

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

**CL 18-2018
Thursday, December 6, 2018
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Council: Bradley(Regional Chair), Bellows, Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Insinna, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugulini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa

Staff: C. Carter, General Manager, Dr. A. Feller, Associate Medical Officer of Health, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, J. Gilston, Legislative Coordinator, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Enterprise Resource Management Services, Dr. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, B. Julian, Director, Construction & Facilities Management, M. Jurczyk, Director, Internal Controls & Organizational Performance, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, T. McKinnon, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, J. Tamming, Director, Strategic Communications & Public Affairs, R. Tripp, Commissioner, Public Works

Others Present: His Worship Bruce Phillips, Local Administrative Justice of the Peace, L. Tracey, Vocalist, A. Spencer, Piper

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Inaugural Meeting of Regional Council reconvened at 4:05 p.m. and was called to order by Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk. She invited all in attendance to rise in honour of the procession of Regional Council into the Council Chamber.

2. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Regional Clerk asked all present to remain standing and join Leah Tracey in the singing of 'O Canada'.

3. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Councillor Gale expressed thanks and appreciation to Alan Spencer, Piper, for providing the music for Council's procession into the Council Chamber at the Inaugural Meeting of Council.

Councillor Nicholson expressed thanks and appreciation to Leah Tracey, Vocalist, for her beautiful singing of 'O Canada' at the Inaugural Meeting of Council.

Councillor Greenwood expressed thanks and appreciation to the Local Cadet Honour Guard for their participation at the Inaugural Meeting of Council.

4. INTRODUCTIONS OF PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

The Regional Councillors stood and introduced themselves and the municipality they represent.

The Regional Clerk introduced past Regional Chairs Alan Caslin and Debbie Zimmerman present in the Council Chamber.

5. REGIONAL CLERK'S REPORT ON ELECTION RESULTS

The Regional Clerk confirmed that she had received the required Certificates of Election Results from the Clerks of the twelve area municipalities verifying the election of those municipalities' representatives to Regional Council.

The Regional Clerk announced that at the morning session of the Inaugural Meeting of Council, Councillor Bradley was elected as Regional Chair.

6. DECLARATION OF OFFICE BY THE REGIONAL CHAIR

In accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, His Worship Justice Phillips administered the Declaration of Office to Councillor Bradley and declared Councillor Bradley to be the Regional Chair for the 2018 to 2022 Term of Council.

7. PRESENTATION OF CHAIN OF OFFICE TO THE REGIONAL CHAIR

Former Regional Chair Caslin for the 2014-2018 Term of Council, presented the Chain of Office to Regional Chair Bradley. Chair Bradley took his seat at the Dias.

8. DECLARATION OF OFFICE BY REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

His Worship Justice Phillips administered the Declarations of Office to the members of Regional Council.

9. **DECLARATION OF VACANT SEAT**

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

Whereas Councillor Jim Bradley has been elected on December 6, 2018 as Regional Chair of The Regional Municipality of Niagara; and

Whereas Regional Council must declare his seat vacant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the seat held by Jim Bradley, Regional Councillor for the City of St. Catharines, **BE DECLARED** vacant; and

That pursuant to the legislative provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, Regional Council **DECLARES** one seat from the City of St. Catharines as vacant, as a result of the election of Councillor Jim Bradley to the Regional Chair's position.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

Whereas Regional Council has declared the seat of Jim Bradley, Regional Councillor of the City of St. Catharines, as vacant;

Whereas Regional Council must fill the vacant seat by either appointing a person who has consented to accept the office if appointed or require a by-election to be held to fill the vacancy;

Whereas Regional Policy C-RC-002 respecting the Filling of Vacancies in the Position of Regional Chair provides that Council shall request the local municipality to advise the Region of its recommendation on whether a qualified elector should be appointed or if a by-election should be held; and

Whereas Regional Policy C-RC-002 respecting the Filling of Vacancies in the Position of Regional Chair provides that Council would approve the recommendation of the local municipality provided it was in compliance with all provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Council **REQUESTS** the City of St. Catharines to advise of its preferred method of filling the vacancy on Regional Council by January 17, 2019.

Carried

10. REGIONAL CHAIR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Regional Chair Jim Bradley gave his Inaugural Address.

A copy of Chair Bradley's Inaugural Address is attached to these minutes.

Moved by Councillor Whalen
Seconded by Councillor Disero

That the Inaugural Address provided by Regional Chair Jim Bradley **BE RECEIVED**; and

That a copy of the Inaugural Address **BE INCLUDED** in the minutes of this Inaugural Meeting of Council.

Carried

11. EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Councillor Butters expressed thanks and appreciation to His Worship Justice Bruce Phillips for his assistance and participation in the Inaugural Meeting of Council.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Rigby advised he wanted to bring forward a motion for consideration respecting appointments to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board. The Regional Clerk advised that the Procedural By-law would need to be temporarily suspended. Therefore it was:

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That, in accordance with subsection 2.4 of Niagara Region's Procedural By-law, the rules of procedure, specifically section 24, respecting Post-Election procedure, **BE SUSPENDED** to allow the Inaugural meeting agenda to be amended.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (29): Bellows, Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Dart, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Ip, Jordan, Junkin, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Steele, Ugolini, Villella, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa.

No (1): Nicholson.

Two-thirds having been achieved, the vote was declared,

Carried

12.1 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board Appointments

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That an interim board of twelve (12) Regional Councillors, one from each municipality, **BE APPOINTED** to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board for a period of 3 months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

That an interim board of twelve (12) Regional Councillors, one from each municipality, **BE APPOINTED** to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board, **effective immediately**, for a period of 3 months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

That an interim board of 12 Regional Councillors, one from each municipality, **BE APPOINTED to replace** the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board, effective immediately, for a period of 3 months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

That twelve (12) Regional Councillors representing Niagara Region, one from each municipality in the Niagara Region, **BE APPOINTED** to replace, **on an interim basis**, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board, effective immediately for a period of three months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Regional Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

That 12 Regional Councillors representing Niagara Region, one from each municipality in the Niagara Region, **BE APPOINTED** to replace, on an interim basis, **the current Niagara Region representatives**, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board, effective immediately for a period of three months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

The Regional Clerk called the vote on the motion as amended, as follows:

That twelve (12) Regional Councillors representing Niagara Region, one from each municipality in the Niagara Region, **BE APPOINTED** to replace the current Niagara Region representatives, on an interim basis, on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board, effective immediately for a period of three months until it is determined how to proceed with the Board composition.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Councillors Bylsma, Chiocchio, Foster, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Insinna, Jordan, Steele, Whalen, Zalepa, **BE APPOINTED** to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board for a three month period.

Carried

13. BY-LAWS

13.1 Bill 2018-82

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Bill 2018-82 **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**.

Carried

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

James Bradley
Regional Chair

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

**Inaugural Address
Regional Chair Jim
Bradley**

Thank you

I would like to begin this afternoon by extending to all who are in attendance in the Chamber and in Regional Headquarters a warm welcome as the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara begins a new four-year term which commences today that will be completed in the latter part of 2022.

I would like to convey to the elected representatives for each of our local municipal heartiest congratulations on your election or re-election to Regional Council on October 22 of this year.

I note at this time something we're all proud of as Canadians and those in the western democracies and that is how great it is to have a democracy where when the transition of power takes place – takes place in a peaceful manner.

Not many places in the world unfortunately have that transition taking place as we do.

I think it speaks well of those who established our democratic system and years gone by and who have had it prevail in the years since.

On a personal note I am grateful to regional Councillor who elected me as chair of the Niagara Region. I don't know reading earlier today that I pledge to you that I will endeavor to perform my duties and responsibilities in a manner which I hope will meet your satisfaction and live up to your expectations.

I look in the audience as well as people who have served on Regional Council on years gone by, I thank you for your service to the people of the region of Niagara and your legacy will live on in so many ways and we will build upon the solid foundation that you have established.

I would particularly like to mention, it's always dangerous to do so, the federal member of parliaments for Niagara Falls Rob Nicholson former member of regional council and member of parliament in Canada and former cabinet minister Robert delighted to have you hear today and I know that you're very proud that your son is serving in a similar capacity.

Since its beginning in 1970 as a newly established regional government the Regional Municipality of Niagara has experienced much progress and many changes and has adapted to new circumstances as a municipality.

Success of councils have been confronted with new challenges and the developed policies and procedures designed to meet those challenges and overcome problems. Similar and new challenges will face this council and I am confident that we will rise to the occasion, match those problems and be equal to our opportunities.

During the recent municipal campaign all of us received a clear message from the voters. A justified demand that council conduct its business with honesty, integrity, civility, fairness, openness and accountability. Without a doubt there is an expectation that elected officials must embrace these attributes at all times and in all circumstances is a profound message that all of us will heed I'm sure in the term ahead.

As your chair I am committed to working in a collaborative consensus of a reaching manner to ensure all the views of councilors receive a fair hearing and that accurate information is provided on a timely basis to each elected representative.

Each decision should be an interest of the people we represent and not in the personal interests of anyone or any group of councilors. I am confident this sentiment is shared by all members of this council – those re-elected and those newly elected.

It will be our goal to attract and retain top-notch staff who were hired and promoted on merit and in fair, open and transparent fashion we'll be able to carry out the responsibilities in a professional manner without political interference or intimidation providing independent expert advice to our elected representatives.

Again this was a theme that permeated our recent municipal electoral process. A message conveyed to all of us seeking public office.

It should be our goal to develop solid partnerships with our federal and provincial governments and our local area municipalities working in cooperation and coordination with all levels of government in the interest of the people that we represent.

It is important we work together with all members of parliament and members of the provincial legislature from Niagara to assist them in promoting the interests of the people of Niagara and that we consult in a meaningful way with elected representatives in our local cities, towns and townships so that no part of the Niagara region is forgotten, or ignored.

Our goal will be to ensure that basic municipal services are delivered in an efficient and reliable fashion so Niagara has well-maintained roads and bridges, reliable garbage and recycling management, clean water and waste-water pollution control facilities, good child and senior services, adequately resources ambulance and police services, decent affordable housing and vital public health and safety programs.

Our regional government will continue to play a central role in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable in our society through our programs under the auspices of community services division.

We in the Niagara Region are often reminded of the many assets and attributes that we have by those who visit our area including: the vast beautiful economically important agricultural sector which has provided valuable products for us for over two centuries. We are blessed with unique climatic conditions and soils which enable us to grow crops which are found infrequently in other parts of our county and hard-working expert farmers who contribute immensely to our food supply and provide employment opportunities to so many.

When engaging in land-use planning for the future we have an opportunity to preserve both our natural and our built heritage. With Brock University and Niagara College firmly established as reputable post-secondary education institutions we have willing partners for progress now and in the future.

Niagara has hosted national and international events such as the world rowing championships, Pan American Games and a variety of other prestigious events and we look forward with anticipation to playing host to the 2021 Canada Summer Games when thousands of Canadians will visit Niagara to see out top-notch athletes compete.

As we expand our inter-municipal transit system we look forward with anticipation to all-day commuter GO train service – something unanimously supported by previous council and I'm convinced by this council.

As we begin in a new era of the history of the Niagara Region – we will strive to attract and retain business and public sector investment to grow our economy and enhance the quality of life for our residents all within the framework of fiscal responsibility ensuring that the tax dollars of our people are invested and allocated with efficiency and care.

With the effort and involvement of both returning veterans and newly elected representatives to move Niagara forward and provide the kind of representation they expect and deserve. I'm confident this will be the case in the term ahead.

Thank you