

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Special Committee of the Whole

DATE: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

**TITLE: PLANNING FOR VAUGHAN'S PROMISING FUTURE:
DELIVERING SERVICE EXCELLENCE AND PROTECTING
TAXPAYERS**

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, on May 25, 2023, the Ontario government announced it will name facilitators to assess the future of the Regions of York, Durham, Halton, Niagara, Simcoe and Waterloo to determine the effectiveness of the existing two-tier governance structure; and

Whereas, Ontario's regional government model has been in place for almost 50 years and the aforementioned regions are each comprised of small towns and big cities that feature a wide variety of demographic characteristics; and

Whereas, Vaughan has collaborated closely with all other lower-tier municipalities in York Region and recognizes the historic importance of what has been achieved as a result of this collaborative approach; and

Whereas, the Ontario government passed *Bill 112 (the Hazel McCallion Act)* on June 8 which will dissolve the Region of Peel and make the municipalities of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon single-tier; and

Whereas, between 2011 and 2021, Vaughan experienced a population increase of almost 30 per cent, and is forecasted to grow by 66 per cent by 2051 for a minimum total population of 570,000; and

Whereas, in March 2023, Vaughan Council approved a commitment to the Ontario government's Housing Pledge which included a provincially mandated housing target for Vaughan of 42,000 housing units by 2031; and

Whereas, of all nine lower-tier municipalities in York Region, Vaughan contributes the highest share of property tax revenue (30.87 per cent in 2022) and development charge collection (47 per cent in 2022) to York Region; and

Whereas, Vaughan continues to demonstrate its ability to maintain low property taxes while delivering exceptional public services, as indicated in the 2022 Citizen Satisfaction Survey that showed 88 per cent of respondents are satisfied with City services; and

Whereas, Vaughan is enhancing services and leveraging innovative solutions to expedite permit approvals to help confront the housing affordability crisis, and is always seeking creative ways in which to eliminate unnecessary duplication in service delivery without sacrificing quality outcomes for its residents; and

Whereas, the provincial government has made it clear with the passage of Bill 112 and the announcement of the impending appointment of regional facilitators that it is determined to make the structural changes necessary to streamline decision-making, expedite approvals, eliminate unnecessary duplication and modernize regional municipal governance; and

Whereas, Vaughan recognizes that there are critically-important shared services that should continue to be delivered through pooled resources and collaborative decision-making across York Region (e.g. police and paramedic services, public transit etc); and

Whereas, Vaughan is currently undertaking significant and transformational city-building planning and infrastructure initiatives that will shape the community for decades to come and, therefore, requires a governance model that reflects how it has evolved into a large, rapidly-growing, prosperous and sophisticated city with a bright future.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT the City of Vaughan confirms that the status quo governance model in York Region should be changed and modernized so as to reflect the current and future needs of our residents; and
2. THAT the City of Vaughan explores a new governance model as part of the provincial government's facilitation process that could enable it, and all other York Region municipalities, to become single tier while enabling certain identified shared services across the region to be funded and administered in common with all other lower tier York Region municipalities; and
3. THAT City of Vaughan staff be directed to undertake the analysis required to support exploring a new governance model; and
4. THAT City of Vaughan staff be authorized to retain consultant support to assist with the analysis; and
5. THAT City staff report back to Vaughan Council by the end of September 2023 with the report findings; and

6. THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to York Region Chair Wayne Emmerson, the Mayors of the nine lower-tier municipalities, the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Financial and Staff Resource Impact

In compliance with the City's procurement policies, City staff will leverage existing, approved operational budgets to fund and procure the undertaking of a third-party study similar in principle to what other jurisdictions have done. City staff will collaborate with external consultants to ensure the accurate and timely delivery of the report findings.

Attachment

1. [Region of Peel Financial Impact Analysis of Service Delivery Models: June 25, 2019.](#)