

# Council Highlights



Town of Aurora Corporate Communications

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For immediate release

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

## Highlights of the Special Meeting of Council on Tuesday, November 22, 2022

### Interim Control By-Law

Aurora Town Council enacted an Interim Control By-law (ICBL) at a Special Council meeting on Tuesday evening that will temporarily prohibit development on a parcel of land on Wellington Street East until Town staff can undertake a more fulsome examination of the appropriate use, density and height for the land. The passing of the ICBL comes after the Ontario Government made modifications to York Region's Official Plan that allows for a "minimum building height of 12 storeys" as well as increased density at 1289 Wellington Street East. The modifications to York Region's Official Plan were made with no consultation with the Town of Aurora. Section 38 of the Planning Act allows municipal councils to pass an ICBL for a period of up to one year in order to prohibit the use of land, buildings, or structures so that a review or study can be undertaken with respect to land-use planning policies. The Act also provides for a further extension of the ICBL, if necessary. Council also instructed that a letter, signed by all Council members, be sent to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, and Aurora MPPs expressing Council's concern with the lack of consultation and communication with the Town about the modifications made to York Region's Official Plan. The letter will also seek an explanation as to why these modifications were specifically made to the parcel of land on Wellington Street East.

### Motion opposing Ontario Government's Bill 23

Aurora Town Council adopted a motion put forth by Mayor Mrakas opposing the Ontario Government's Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, which received first reading in the provincial legislature on October 25, 2022. According to a staff report presented to Council, the many changes proposed in Bill 23, if passed, will restrict how municipalities like Aurora can manage growth through the implementation of its own Official Plan, with potential impacts on the Town's ability to provide essential infrastructure and community services to residents. The Council report, for example, forecasts a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in revenue from development charges (DC) to the Town as a result of a proposed five-year phase in of new DC by-law rates and the introduction of new exemptions and discounts on select development types. Similarly, the report notes that Bill 23, if passed, would create new exemptions for the type of developments required to pay the recently-established Community Benefits Charge – which would mean additional revenue loss for the Town – while also reducing parkland dedication requirements.



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The next meeting of Council will be General Committee on **December 6, 2022**.

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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