

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2020

Item 13, Report No. 17, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 21, 2020.

13. ADVANCING CITY-BUILDING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution of Mayor Bevilacqua, dated April 21, 2020.

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Mayor Bevilacqua

Whereas, the City of Vaughan remains a leader in fighting the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been monitoring the spread of this virus since the end of January. On February 1, the EOC moved into an enhanced monitoring phase, and, on March 13, there was a partial activation of the City's Emergency Management Team; and

Whereas, on March 14, the City closed all community centres and library branches to the public and cancelled upcoming March Break camps and daycare programming with refunds issued; and

Whereas, on March 17, Vaughan was the first city in Ontario to declare a state of emergency and the first municipality in York Region to do so; and

Whereas, on March 18, Vaughan City Hall and all remaining City facilities closed to the public. This closure was extended until further notice; and

Whereas, on March 25, all facilities within City parks, including all playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, benches and dog parks were also closed to the public; and

Whereas, on March 30, the City held the first ever electronic-participation Committee of the Whole and Council meetings to discuss relevant City matters during this state of emergency; and

Whereas, on April 8, Council passed a new Emergency Measures By-law which provides new authority to the Mayor and City staff to issue responsive, timely and effective orders during this state of emergency; and

Whereas, additional steps were taken to keep neighbourhoods safe by putting up yellow caution tape at amenities within parks to reinforce the closures; locking and/or removing nets from tennis courts; conducting daily inspections to ensure all facilities remain locked and signs have not been removed; and installing additional signage at parking lots and at the entryway of parks; and

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Whereas, increased waste collection was scheduled to keep Vaughan clean and actions were taken to keep waste collectors safe; and

Whereas, on April 10, flags at City facilities were lowered to half-mast in memory of the victims of COVID-19. This global pandemic is felt here at home and in communities around the world; and

Whereas, the City administration implemented alternative work arrangements for staff to work from home and for other staff to be redeployed where they can use their skills and expertise to aide in the delivery of important services; and

Whereas, the Recreation Services department and Vaughan Public Libraries have introduced online opportunities to enrich the well-being of individuals in the safety and comfort of their own homes. This includes plans to hold the first-ever virtual Canada Day event; and

Whereas, spring recreation programs and all permits have been cancelled, and City-led events up until June 2020 have been postponed; and

Whereas, the City has proactively introduced a series of measures to provide relief to citizens and business owners, including deferring the annual stormwater charge for 60 days, cancelling the planned 2020 water and wastewater rate increases, waiving the late penalty charge on interim tax bills, and extending the Elderly Home-Owners Tax Assistance 2020 program deadline; and

Whereas, Council passed the Vaughan Business Action Plan which includes a series of measures to support businesses, consumers and all citizens in addition to the launch of the #ShopVaughanLocal initiative; and

Whereas, transformational infrastructure projects continue to proceed in Vaughan, including construction of the new Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital – Vaughan's first hospital; and

Whereas, as COVID-19 persists – further action needs to be taken to ensure city-building not only continues but thrives.

It is therefore recommended:

1. City of Vaughan staff bring forward a report by no later than the end of the second quarter (June 2020), with an update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state of the City's finances; and
2. That this report provides recommendations on what can be done, during this period of global uncertainty, to continue to responsibly manage taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, while safeguarding investments for the quality public services and programs residents rely on each day; and

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3. That this report takes into consideration the strategic priorities outlined in the Council-approved 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (2) - April 21, 2020
Title:	Advancing City-Building in Response to COVID-19
Submitted by:	Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Whereas, the City of Vaughan remains a leader in fighting the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been monitoring the spread of this virus since the end of January. On February 1, the EOC moved into an enhanced monitoring phase, and, on March 13, there was a partial activation of the City's Emergency Management Team; and

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Whereas, additional steps were taken to keep neighbourhoods safe by putting up yellow caution tape at amenities within parks to reinforce the closures; locking and/or removing nets from tennis courts; conducting daily inspections to ensure all facilities remain locked and signs have not been removed; and installing additional signage at parking lots and at the entryway of parks; and

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Whereas, the City administration implemented alternative work arrangements for staff to work from home and for other staff to be redeployed where they can use their skills and expertise to aide in the delivery of important services; and

Whereas, the Recreation Services department and Vaughan Public Libraries have introduced online opportunities to enrich the well-being of individuals in the safety and comfort of their own homes. This includes plans to hold the first-ever virtual Canada Day event; and

Whereas, spring recreation programs and all permits have been cancelled, and City-led events up until June 2020 have been postponed; and

Whereas, the City has proactively introduced a series of measures to provide relief to citizens and business owners, including deferring the annual stormwater charge for 60 days, cancelling the planned 2020 water and wastewater rate increases, waiving the late penalty charge on interim tax bills, and extending the Elderly Home-Owners Tax Assistance 2020 program deadline; and

Whereas, Council passed the Vaughan Business Action Plan which includes a series of measures to support businesses, consumers and all citizens in addition to the launch of the #ShopVaughanLocal initiative; and

Whereas, transformational infrastructure projects continue to proceed in Vaughan, including construction of the new Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital – Vaughan’s first hospital; and

Whereas, as COVID-19 persists – further action needs to be taken to ensure city-building not only continues but thrives.

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1. *City of Vaughan staff bring forward a report by no later than the end of the second quarter (June 2020), with an update on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the state of the City’s finances; and*
2. *That this report provides recommendations on what can be done, during this period of global uncertainty, to continue to responsibly manage taxpayers’ hard-earned dollars, while safeguarding investments for the quality public services and programs residents rely on each day; and*
3. *That this report takes into consideration the strategic priorities outlined in the Council-approved 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan.*

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor