

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
OPEN SESSION**

**CSC 6-2020
Wednesday, July 15, 2020
Council Chamber/Teleconference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Foster (Committee Chair), Whalen (Committee Vice-Chair)

Committee Members Present via Teleconference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Campion, Diodati, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Gale, Heit, Ip, Rigby

Absent/Regrets: Redekop

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Director, Financial Management & Planning/Deputy Treasurer, T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via Teleconference: S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, S. Crocco, Legal Counsel, D. Gibbs, Director, Legal & Court Services, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, F. Meffe, Director, Human Resources, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 CSC-C 11-2020

Referral of Motion – Direct Election of the Regional Chair – Additional Information – Past Work Undertaken on Governance Reform

Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 11-2020, being a memorandum from A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated July 15, 2020, respecting Referral of Motion - Direct Election of the Regional Chair - Additional Information - Past Work Undertaken on Governance Reform, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Butters

1. That the Office of the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to form a citizen committee of 15 people, as representative as possible of the local area municipalities, and engage in a public consultation process;
2. That the citizen committee and public consultation process **ADDRESS** the following questions:
 - Should the Regional Chair be directly elected by the citizens of Niagara or appointed by Regional Council?
 - How many Regional Councillors should represent each municipality?
 - If the number of Regional Councillors that represent each municipality is suggested to be different than it is currently, should the votes of Regional
 - Councillors be weighted? If so, how should they be weighted?
 - By which method should Regional Councillors be elected?
 - What strategies are recommended to increase citizen engagement for and following elections?
 - What strategies are recommended to get more people to consider running for elected office?
 - What can be done to have Council be more reflective of the demographic make up of the Niagara region, e.g., gender, age, race/ethnicity, income status, etc.?; and
3. That the citizen committee, with the results from the public consultation process, **REPORT** back to Corporate Services Committee by April 2021.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion so that clause 2 reads as follows:

2. That the citizen committee and public consultation process **ADDRESS** the following questions:

- Should the Regional Chair be directly elected by the citizens of Niagara or appointed by Regional Council?
- How many Regional Councillors should represent each municipality?
- If the number of Regional Councillors that represent each municipality is suggested to be different than it is currently, should the votes of Regional Councillors be weighted? If so, how should they be weighted?
- By which method should Regional Councillors be elected?
- What strategies are recommended to increase citizen engagement for and following elections?
- What strategies are recommended to get more people to consider running for elected office?
- What can be done to have Council be more reflective of the demographic make up of the Niagara region, e.g., gender, age, race/ethnicity, income status, etc.?
- ***Examine options for dual duty councilors.***

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

1. That the Office of the Regional Clerk **BE DIRECTED** to form a citizen committee of 15 people, as representative as possible of the local area municipalities, and engage in a public consultation process;
2. That the citizen committee and public consultation process **ADDRESS** the following questions:
 - Should the Regional Chair be directly elected by the citizens of Niagara or appointed by Regional Council?
 - How many Regional Councillors should represent each municipality?
 - If the number of Regional Councillors that represent each municipality is suggested to be different than it is currently, should the votes of Regional
 - Councillors be weighted? If so, how should they be weighted?
 - By which method should Regional Councillors be elected?
 - What strategies are recommended to increase citizen engagement for and following elections?
 - What strategies are recommended to get more people to consider running for elected office?
 - What can be done to have Council be more reflective of the demographic make up of the Niagara region, e.g., gender, age, race/ethnicity, income status, etc.?
 - Examine options for dual duty councilors; and
3. That the citizen committee, with the results from the public consultation process, **REPORT** back to Corporate Services Committee by April 2021.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (2): Butters, Ip.

No (11): Bradley, Campion, Diodati, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Heit, Rigby, Whalen.

Defeated

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 CSC-C 10-2020

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Corporate Services

Moved by Councillor Fertich

Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Correspondence Item CSC-C 10-2020, being a memorandum from T. Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, dated July 15, 2020, respecting COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Corporate Services, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Direct Election of the Regional Chair

Councillor Fertich requested information about the motion respecting direct election of the Regional Chair, specifically if Council could still consider the matter. Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, advised that as Council has not made a decision on direct election of the Regional Chair, a motion could be brought forward to consider the matter at a future meeting.

7.2 Review of Ride Sharing and Vehicles for Hire

Councillor Ip requested an update respecting the request for a staff report regarding the review of ride sharing and vehicles for hire policies, made at the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on January 15, 2020. Todd Harrison, Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services advised that many Business Licensing employees have been redeployed due to the pandemic and that he would contact Business Licensing staff for an update.

7.3 Public Consultation Process Respecting 2021 Budget Deliberations

Moved by Councillor Ip
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That staff **ENGAGE** in a public consultation process, including surveys, moderated focus groups, and other appropriate communication and information-gathering methods to get feedback from the business community, including organized labour, on our upcoming budget deliberations.

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

That staff **ENGAGE** in a public consultation process ***that includes comprehensive education on the operations that drive the budget for the public, and includes*** surveys, moderated focus groups, and other appropriate communication and information-gathering methods to get feedback from the business community, including organized labour, on our upcoming budget deliberations.

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

That staff **ENGAGE** in a public consultation process that includes comprehensive education on the operations that drive the budget for the public, and includes surveys, moderated focus groups, and other appropriate communication and information-gathering methods to get feedback from the business community, including organized labour, on our upcoming budget deliberations.

Recorded Vote:

Yes (3): Bradley, Butters, Ip.

No (10): Campion, Diodati, Easton, Edgar, Fertich, Foster, Gale, Heit, Rigby, Whalen.

Defeated

8. **CLOSED SESSION**

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

9.1 Confidential Report CSD 29-2020

A Matter Respecting Litigation and A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor-Client privilege under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Update Regarding Niagara-on-the-Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (“NOTL WWTP”), Niagara-on-the-Lake Sewage Pumping Station (“NOTL SPS”), and Welland Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (“Welland WWTP”)

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Gale

That Confidential Report CSD 29-2020, dated July 15, 2020, respecting A Matter Respecting Litigation and A Matter of Advice that is Subject to Solicitor-Client privilege under s. 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 – Update Regarding Niagara-on-the-Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant (“NOTL WWTP”), Niagara-on-the-Lake Sewage Pumping Station (“NOTL SPS”), and Welland Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (“Welland WWTP”), **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Councillor Foster
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk