

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL COUNCIL
OPEN SESSION**

**CL 11-2020
Thursday, July 23, 2020
Council Chamber/Teleconference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Council Members Present in the Council Chamber: Bradley (Regional Chair), Foster, Steele

Council Members Present via Teleconference: Bellows, Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Dart, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Ugolini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: M. Lewis, Technology Support Analyst, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Teleconference: D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, M. Johnston, Program Manager, Community Safety & Well-being, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, D. Woiceshyn, Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

Others Present in the Council Chamber: B. MacCulloch, Chief of Police, Niagara Regional Police Service, T. McKendrick, Member, Niagara Regional Police Services Board and Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Ugulini
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Herman Omilgoituk **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegate respecting the presentation by the Niagara Regional Police Services. (Agenda Item 4.1).

Carried

2.1 Changes in Order of Items

There were no changes in the order of items on the agenda.

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Huson

That Council Agenda CL 11-2020, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Niagara Regional Police Services

Bill Steele, Vice-Chair, Niagara Regional Police Services Board provided introductory remarks respecting the Niagara Regional Police Service presentation and the recommendations contained in the motion regarding Niagara Regional Police Service - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Agenda Item 8.1). Mr. Steele stated that the Niagara Regional Police Services Board recognizes that public trust is absolutely necessary to effectively police the community and should never be taken for granted or jeopardized. Mr. Steele advised Regional Council that they can be assured that the Niagara Regional Police Services Board and the Chief of Police, are committed to delivering unbiased policing to the entire community and ensuring that members of the Niagara Regional Police Service treat all people with dignity and respect and that they will continue to respond to the service delivery needs of the communities with accountability, objectivity, and responsibility.

Bryan MacCulloch, Chief of Police, and Tara McKendrick, Member, Niagara Regional Police Services Board and Executive Director, Canadian Mental Health Association, appeared before Council to provide information respecting the Niagara Regional Police Service's culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. Topics of the presentation included:

- Culture of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Chief of Police - Community Inclusion Council (CoP-CIC)
- Focused Recruiting Efforts
- Use of Force Continuum
- Accountability/Oversight
- Calls for Service - Mental Health
- Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT)
- Situational Tables/Community Safety Well Being Plan
- Foot Patrol
- Calls for Service
- Strategic Plan Aligns with Council Priorities
- Funding Sources/Operating Budget by Service
- Police Operations Breakdown by Functional Area
- Body Worn Cameras
- Collection of Identifying Information (Street Checks)

At this point in the meeting, Council heard the delegations prior to asking questions regarding the presentation.

5. DELEGATIONS

The following delegations provided their comments by video/teleconference.

5.1 Niagara Regional Police Services - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (Agenda Item 8.1)

5.1.1 Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Anti-Racism Association

Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Anti-Racism Association, appeared before Council to raise concerns with respect to the information provided in the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) presentation and suggested that more could be done to improve diversity, equity and inclusion within the Police Service. He proposed that the reforms from the City of St. Catharines Anti-Racism Committee should be implemented by the NRPS.

5.1.2 Thomas and Kathleen Barnes, Residents, Town of Pelham

Thomas and Kathleen Barnes, residents, Town of Pelham, appeared before Council to share their experiences as parents related to the response they received by the Niagara Regional Police Service and involvement with persons in mental health distress. They highlighted the need to develop enhanced or integrated training for police, first responders and community services to better respond to youth in crisis.

5.1.3 Karl Dockstader, Resident, City of Niagara Falls

Karl Dockstader, resident, City of Niagara Falls, appeared before Council with respect to the motion regarding Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He proposed that the motion should include the following: that the NRPS acknowledge historical racism and that there is currently systemic racism within the Police Service, that an active anti-racism campaign be started within the Service and that resources be reallocated to provide for counsellors, mental health and addiction workers.

5.1.4 Kerry Goring, Resident, City of St. Catharines

Kerry Goring, resident, City of St. Catharines, appeared before Council to share her lived experience as a black woman and described interactions she had with the Niagara Regional Police Service. Ms. Goring suggested that the timing is right to create real change and create a new relationship for community policing.

5.1.5 Patty Krawec, Resident, City of Thorold

Patty Krawec, resident, City of Niagara Falls, appeared before Council to raise concerns with respect to the information provided in the Niagara Regional Police Service presentation and noted that diversity and cultural sensitivity is not the same as anti-racism and suggested a number of areas for improvement and change related to the Niagara Regional Police Service.

5.1.6 Herman Omilgoituk, Resident, City of Welland

Herman Omilgoituk did not provide his delegation.

At this point in the meeting, Council Members had the opportunity to ask questions of the delegates and Police Chief MacCulloch.

The meeting recessed at 6:55 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 6:57 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That the outstanding agenda items **BE REFERRED** to a Special Meeting of Regional Council and the Chief of Police **BE REQUESTED** to be in attendance.

Carried

9. BY-LAWS

9.1 Bill 2020-39

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Heit

That Bill 2020-39 being a by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its special meeting held on July 23, 2020, **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk