



## **Town of Aurora General Committee Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

**Council Members:** Councillor Michael Thompson (Chair)  
Mayor Tom Mrakas  
Councillor Ron Weese  
Councillor Rachel Gilliland  
Councillor Wendy Gaertner  
Councillor John Gallo  
Councillor Harold Kim

**Other Attendees:** Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor  
Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services  
Marco Ramunno, Director, Planning and Development Services  
Sara Tienkamp, Director, Operational Services  
Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director, Finance  
Carley Smith, Manager, Corporate Communications\*  
John Firman, Manager, Business Support  
Demetre Rigakos, Manager, Human Resources  
Michael de Rond, Town Clerk  
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

\*Attended electronically

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### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

## **2. Land Acknowledgement**

General Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

## **3. Approval of the Agenda**

General Committee approved the revised agenda as circulated by Legislative Services.

## **4. 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*.

## **5. Community Presentations**

None.

## **6. Delegations**

### **6.1 Rocco Morsillo, Resident; Re: Item 9.7 - PDS23-127 - Heritage Permit Application HPA-2023-06 – 56 Spruce Street**

Rocco Morsillo presented an overview of the proposed addition and renovation including the scope of work, site plan, elevations, and colour selections.

General Committee received and referred the comments of the delegation to item 9.7.

**7. Consent Agenda**

**7.1 Memorandum from Councillor Thompson; Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of July 28, 2023**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of July 28, 2023, be received for information.

**Carried**

**8. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

None.

**9. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)**

General Committee consented to consider items in the following order: 9.7, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.4, and 9.6.

**9.1 CS23-057 - Council Compensation Review 2023**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. CS23-057 be received; and
2. That the annual compensation for Council reflect the recommendations of the Council Compensation Ad Hoc Committee being: The role of Mayor be adjusted to the 60th percentile of the market comparator group and Councillors be adjusted to reflect equal compensation to Newmarket being \$52,000.00; and
3. That the annual vehicle allowance for Councillors be increased to \$7,000; and
4. That participation in the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) pension plan with shared contributions between the Town and participants be extended to all Councillors; and

5. That participation in the health and dental group benefits program at the cost of the Town be extended to all Councillors; and
6. That the severance provision of the Council Compensation By-Law for the role of Mayor and Councillors be increased to one month per year of service to a maximum of 12 months; and
7. That the total increase in compensation for Council be retroactive to the beginning of the current term; and
8. That the total increase in compensation for the 2023 fiscal year be funded by the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund; and
9. That the total increase in compensation for the 2024 fiscal year be funded by the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund; and
10. That the total increase in compensation for the 2025 fiscal year be funded 50% by the Tax Rate Stabilization Fund and 50% on the tax base; and
11. That the total increase in compensation for the 2026 fiscal year be funded by the tax base; and
12. That staff be directed to update the Council Compensation By-Law to include a Council compensation review prior to the end of each term of Council; and
13. That staff be directed to bring forward an amendment to the Council Compensation By-Law for the October Council meeting to reflect the updated compensation and recommendations above.

Carried as amended

## 9.2 FIN23-038 - 2024-26 Rates and Fees Update

### General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN23-038 be received; and
2. That a by-law be enacted to set the 2024, 2025 and 2026 fees and charges for applications, permits, use of Town property, the sale of documents and for the prescribed service charges for administrative matters as itemized on the attached schedules.

Carried

**9.3 CMS23-045 - Pickleball Opportunities – Update**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. CMS23-045 be received; and
2. That the indoor and outdoor pickleball program opportunities (offered in 2023) be endorsed to continue as an interim solution to support the interest in the sport of pickleball.

**Carried**

**9.4 CMS23-044 - Sports Field Development Strategy - Status Update**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. CMS23-044 be received for information.

**Carried**

**9.5 CS23-062 - 2024 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. CS23-062 be received; and
2. That the 2024 Meeting Schedule (Attachment No. 1) be approved; and
3. That the Town Clerk be authorized to make amendments to the Council and Committee meeting calendar as required.

**Carried**

**9.6 FIN23-039 - Interim Forecast Update - As of August 31, 2023**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. FIN23-039 be received for information.

**Carried**

**9.7 PDS23-127 - Heritage Permit Application HPA-2023-06 – 56 Spruce Street**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That Report No. PDS23-127 be received; and

2. That Heritage Permit Application HPA-2023-06 be approved to permit a rear addition and alterations at 56 Spruce Street, as shown in Attachment 2.

**Carried**

## **10. Notices of Motion**

### **10.1 Councillor Weese; Re: Request for the Regional Municipality of York to Construct a Crosswalk at St. John's Sideroad and McKinley Gate, Aurora**

Whereas St. John's Sideroad is a Regional Road; and

Whereas the residents of Aurora in the Brentwood and Aspen Leaf subdivisions have no trail access to the south side of St John's Sideroad; and

Whereas there are no crosswalks offering safe pedestrian access to the south side of St. John's Sideroad for the numerous families that reside in these two subdivisions; and

Whereas traffic has increased on St. John's Sideroad due to recent and planned residential and institutional development;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Aurora Town Council requests that the Regional Municipality of York construct a crosswalk at St. John's Sideroad and McKinley Gate entrance to allow safe pedestrian traffic; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Regional Municipality of York fund the crosswalk.

## **11. Regional Report**

### **11.1 York Regional Council Highlights of September 28, 2023**

**General Committee recommends:**

1. That the York Regional Council Highlights of September 28, 2023, be received for information.

**Carried**

## **12. New Business**

Councillor Weese inquired about whether plans are in place to mitigate the traffic flow issues related to the Metrolinx construction of the second GO track, and staff provided a response.

Councillor Weese shared residents' safety concerns regarding the multi-wheeled vehicles being seen on sidewalks and inquired about whether plans are in place for some type of enforcement, and staff agreed to investigate the matter.

Councillor Weese referred to the current in-person application process for the windrow pilot program and inquired about whether a proxy opportunity is available for those residents who are unable to attend in person. Staff provided a response noting that accommodation has been made for those who have reached out for assistance.

Councillor Weese inquired about whether there are any plans for warming centres through the upcoming winter, and staff provided a response.

## **13. Public Service Announcements**

Councillor Weese advised that the Town's United Way staff fundraising campaign will kick off on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Councillor Weese announced that the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) will be making a cheque presentation at the Aurora Food Bank on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Councillor Weese announced that the annual Aurora Prayer Breakfast will be held at the Aurora Legion on Thursday, October 19, 2023, both virtually and in person.

Councillor Weese announced that Sport Aurora will be presenting their annual Breakfast of Champions on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

Councillor Gilliland advised that applications are now being received for the windrow pilot program for seniors and people with disabilities until the deadline of November 30, 2023; visit [aurora.ca/windrow](https://aurora.ca/windrow) for more information.

Councillor Gilliland announced they will be hosting a York Regional Police crime prevention seminar at 6:30 p.m. on November 18, 2023, at the Aurora Community Centre, including a special unit called Operation Auto Guard, which was formed to tackle the increase in auto theft.

Councillor Gilliland announced that the Hillary House will be hosting an Aurora's Haunted event on October 21, 2023, geared toward audiences aged 18+ for two sessions at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; visit [aurorahs.com](https://aurorahs.com) for information and tickets.

Councillor Gilliland commented on the unrest in the world, especially the Gaza conflict, and acknowledged those who have been lost including six Canadians. Councillor Gaertner expressed hope that we can come to a place of peace and loving kindness.

Councillor Gaertner announced the recent celebration of her 75th birthday.

Mayor Mrakas announced the following events and activities:

- The Town is embracing Treat Accessibly, an initiative to ensure an inclusive and accessible Halloween experience for all children; visit [aurora.ca/treataccessibly](https://aurora.ca/treataccessibly) for more details and to register.
- Aurora's Haunted Forest will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sheppard's Bush and the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Saturday, October 28, 2023; visit [aurora.ca/hauntedforest](https://aurora.ca/hauntedforest) for more information.
- If teens need more community hours, stop by the Youth Volunteer Fair on Thursday, October 19, 2023; visit [aurora.ca/youthevents](https://aurora.ca/youthevents) for more details.
- The Town is looking for vendors for Aurora's Christmas Market to be held at Town Park on the weekends of December 1-3 and December 8-10, 2023; visit [aurora.ca/christmasmarket](https://aurora.ca/christmasmarket) for more information and application form.
- There are now two locations in Town for the Little Free Art Gallery, which can be found at Town Park and the Aurora Seniors' Centre, where passersby are encouraged to take an art piece or leave one for someone else to appreciate.

Councillor Gaertner commented on the number of children living in poverty and noted the importance of donating to food banks.



**14. Closed Session**

None.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.