Regional Report

York Regional Council Highlights – June 25, 2020

Moved by Councillor Humfryes
Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

That the Regional Report of June 25, 2020, be received for information.

On a recorded vote the motion
Carried

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0
Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
 Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas
Voting Nays: None

10. New Business

Councillor Gaertner inquired about whether any measures were being taken by the Town to prevent loose dogs from causing disturbances in the wildlife park during nesting season, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gaertner advised that she would not be attending this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in August. Mayor Mrakas noted that the conference would be held virtually and no members of Council were planning to attend.

Councillor Gaertner inquired about how a resident could make a donation through the Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Thompson inquired about whether there were any plans for re-opening Town facilities in August 2020, particularly Club Aurora and the walking track, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Gilliland noted that the Arts and Culture round table discussion group that she has been hosting along with Councillors Gallo and Humfryes would be holding its last meeting on July 22, 2020. She stated that the group has been very helpful and engaging with stakeholders and she hopes to continue with an informal discussion group to support the Culture Days through September and October. Mayor Mrakas expressed his appreciation to the Councillors for their participation in the discussion group.

Councillor Kim inquired about the ownership and responsibility for a green cable box in need of repair, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Humfryes noted that the Town's Drive-In Movie night on July 24, 2020, is sold out and stated her belief that residents are anxious for Arts and Culture events to resume. Mayor Mrakas expressed appreciation to the Special Events team for their efforts in organizing the Drive-In Movie nights and other events.

Councillor Humfryes expressed appreciation to staff for providing clarification on the concerns raised by Ms. Rebecca Beaton, who delegated at last week's General Committee meeting regarding capital project nos. 31118 and 31119.

Councillor Humfryes inquired about the reconstruction work being done at 95 Edward Street, and staff provided a response.

Mayor Mrakas advised that a donation of \$10,000 has been secured from the community toward the installation of the Rainbow Crosswalk at the Yonge and Wellington intersection.

11. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Kim

That the following by-law be enacted:

- (a) **By-law Number 6270-20** Being a By-law to amend Parking and Traffic Control By-law Number 4574-04.T, as amended, with respect to No Parking on various highways in the Town of Aurora.

**On a recorded vote the motion
Carried**

13. Confirming By-law

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

That the following confirming by-law be enacted:

By-law Number 6273-20 Being a By-law to Confirm Actions by Council
Resulting from a Council Meeting on July 14, 2020.

On a recorded vote the motion
Carried

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

Voting Yeas: Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland,
Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson, Mayor Mrakas

Voting Nays: None

14. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Thompson
Seconded by Councillor Humfryes

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Carried

Tom Mrakas, Mayor

Michael de Rond, Town Clerk