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Town of Aurora

## Mayoral Decision

2025-026

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Decision Number: 2025-026

Date: November 21, 2025

**Subject: Use of Veto Powers – Amendments to 2026 Mayor’s Budget and shorten the veto period**

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In accordance with Part VI.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Subsections 284.16(4) power to veto a resolution passed under Subsection 284.16(3);

**The Mayor hereby directs the following;**

1. That the Mayor’s veto power under Subsection 284.16(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* be used to veto the following amendments that were adopted by Council at its Special Meeting on November 17, 2025;
  - Amendment 003 – That the budget contribution for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame be paused until 2025 audited financial statements for this organization are received and approved by Council.
  - Amendment 010 –
    1. That The 2026 draft operating and capital budgets be reviewed and adjusted to “align fully with the 0% municipal property tax increase direction” adopted by Council on June 24, 2025; and
    2. That no reductions to service levels or Community Partner funding allocations shall be made as a result of achieving the 0% tax increase target; and
    3. That the Community Partner budget requests for 2026 shall be considered and funded through identified savings, efficiencies, or reallocations within the existing budget framework, rather than through any increase to the overall budget; and
    4. That staff provide a detailed summary demonstrating how the 2026 budget reflects the measures outlined in the June 24, 2025 motion, including:
      - a. Cost-containment initiatives undertaken;
      - b. Deferred or phased capital projects;

- c. Grants or cost-sharing opportunities leveraged;
  - d. Operational efficiencies achieved; and
  - e. Reserve and reserve fund strategies used to maintain financial stability.
2. That, in the opinion of the Mayor, the amendments be vetoed for the following reasons;
  - Amendment 003 – seeks to withhold funding from the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame until audited financial statements are provided; however, this requirement is not supported by current Town policy, which mandates audits only for organizations with general revenue more than \$250,000. The Hall of Fame is far below that threshold and has consistently met all reporting obligations. If Council wishes to broaden audit requirements for all funded organizations, that discussion must occur through a proper policy review, not by imposing new conditions on a single group during the budget process. To ensure fairness, consistency, and adherence to established policy, I will be issuing a veto of Amendment #3.
  - Amendment 010 – Amendment #10 proposes achieving a 0% tax levy through the drawdown of municipal reserves and the elimination of essential capital funding. In my opinion this approach is fiscally unsound, jeopardizes the Town’s long-term financial stability, and undermines the integrity of our established capital plan. Moreover, it presents residents with a short-term appearance of relief while creating significant long-term financial consequences. For these reasons, and in order to uphold the financial integrity and sustainability of the Town of Aurora, I will be issuing a formal veto of Amendment #10.
3. That this Mayoral Decision provides written notice under Subsection 284.16(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and Subsection 7(7) of O. Reg. 530/22 to shorten the 10-day period to veto an amendment resolution passed by Town Council to the proposed budget, to the date of this Mayoral Decision.



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Tom Mrakas, Mayor