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Council has "no confidence" in Joint Ops decision

The joint works and parks facility was contemplated five years ago at the time of the last Development Charges calculation.
The period for using those charges has ended.
It is questionable the charge can be made again in the circumstance.
Because the new facility is required because of age and inadequacy, only a minor change can be attributed to growth and derived from development charges. The larger share must be borne by the current population through property taxes.
Parks were making good and productive use of the Hydro property. The office section was being used for storage of town archives.
The yard stored heritage salvage but, for the most part, awaited its purpose.
A lease to The Department of National Defence was not contemplated.
Last year's estimate for the facility was $14 million. Council approved going to the next phase.
The next report was due in October 2013.
It was ready, but not brought forward.
New estimates were said to be closer to $24 million.
November came and went. Still no report.
Finally released in December, new estimates were just shy of $19 million.
Items had been removed from the previous plans to bring the cost down.
Council, as a whole, was not privy to the changes.
It was clear as clear could be, when the report was finally presented, the Mayor and followers had made a decision. Arguments were synchronized. Votes were in hand.
It didn't matter a hill of beans what might come forward in a public debate.
A plea to step back and review the history fell on deaf ears.
A final figure for the project will not be known until contractors submit their prices.
Information about financing can neither be accurate nor complete.
An expenditure of that magnitude with inaccurate and incomplete information cannot be seen to be in the municipality's best interest
With half of Council opposed, there can be no confidence the decision is acceptable to the community.

Councillor Evelyn Buck
Aurora