

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

**CL 13-2021
Thursday, June 24, 2021
Council Chamber/Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold**

Council Members Present in the Council Chamber:	Bradley (Regional Chair), Insinna
Council Members Present via Video Conference:	Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Chiocchio, Darte, Diodati, Disero, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Gibson, Greenwood, Heit, Huson, Ip, Junkin, Nicholson, Redekop, Rigby, Steele, Ugulini, Whalen, Witteveen, Zalepa
Absent/Regrets:	Bellows, Jordan, Sendzik, Villella
Staff Present in the Council Chamber:	D. Barnhart, Executive Officer to the Regional Chair, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, M. Lewis, Client & Support Advisor, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Present via Video Conference:	H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/ Deputy Treasurer, J. Garritsen, Associate Director, Labour Relations & Health, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, C. Habermehl, Director, Waste Management Services, Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, M. Johnston, Community Safety & Well-Being Program Manager, A. Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, B. Menage, Director, Procurement & Strategic Acquisitions, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, C. Ryall, Director, Transportation Services, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, D. Woiceshyn, Director, Niagara Housing/Chief Executive Officer, Niagara Regional Housing, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works
Others Present:	B. MacCulloch, Chief, Niagara Regional Police Service

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Chair Bradley read out the joint statement issued with Niagara's Mayors respecting the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. He advised the flags at municipal facilities would be lowered to recognize the recently discovered victims. The Chair acknowledged that although the flag lowering was symbolic, the Region is committed to listen, learn, and to take meaningful action by building stronger relationships with Niagara's local indigenous groups.

Regional Council observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Addition of Items

There were no items added to the agenda.

2.2 Changes in Order of Items

Councillor Huson requested that the order of the agenda be changed to move the consideration of the motion respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (Agenda Item 11.1) to immediately following the delegations on the matter (Agenda Item 6.1).

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Chiocchio

That Council Agenda CL 13-2021, **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Edgar declared a direct pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Public Health and Social Services Committee Minutes PHSSC 6-2021 (Agenda Item 9.2) concerning Report COM 15-2021, respecting National Child Care Plan: Local Impacts and Recommendations (Minute Item 5.3) as his wife is the director of Children's Services.

Councillor Gale declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Corporate Services Committee Minutes CSC 6-2021 (Agenda Item 9.3) concerning Report CSD 35-2021, respecting 2021-T-5 Award of Tender - Long Term Care (LTC), Linhaven, St. Catharines (Minute Item 5.3) as his daughter-in-law works in long-term care.

Councillor Gale declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Corporate Services Committee Minutes CSC 6-2021 (Agenda Item 9.3) concerning Confidential Report HR 1-2021, respecting A Matter of Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations under s. 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* - Corporate Labour Relations Strategy - 2021-2024 (Minute Item 9.2) as his daughter-in-law works in long-term care.

Councillor Gale declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole Minutes BRCOTW 3-2021 (Agenda Item 9.5) concerning Report CSD 36-2021, respecting Hospital Financing Strategy (Minute Item 5.2) as his son is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Gale declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as he has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Heit declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Public Health and Social Services Committee Minutes PHSSC 6-2021 (Agenda Item 9.2) concerning Report COM 13-2021, respecting Homelessness Services Contract Extensions (Minute Item 5.1) as his wife works for a local charitable organization.

Councillor Heit declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as he has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Redekop declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole Minutes BRCOTW 3-2021 (Agenda Item 9.5) concerning Report CSD 36-2021, respecting Hospital Financing Strategy (Minute Item 5.2) as his daughter is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Steele declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the portion of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole Minutes BRCOTW 3-2021 (Agenda Item 9.5) concerning Report CSD 36-2021, respecting Hospital Financing Strategy (Minute Item 5.2) as his wife is employed by Niagara Health.

Councillor Ip declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as she has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Bylsma declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as he has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Butters declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as she has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

Councillor Dart declared a direct pecuniary interest respecting Report CLK 7-2021, concerning Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner (Agenda Item 8.2.3) as he has an on-going matter before the Integrity Commissioner.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Regional Chair's Niagara Impact Awards

The Niagara Impact Awards recognize community members who have made a positive impact on life in Niagara.

Residents were encouraged to nominate individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations who have gone above and beyond to help make living in Niagara a little better for others during the past year.

Regional Chair Bradley announced the following winners of the 2021 Niagara Impact Awards:

Youth Award:

Anisha O'Brien

Individual Awards:

Natasha Bell

Justin Preston

Amanda Cote

Non-Profit Award:

The Valhalla Project Niagara

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 613 Fonthill

Business Award:

Dillon's Small Batch Distillers

Community Leader Award:

Tom Rankin

A video was shared of the winners thanking Niagara Region for the award and recognition.

5. CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS

The Regional Chair provided an update respecting activities within the Region and the efforts of Niagara Region with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (Agenda Item 14.1)

- 6.1.1 Jean Tonogai, Member, Maureen Shantz, President, Gail Neff, Past President, and Liina Veer, Advocacy Chair, Canadian Federation of University Women St. Catharines

Jean Tonogai, Member, Canadian Federation of University Women St. Catharines, spoke in support of the motion respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. She provided information respecting barriers to women seeking advancement in careers and politics.

- 6.1.2 Steffannie Hancharyk, Resident, City of Thorold

Steffannie Hancharyk, Resident, City of Thorold, spoke in support of the motion respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. She provided information respecting an increase in domestic violence and mental health issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 6.1.3 Danielle Romanuk, Resident, City of St. Catharines

Danielle Romanuk, Resident, City of St. Catharines, spoke in support of the motion respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence however, indicated more could be done. She used a portion of her delegation time for a moment of silence for all who suffer from gender-based violence.

- 6.1.4 Tanja Loeb, Gillian's Place

Tanja Loeb, Gillian's Place, spoke in support of the motion respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. She appeared before Council to provide information respecting the increase in violence and abuse against women as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders.

11. **MOTIONS**

11.1 **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence**

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Moved by Councillor Huson

Seconded by Councillor Ip

WHEREAS “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” is an annual international campaign, running from November 25 through December 10, that calls on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls;

WHEREAS the pandemic has been linked to an alarming increase in rates of violence against women, domestic violence reporting and domestic homicides, also known as the shadow pandemic;

WHEREAS 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner, and emerging data has shown that all types of violence against women and girls has intensified during the pandemic;

WHEREAS the supply of women’s shelter space has decreased due to public health measures while simultaneously there has been a 30 percent increase in the rates of gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS indigenous women and girls, and racialized, minority and vulnerable communities are more likely to be the victims of assault.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Region actively **PARTICIPATE** in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by flying a campaign flag in the International Plaza from November 25 to December 10, 2021;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a communication strategy to increase awareness of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign; and
3. That the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to circulate a copy of this motion to the local area municipalities.

Carried

7. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Darte
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That the following minutes of Regional Council **BE ADOPTED**:

Open Session Minutes CL 10-2021, Thursday, May 20, 2021 (Special Meeting)

Open Session Minutes CL 11-2021, Thursday, May 20, 2021 (Regular Meeting)

Open and Closed Session Minutes CL 12-2021, Thursday, June 10, 2021
(Special Meeting)

Carried

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 **Receive and/or Refer**

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That the following items **BE DEALT WITH** as follows:

CL-C 53-2021 respecting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based
Violence in Support of Homeless Women and Families, **BE RECEIVED**;
and

CL-C 54-2021 respecting Notice of Procedural By-law Amendment
(Electronic Meetings), **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

8.2 **For Consideration**

8.2.1 CL-C 52-2021

Recommendation for Consideration from the T. Roy Adams
Humanitarian Award Committee meeting held June 21, 2021

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Correspondence Item CL-C 52-2021, being a memorandum
from A.M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated June 24, 2021, respecting
Recommendation for Consideration from the T. Roy Adams
Humanitarian Award Committee meeting held June 21, 2021, **BE
RECEIVED**; and

That the recommendation contained in Confidential Appendix 1 to Correspondence Item CL-C 52-2021 to confirm the 2021 recipient of the T. Roy Adams Humanitarian of Year Award, **BE APPROVED.**

Carried

8.2.2 CSD 42-2021

Budget Amendment – Greater Niagara Circle Route – Welland Canal Parkway Trail Extension

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Report CSD 42-2021, dated June 24, 2021, respecting Budget Amendment – Greater Niagara Circle Route – Welland Canal Parkway Trail Expansion, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED:**

1. That a one-time amendment to the previously adopted 2021 Niagara Region Operating Budget in the amount of \$200,000 **BE APPROVED** from the Greater Niagara Circle Route (GNCR) Reserve to fund a grant to the City of St. Catharines for an extension of the Welland Canal Parkway Trail north of Lakeshore Road as described in PW 26-2021 and that there be no impact on Niagara Region's 2021 tax levy and 2021 property tax rates; and
2. That a one-time amendment to the previously adopted 2021 Niagara Region Operating Budget in the amount of \$50,000 **BE APPROVED** from the Greater Niagara Circle Route (GNCR) Reserve to fund Greater Niagara Circle Route wayfinding initiatives and/or implementation costs as described in PW 26-2021 and that there be no impact on Niagara Region's 2021 tax levy and 2021 property tax rates.

Carried

8.2.3 CLK 7-2021

Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

That Report CLK 7-2021, dated June 24, 2021, respecting Appointment of Interim Integrity Commissioner, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED:**

1. That Michael L. Maynard of ADR Chambers Inc., **BE APPOINTED** Interim Integrity Commissioner until such time as a new Integrity Commissioner is appointed pursuant to a Request for Proposal process to be undertaken;
2. That By-law 2017-61, being a by-law to appoint an Integrity Commissioner for The Regional Municipality of Niagara, **BE REPEALED**;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to initiate a Request for Proposal process for Integrity Commissioner services for Niagara Region and report back upon completion of the process with a recommendation for award/appointment; and
4. That the necessary by-law to appoint an Interim Integrity Commissioner **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Carried

8.2.4 CL-C 55-2021

Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment Committee Update

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Correspondence Item CL-C 55-2021, being a memorandum from F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, and A.M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated June 24, 2021, respecting Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment Committee Update, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That, in accordance with subsection 2.4 of Niagara Region's Procedural By-law, the rules of procedure, specifically the second part of subsection 13.7 of the Procedural By-law, **BE SUSPENDED** for purposes of the Chief Administrative Officer Recruitment Committee (CAORC), and that the Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to forward any signed submissions received by the Clerk regarding the CAORC to the Director, Human Resources, and the External Search Firm for consideration and follow up as appropriate during this recruitment process.

Two-thirds majority being achieved, the Regional Chair declared the vote,

Carried

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION**

9.1 **Public Works Committee**

Minutes PWC 6-2021, Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Minutes PWC 6-2021 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.2 **Public Health and Social Services Committee**

Minutes PHSSC 6-2021, Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Minutes PHSSC 6-2021 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.3 **Corporate Services Committee**

Minutes CSC 6-2021, Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes CSC 6-2021 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.4 Planning and Economic Development Committee

Minutes PEDC 6-2021, Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Minutes PEDC 6-2021 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

9.5 Budget Review Committee of the Whole

Minutes BRCOTW 3-2021, Thursday, June 17, 2021

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Whalen

That Minutes BRCOTW 3-2021 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, June 17, 2021, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

9.5.1 Minute Item 5.1 respecting 2020 Budget Planning and Timetable

The motion contained in Minute Item 5.1 was considered separately as follows:

That Report CSD 40-2021, dated June 17, 2021, respecting 2022 Budget Planning and Timetable, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the 2022 budget timetable, Appendix 1 to Report CSD 40-2021, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That Report CSD 40-2021 **BE CIRCULATED** to the agencies, boards and commissions (ABCs) in accordance with By-law No. 2017-63 (Budget Control).

The Regional Chair called the vote on the motion and declared it,

Carried

9.5.2 Balance of the Recommendations from Budget Review Committee of the Whole

The Regional Chair called the vote on the balance of the recommendations from the Budget Review Committee of the Whole and declared it,

Carried

10. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT(S)

10.1 CAO 12-2021

Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, 2021-2025

Michelle Johnston, Project Lead, Community Safety & Well-Being Program Manager, provided information respecting Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, 2021-2025. Topics of the presentation included:

- Background
- Pillars of Framework
- Local Approach
- Niagara's Plan

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

That Report CAO 12-2021, dated June 24, 2021, respecting Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, 2021-2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ADOPT** Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, 2021-2025, attached as Appendix A to Report CAO 12-2021;
2. That the request for additional resources to implement and sustain Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (2021-2025), as outlined in Report CAO 12-2021, **BE CONSIDERED** as part of the 2022 budget process; and
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to submit Niagara's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to the Ministry of the Solicitor General in accordance with the *Police Services Act, 1990*.

Carried

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Members made various announcements related to activities and events within the Region and area municipalities.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Council did not resolve into closed session.

15. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Council did not resolve into closed session.

16. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Gibson
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That the following Bills **BE NOW READ** and **DO PASS**:

Bill 2021-37

A by-law to appoint an Interim Integrity Commissioner for The Regional Municipality of Niagara and to repeal By-law 2017-61.

Bill 2021-39

A by-law to provide for the adoption of Amendment No. 19 to the Official Plan for the Niagara Planning Area to remove the employment land designation from Schedule G2 and to refine/delineate the boundaries of the existing "Environmental Conservation Area" and add "Environmental Protection Area" to the subject lands on Schedule C to facilitate the redevelopment of the subject lands from vacant industrial (previously John Deere) to a residential and mixed-use subdivision.

Bill 2021-40

A by-law to amend By-law 89-2000 to provide for the regulation of traffic on Regional highways (Speed Limit Reduction Regional Road 20 in the City of Niagara Falls).

Bill 2021-41

A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its meeting held on June 24, 2021.

Carried

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Jim Bradley
Regional Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk