1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Regional Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT**
   Councillor Steele read the Land Acknowledgment Statement.

3. **MOMENT OF REFLECTION**
   Councillor Easton read the moment of reflection.
4. **SINGING OF 'O CANADA'**

Regional Chair Bradley asked all in attendance to stand for the singing of 'O Canada'.

5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

5.1 **Addition of Items**

Moved by Councillor Darte
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Ted Kirkpatrick, Sales Manager, Heddle Shipyards, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegate respecting the portion of the 12.6 concerning the motion respecting Port Weller Dry Docks and National Ship Building Strategy (Minute Item 3.1).

Carried

Moved by Councillor Heit
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Councillor Kevin Townsend, City of St. Catharines, **BE PERMITTED** to appear before Council as a delegate respecting the portion of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole Minutes BRCOTW 10-2019 (Agenda Item 12.7) concerning the 2020 Levy Budget (Minute Item 5.1).

Carried

The Regional Chair called the vote to adopt the agenda, as amended, and declared it,

Carried

6. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Huson declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to Report CAO 16-2019, concerning Canada Summer Games Capital Budget Initiation (Minute Item 4.1 of Minutes CL 21-2019, Agenda Item 10), as the report deals with the Canada Summer Games agreement which Brock University is a party to and she has an employment relationship with Brock University. Councillor Huson was absent from the meeting during which, Report CAO 16-2019 was considered.

See Minute Item 12.7.1.

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.
8. **CHAIR'S REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMARKS**

The Regional Chair made various announcements related to activities and events he attended throughout the Region.

9. **DELEGATIONS**

9.1 **Port Weller Dry Docks and National Ship Building Strategy (Minute Item 3.1 of PEDC 11-2019 (Agenda Item 12.6))**

9.1.1 Ted Kirkpatrick, Sales Manager, Heddle Shipyards

Ted Kirkpatrick, Sales Manager, Heddle Shipyards, appeared before Council in support of the motion to endorse Heddle Shipyards' bid to become the third shipyard in the Federal Government's National Ship Building Strategy (Minute Item 3.1 of Minutes PEDC 12-2019, Agenda Item 12.6) and provided information respecting Heddle Shipyards and the National Shipbuilding Strategy.

9.2 **2020 Budget (Minute Item 5.1 of BRCOTW 10-2019 (Agenda Item 12.7))**

9.2.1 Warren Robinson, Resident, City of St. Catharines

This delegation request was withdrawn.

9.2.2 Councillor Kevin Townsend, City of St. Catharines, St. Catharines Youth Task Force

Councillor Kevin Townsend, City of St. Catharines, St. Catharines Youth Task Force, appeared before Council with respect to the 2020 Levy Operating Budget (Minute Item 5.1 of Minutes BRCOTW 10-2019, Agenda Item 12.7) and requested that Council include $50,000 in the 2020 budget to support the WE Youth Event being held May 5, 2020.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That consideration of the funding request for $50,000 to support the WE Youth Event **BE MOVED** to the consideration of the 2020 Levy Operating Budget (Minute Item 5.1 of Minutes BRCOTW 10-2019, Agenda Item 12.7).

Carried
10. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Heit  
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

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

Open and Closed Session Minutes CL 19-2019, Thursday, November 14, 2019 (Special)

Open and Closed Session Minutes CL 20-2019, Thursday, November 14, 2019 (Regular)

Open and Closed Session Minutes CL 21-2019, Thursday, November 21, 2019 (Special)

Open and Closed Session Minutes CL 22-2019, Thursday, December 5, 2019 (Special)

Carried

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 **Receive and/or Refer**

Moved by Councillor Darte  
Seconded by Councillor Gibson

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

CL-C 78-2019 respecting Appointment of Private Sewage System Inspectors under the Building Code Act, 1992, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 79-2019 respecting Response to BRCOTW 10-2019 Councillor Information Requests, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 81-2019 respecting Niagara Prosperity Initiative, **BE RECEIVED**;

CL-C 82-2019 respecting ProKids Program, **BE RECEIVED**; and

CL-C 84-2019 respecting 2020 Budget Deliberations, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried
11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.2 For Consideration

11.2.1 CL-C 77-2019

Moved by Councillor Butters  
Seconded by Councillor Foster  
That Correspondence Item CL-C 77-2019, being a memorandum from A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated December 12, 2019, respecting Request for Appointment to Women’s Advisory Committee, BE RECEIVED and the following recommendation BE APPROVED:

1. That Councillor Villella BE APPOINTED to the Women’s Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

Carried

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS - OPEN SESSION

12.1 Budget Review Committee of the Whole  
Minutes BRCOTW 8-2019, Thursday, November 21, 2019  
Moved by Councillor Disero  
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa  
That Report BRCOTW 8-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, BE RECEIVED and the recommendations contained therein BE APPROVED.

Carried

12.2 Budget Review Committee of the Whole  
Minutes BRCOTW 9-2019, Thursday, November 28, 2019  
Moved by Councillor Zalepa  
Seconded by Councillor Disero  
That Report BRCOTW 9-2019 being the Open and Closed Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, November 28, 2019, BE RECEIVED and the recommendations contained therein BE APPROVED.

Carried
12.3 **Public Works Committee**

Minutes PWC 12-2019, Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Moved by Councillor Edgar
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report PWC 12-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.4 **Public Health and Social Services Committee**

Minutes PHSSC 12-2019, Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Moved by Councillor Chiocchio
Seconded by Councillor Villella

That Report PHSSC 12-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Public Health & Social Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.5 **Corporate Services Committee**

Minutes CSC 12-2019, Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Edgar

That Report CSC 12-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried
12.6 Planning and Economic Development Committee
Minutes PEDC 12-2019, Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Darte

That Report PEDC 12-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

12.7 Budget Review Committee of the Whole
Minutes BRCOTW 10-2019, Thursday, December 5, 2019

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Report BRCOTW 10-2019 being the Open Session minutes of the Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** and the recommendations contained therein **BE APPROVED**.

12.7.1 Minute Item 5.1 respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget

The recommendations contained in Minute Item 5.1 were considered separately as follows:

That Report CSD 78-2019, dated December 5, 2019, respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an increase of 1.6% or $2,976,858 over the 2019 departmental levy, for a total departmental levy of $189,319,763, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for base services, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;

2. That an increase of 0.6% or $2,146,506 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for revenue pressures, as outlined in Appendix 2 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That an increase of 1.54% or $5,620,497 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law to support capital net debt charges for the Long-term Care Home Redevelopment, BE APPROVED;

4. That an increase of 0.15% or $664,673 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for new and enhanced programs, as outlined in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019 as amended to include funding for the suicide prevention initiative and remove wayfinding, BE APPROVED;

5. That an increase of 1.83% or $6,690,323 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, funded by 1.42% of assessment growth and a 0.41% separate increase, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law that assessment growth be utilized for costs of growth and Council Priorities as identified in Appendix 4 of Report CSD 78-2019, BE APPROVED;

6. That the 2020 levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of $204,441,762 and ABCs of $187,877,851 for a total of $392,319,613 BE APPROVED; and

7. That the necessary by-law BE PREPARED and PRESENTED to Council for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Campion

1. That $450,000 from the tax payer relief reserve and any remaining 2019 SNIP funds BE INCLUDED for the SNIP program in the 2020 budget; and

2. That the funds BE USED for projects around affordable housing, brownfield redevelopment and heritage preservation.

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

2. **That the original SNIP criteria for the funds BE USED for projects around affordable housing, brownfield redevelopment and heritage preservation and affordable and subsidized housing initiatives BE INCLUDED.**
The Regional Chair called the vote on motion, as amended, as follows:

1. That $450,000 from the tax payer relief reserve and any remaining 2019 SNIP funds **BE INCLUDED** for the SNIP program in the 2020 budget; and

2. That the original SNIP criteria **BE USED** and affordable and subsidized housing initiatives **BE INCLUDED**.

Clause 1 of the motion was considered separately as follows:

1. That $450,000 from the tax payer relief reserve and any remaining 2019 SNIP funds **BE INCLUDED** for the SNIP program in the 2020 budget.

Recorded Vote:


**Carried**

Clause 2 of the motion was considered separately as follows:

2. That the original SNIP criteria **BE USED** and affordable and subsidized housing initiatives **BE INCLUDED**.

Recorded Vote:


No (8): Butters, Bylsma, Edgar, Foster, Gibson, Ip, Steele, Zalepa.

**Carried**
Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That the $294,000 allocated to the airport study **BE DEFERRED** to the 2021 budget process.

The Regional Chair ruled that the motion was out of order as it would be a reconsideration.

Councillor Fertich challenged the ruling of the Chair and the following motion was considered:

That the ruling of the Chair **BE SUSTAINED** to require a motion to reconsider the issue of the airport study funding.

Recorded Vote:


No (5): Chiocchio, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Jordan.

**Carried**

The Regional Chair declared the ruling was sustained and no motion to reconsider the matter was put forward.

Moved by Councillor Insinna
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That $250,000 for the ProKids program **BE INCLUDED** in the budget and **BE FUNDED** from the levy.

Councillor Edgar declared an indirect pecuniary interest with respect to the motion concerning the ProKids program as his wife is the Director of Children’s Services.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Steele assumed the Chair.
Recorded Vote:


Carried

At this point in the meeting Regional Chair Bradley assumed the Chair.

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

That Report CSD 78-2019, dated December 5, 2019, respecting 2020 Levy Operating Budget, BE RECEIVED and the following recommendations BE APPROVED:

1. That an increase of 1.7% or $3,226,858 over the 2019 departmental levy, for a total departmental levy of $189,569,763, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for base services, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report CSD 78-2019 and as amended to include ProKids, BE APPROVED;

2. That an increase of 0.6% or $2,146,506 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for revenue pressures, as outlined in Appendix 2 of Report CSD 78-2019, BE APPROVED;

3. That an increase of 1.54% or $5,620,497 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law to support capital net debt charges for the Long-term Care Home Redevelopment, BE APPROVED;

4. That an increase of 0.15% or $664,673 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law for new and enhanced programs, as outlined in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 78-2019 as amended to include the Smarter Niagara Incentive Program and funding for the suicide prevention initiative and remove wayfinding, BE APPROVED;
5. That an increase of 1.83% or $6,690,323 over the 2019 consolidated levy operating budget, funded by 1.42% of assessment growth and a 0.41% separate increase, in accordance with the Budget Planning By-law that assessment growth be utilized for costs of growth and Council Priorities as identified in Appendix 4 of Report CSD 78-2019, **BE APPROVED**;

6. That the 2020 levy operating budget including the Niagara Regional Departments of $204,691,762 and ABCs of $187,877,851 for a total of $392,569,613 **BE APPROVED**; and

7. That the necessary by-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration.

Recorded Vote:


**Carried**

12.7.2 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**

13. **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT(S)**

There were no Chief Administrative Officer Reports.

14. **MOTIONS**

14.1 **Whistleblower Policy**

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Darte

WHEREAS good governance requires accountability, transparency and respectful relationships;
WHEREAS Region of Niagara staff and elected representatives are
guided by a number of policies and a code of conduct, but not a policy that
would protect those who reveal wrongdoing in the organization;

WHEREAS whistleblowing by employees of corporate organizations,
including various levels of government have proven effective in bringing to
light wrongdoing while providing to employees who act in good faith
protection from discrimination and retribution;

Whereas employees of the Niagara Region should have the protection
that a well-crafted whistleblower policy would provide to them in the event
they see or hear of wrongdoing in the workplace.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Regional Council SUPPORTS employees who, acting in good faith,
bring to light wrongdoing at the Region and in the workplace and supports
the protection of those employees who are whistleblowers from
detrimental treatment, retaliation, retribution, discrimination or workplace
harassment as a result of their actions; and

That Regional Council DIRECTS staff to prepare a report with
recommendations and a draft whistleblower policy for consideration by the
Corporate Services Committee and presentation in due course to the
Council; and

That this resolution BE CIRCULATED to local area municipalities in
Niagara for support.

Carried

14.2 Commendation

Moved by Councillor Sendzik
Seconded by Councillor Ip

That Regional Council publicly and formally COMMEND those members
of Council, staff and the public who strived to uphold the integrity of our
public institution during the last term of Council;

That Regional Council THANK the journalists at the Niagara Dailies for
their integrity and professionalism in reporting on matters that were of
significant community interest and changed the face of politics in Niagara;
and

That a formal commendation and thank you BE ISSUED by Regional
Chair Jim Bradley at the next regular meeting of Regional Council.

Carried
15. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Easton advised that she would be bringing forward a motion to the next Council meeting respecting the rebuild of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital capital plan.

16. **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Regional Council **EXTEND** this meeting's curfew to 11:00 p.m.

Carried

17. **CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Insinna

That this Council **DO NOW MOVE** into Closed Session for the purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature respecting:

A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege and A Matter of Litigation or Potential Litigation under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 - Burgoyne Bridge Update

Carried

Council resolved into closed session at 10:05 p.m.
18. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Council reconvened in open session at 10:28 p.m. with the following individuals present:

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

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Gale, Redekop, Rigby, Whalen

Staff: D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, A. Scott, Manager, Continuous Quality Improvement, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Commissioner, Public Works/Acting Chief Administrative Officer

18.1 **Confidential Presentation and Verbal Update**

Moved by Councillor Edgar
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That the Confidential Presentation and Verbal Update, respecting A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor Client Privilege and A Matter of Litigation or Potential Litigation – Burgoyne Bridge Update, **BE RECEIVED**; and

That staff and external legal counsel **PROCEED** as directed in closed session.

Carried

19. **BY-LAWS**

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Nicholson

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

Bill 2019-88
A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate part of Blocks 4 & 5, Plan M-473, in the City of Welland as part of Regional Road No. 27 (West Main Street).

Bill 2019-89
A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate part of Range 18, Plan 1, in the City of Niagara Falls as part of Regional Road No. 102 (Stanley Avenue).
Bill 2019-90
A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate part of Lot 1, Plan 5, in the City of Niagara Falls as part of Regional Road No. 57 (Thorold Stone Road).

Bill 2019-91
A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate part of Township Lot 32 and Blocks 109, 110 and 111, 59M-466, in the City of Thorold as part of Regional Road No. 67 (Beaverdams Road).

Bill 2019-92
A by-law to accept, assume and dedicate part of lot 20, Concession 9, in the Township of West Lincoln as part of Regional Road No. 20 (Highway 20).

Bill 2019-93
A by-law to appoint By-law Enforcement Officers for the purpose of enforcing the Sewer Use By-law No. 27-2014 as amended, and to repeal By-law 43-2010.

Bill 2019-94
A by-law to adopt the 2020 water budget and to set the requisitions to be charged for water supplied to lower-tier municipalities for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Bill 2019-95
A by-law to adopt the 2020 wastewater budget and to set the requisitions to be charged for wastewater received from lower-tier municipalities for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Bill 2019-96
A by-law to adopt the 2020 waste management budget for The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2019-97
A by-law to adopt the 2020 capital budget for The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2019-98
A by-law to adopt the 2020 operating budget and tax levy for The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2019-99
A by-law to authorize long-term financing (1-5 years) in the amount of $1,150,000; and (1-10 years) in the amount of $10,962,650; and (1-25 years) in the amount of $129,187,000; and (1-30 years) in the amount of $3,650,000 Niagara Region Capital Projects.
Bill 2019-100
A by-law to establish fees and charges for services and activities provided by
The Regional Municipality of Niagara and for the use of its property and to repeal

Bill 2019-101
A by-law to authorize the borrowing upon serial debentures in the principal
amount of $4,000,000.00 for a capital work of The Corporation of the Township
of West Lincoln.

Bill 2019-102
A by-law to authorize long-term financing (1-10 years) in the amount of
$6,350,000, Niagara Region Capital Projects.

Bill 2019-103
A by-law to amend By-law No. 2017-99, being a by-law to provide for the
reimbursement of expenses of the members of council for The Regional
Municipality of Niagara.

Bill 2019-104
A by-law to appoint sewage system inspectors for The Regional Municipality of
Niagara pursuant to the Building Code Act and to repeal By-law No. 2017-31.

Bill 2019-105
A by-law to adopt, ratify and confirm the actions of Regional Council at its
meeting held on December 12, 2019.

Carried

20. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

__________________________________________  _______________________________________
Jim Bradley                              Matthew Trennum
Regional Chair                        Deputy Regional Clerk

__________________________________________
Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk