

2.01.52 Councilor Payne:

This is probably one of the most important decisions that council will make one way or the other because our health is the most important consideration for all of us and without health, we are poor regardless of material wealth. And the other couple of points I wanted to make was that as far as deferment goes, other cities in Ontario are reported to be seeking mega hospitals as well. If we delay, will the province wait for us to decide? I'm absolutely not prepared to take that risk in the interests of healthcare.

As far as the justification for the hospital, the existing hospitals established many years ago are severely dated, and a new modern hospital containing all the latest advances in medical technology is very much needed and I won't speak to the location because we were supposed to speak on planning only but I firmly believe we should proceed with this project, the regional health authorities has done an excellent job right through this entire process. The city and the county have individually committed \$10 million towards the cost and the province will be expected to put up the remaining cost \$1.8 billion and this is no way an opportunity that we should pass up. Not only on our own interests, but the interests of all future generations. Thank you.