Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Decision

MD-2026-001

A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law C020-2026 in part as it applies to Resolution C016A-2026

Whereas the Mayor has the authority to make certain decisions under Part VI. 1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the Municipal Act, 2001; and

Whereas section 284.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001 provides that if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of a by-law could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, the head of council may veto the by-law; and

Whereas the Province has prescribed provincial priorities by making O. Reg. 580/22: Provincial Priorities pursuant to section 284.9 of the Municipal Act, 2001; and

Whereas the Mayor of the Township of Springwater deems it desirable to exercise decision-making power under the Act.

Now therefore the Mayor of the Township of Springwater hereby exercise the authority pursuant to subsection 284.11(5) of the Municipal Act, 2001 to veto part of the following by-law passed by Council on February 4, 2026 as follows:

1. That By-law C020-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Township of Springwater at its meeting held on February 4, 2026 be revoked, in part, as it applies to resolution C016A-2026 to direct staff to pay an invoice from Loopstra Nixon (hereinafter referred to as the "**By-law**").

2. That all other aspects of By-law C020-2026 shall be deemed to have been approved in writing pursuant to subclause 284.11(4)(a)(i) of the Municipal Act, 2001 on February 4, 2026.

The reason for the veto are as follows:

> I, Jennifer Coughlin Mayor of the Township of Springwater am of the opinion that the By-law could potentially interfere with the provincial priority set out in paragraph 1 of section 1 of O. Reg. 580/22 of "Building 1.5 million new residential units by December 31, 2031", and the provincial priority set out in paragraph 2 of O. Reg 580/22 "Constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing".

This matter relates back to Council's decision to challenge the use of the Mayor's powers under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 and to provide direction which constitutes an interference with prescribed provincial priorities and which continues Council's efforts dating back to November 5, 2025 when I introduced a by-law under the authority of section 284.11.1 to approve the framework agreement relating to the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment Proposal and which would supersede and take precedence over any previous resolutions on the same subject matter, which was passed as By-law 2025-093.

At the same meeting Council passed resolution C446-2025, to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to take legal action to challenge the validity of By-law 2025-093. In my opinion, these actions sought to potentially interfere with the prescribed provincial priorities that By-law 2025-093 sought to advance. Accordingly, on November 7, 2025, Mayoral Decision MD-2025-005 to veto By-law 2025-091, in part, as it applies to resolution C446-2025 was issued.

On November 8, 2025, Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 to direct staff to engage legal counsel and provide notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP to terminate any engagement with the Township was issued.

On November 10, 2025, Council passed resolution C452-2025, again seeking to instruct Loopstra Nixon LLP to commence legal proceedings to restrain the use of the Mayor's powers under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 to advance provincial priorities in regard to the City of Barrie Boundary Adjustment matter.

On November 12, 2025, I issued Mayoral Decision MD-2025-006 to veto By-law 2025-095, in part, as it applies to resolution C452-2025, which, in my opinion, continued to interfere with provincial priorities.

On November 12, 2025, Council passed resolution C458-2025 to continue to oppose the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment Proposal and to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to proceed with legal actions, contrary to my previous Mayoral Directions and Mayoral Decisions.

On November 13, 2025, I issued Mayoral Decision MD-2025-007 to veto By-law 2025-094, in part, at it applies to resolution C458-2025 because, in my opinion, its continued Council's efforts to interfere with provincial priorities.

This Veto decision sets aside the By-law as it relates to resolution C016A-2026 which pertains to an invoice from Loopstra Nixon LLP which relates to the same matter of interference with provincial priorities which flows from Council's original decision to enact By-law 2025-091 to challenge By-law 2025-093 which was enacted pursuant to section 284.11.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 to advance provincial priorities.

Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

This mayoral decision shall come into effect this 6th day of February, 2026.

Jennifer Coughlin,
Mayor

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