

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Item 2, Report No. 5, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on February 25, 2025.

2. PROTECT VAUGHAN, ONTARIO AND CANADIAN BUSINESSES

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution of Mayor Del Duca, dated February 5, 2025:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Mayor Del Duca

Whereas, despite the proven promise of a special relationship between Canada and the United States – a relationship that people, communities and nations from around the world depend on for stability, prosperity and opportunity – relations are being undermined and are at risk; and

Whereas, the threat facing both nations is a direct result of the unpredictable statements and policy directives by America's 47th president about undermining Canadian sovereignty and levying unprecedented tariff threats amounting to 25 per cent on imports and 10 per cent on energy that will hurt both Canadian and American industries, companies, their employees and consumers; and

Whereas, trade and investment between Canada and the U.S. supports millions of jobs in communities throughout Canada and the U.S., and helps ensure the secure flow of goods and people across the border, which is vital to both countries' present and future economic competitiveness and prosperity; and

Whereas, Vaughan has a critical role in helping maintain this prosperity with the city's proximity to major transportation assets that support connectivity to key regional supply chains and access to talent; and

Whereas, Vaughan is located less than one hour from the Canada-US border. Vaughan's proximity to major transportation networks, including 400-series highways, the Canadian National (CN) MacMillan Yard and the Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railway Vaughan Intermodal Terminal. Vaughan is located within a 15-minute drive to Toronto Pearson Airport, Canada's largest and busiest airport with hundreds of daily flights scheduled to the U.S.; and

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Whereas, these alarming, unprecedented and unpredictable policy statements by America's president are a call to action for all levels of government – including municipalities – to take urgent action to identify solutions to protect local, Ontario and Canadian businesses to help ensure the business of government continues efficiently, effectively and by minimizing the impact to the public's quality of life should tariffs be levied against Canada and its provinces and communities.

It is therefore recommended:

1. THAT City of Vaughan staff report back by no later than March 4, 2025, to the Committee of the Whole (1) meeting with a procurement strategy that would see the City of Vaughan prioritize buying Canadian products, goods and services in response to U.S. tariffs, exploring all available options and tools, including but not limited to the exercise of Strong Mayor Powers under the Municipal Act, that would allow Vaughan to take immediate action, if necessary; and
2. THAT should tariffs be re-introduced by the American government in the interim, that
 - a) Staff amend such documents and procurement practices as necessary to give effect to the above; and
 - b) The Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to enact such by-laws as may be required to amend the City's Corporate Procurement Policy, if necessary.
3. THAT this Members' Resolution is approved by Council.

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (Working Session)

DATE: Wednesday, February 05, 2025

TITLE: PROTECT VAUGHAN, ONTARIO AND CANADIAN BUSINESSES

FROM:

Mayor Steven Del Duca

Whereas, despite the proven promise of a special relationship between Canada and the United States – a relationship that people, communities and nations from around the world depend on for stability, prosperity and opportunity – relations are being undermined and are at risk; and

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Financial and Staff Resource Impact: N/A

Attachments: N/A